# CREATING FUTURES

## Where does a Normandale education lead?

See pages 8–9 for more about how Normandale is fostering global perspectives.



NORMANDALE



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### Greetings,

One of my favorite aspects of Normandale is seeing the innovative ideas our faculty and staff produce to help maximize our students' experiences. This fall, we are working on a number of exciting projects that will enhance student success and help Normandale meet the growing needs of our community and workforce.

An amazing department initiative that you will read about in this magazine is our World Languages and Culture Department's internationalization efforts. This is truly a great example of a department generating innovative ideas to maximize our students'

opportunities, while providing skills and experiences to meet the growing demands on the modern workplace.

Last year, we talked a great deal about the many individuals who helped pave the way for Normandale to be the wonderful institution it is today. These ideas came to fruition this fall with a wonderful celebration of Normandale's 50th Anniversary Brick Garden. I would like to invite anyone who has not seen the Brick Garden to come to campus and read some of the inspiring messages from past and present faculty, staff, and students.

This fall, we also celebrated two of my favorite annual events on our calendar, the Japanese Garden Festival and the Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event. The festival was well attended by the surrounding community despite some rainy weather, while the recognition event continued to serve as a great reminder of the amazing generosity of our donors and their impact on student success.

Finally, I wanted to share exciting news that most of you probably know by now as we welcome our Interim Foundation Executive Director & Chief Institutional Advancement Officer, Andrea Specht. Andrea comes to us after 10 years at Artistry, a Bloomington-based theater and visual arts nonprofit. She is a collaborative and engaging leader who has built many connections and is wellrespected regionally for her many accomplishments.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Creating Futures*, and we thank you again for your amazing support.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph. D.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D. College President

#### COLLEGE PRESIDENT:

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.

INTERIM FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT OFFICER: Andrea Specht, J.D.

**CREATIVE DIRECTION/DESIGN:** Neuger Communications Group

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WRITERS:

Jane Fenton, Steven Geller, Luke Graham, Chris Hall

PHOTOGRAPHY:

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Jane Fenton

#### ON THE COVER:

In June 2019, 24 degree-seeking students, community members, and faculty scaled Machu Picchu as part of "Peru Past and Present," an intensive, short-term study abroad course taught by Heidi Kreutzer, focused on the impact of the Inca and Spanish cultures on modern Peru and how one of the world's most powerful precolonial societies evolved into a fast-growing, middle-income country.

Normandale Community College Foundation 9700 France Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431-4399 952.358.8147 • foundation@normandale.edu

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# EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS TOGETHER

Dear friends,

As a newcomer to Normandale Community College and the Foundation, I have a fleeting opportunity to cast a fresh eye on our organizational culture and our work to make academic excellence accessible to all.

One of the things I've found most striking in my first two months is the intensity of the love our many stakeholders share for Normandale. I have also found daily inspiration in the diversity, engagement, and perseverance of our students.

The challenges our students face as they navigate college is humbling. In particular, the fact that so many struggle to meet basic needs has been a revelation. According to a 2018 survey of our students, more than 25% agreed with the statement: "The food that I bought just didn't last and I did not have the money to buy more." And, nearly 20% reported they do not have a stable place to live.

Thanks to you, the Foundation awards hundreds of lifechanging scholarships every year. Together, we can play an even greater role in leveraging the power of philanthropy to ensure that every Normandale student has sufficient food; safe, reliable housing; and the other resources they need to take full advantage of the exceptional education we offer.

Your commitment, generosity, and love for Normandale are truly remarkable. On behalf of the Foundation board and staff, thank you again. I look forward to partnering with you to expand our circle of friends and advocates, and to dream even bigger for the students we serve!

With much appreciation,

Andrea Magacht

Andrea Specht, J.D. Interim Foundation Executive Director & Chief Institutional Advancement Officer

### FOUNDATION BOARD



Dear friends of Normandale,

The Normandale Community College Foundation exists to connect the college to the broader community as an essential partner enabling Normandale to achieve its full potential. We see this realized in the contributions by individual donors which, in the past year, funded 507 scholarships to more than 390 student recipients.

We see partnership also in the volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to assist in College events and activities, including our Japanese Garden Festival and this year's 50th Jubilee Celebration. This kind of partnership points visibly to the commitment by our community to the success of our college.

We look forward with enthusiasm to new and enhanced partnerships, which will help bring about an expanded vision of how to equip a workforce for the future with new skills and an attitude of continual learning. New technologies and new ideas

are challenging long-held perceptions of career development and even of work itself. The Normandale vision is to anticipate these changes with curricula and learning options for new and continuing learners. This vision includes forging new partnerships with institutions and employers who share this vision and are motivated to act now to achieve it. The Foundation and our Board of Directors sincerely thank each individual donor. Your financial partnership truly turns dreams into realities.

If these are the kinds of partnerships which interest you, we are eager to talk.

Alan Abramson

Alan Abramson Foundation Board Chair

# **SUPPORT** OUR IMPACT

As the end of 2019 approaches, please consider:



MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT OF CASH OR APPRECIATED STOCK. Giving a gift is simple by phone, mail, or online.





**GIVING YOUR TIME.** Become a volunteer at Normandale, empowering student success by helping the Foundation with a variety of projects.



**INCLUDING NORMANDALE IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS.** Students will feel the impact of your giving now and in the future.



**SPONSORING AN EVENT.** Demonstrate your support by helping to cover the cost of a Foundation event.

## Interested in getting involved?

Get started at www.normandale.edu/foundation or call 952.358.8147.

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GIFTS

# BRICK BY BRICK

As Normandale entered its 50th anniversary year, we commemorated the occasion with an installation that would honor all those who helped us reach 50 years and inspire those who are helping us navigate the next 50.

The result was the Normandale Brick Garden, complete with benches, locally sourced stone, and an array of bricks with messages ranging from humorous to inspirational. The reaction at the ribbon cutting caused us to re-open orders, resulting in a second installation in mid-October.

\$184,884



# Providing Powerful Access

### Kearon Allen

Kearon Allen is the embodiment of a Normandale Scholarship recipient. Due to a disability, Kearon must rely on public transportation to get him to and from Normandale for classes.

His average trip to Normandale takes two hours. In the winter, it is almost impossible to get to school on time due to delays caused by snow and ice. Seeing that transportation options for people with disabilities are very limited during the colder months, Kearon's scholarship allows him to pay for Lyft and Uber rides to get him to school on time. Because of this, Kearon no longer worries about the weather dictating whether or not he can get to Normandale. The scholarship allows him to focus on his class work in the Health Science Program, instead of finding affordable and available transportation on days where the weather would otherwise prevent him from attending.

"It may not seem like much, but to me it makes all the difference in my education." For many of us, we take for granted being able to get ourselves to the places we need to go without difficulty. However, for students like Kearon, it can make or break success. As Kearon puts it, "It may not seem like much, but to me it makes all the difference in my education."



# Reigniting **Passions**

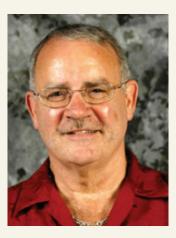
### **Trenton Kenney**

Trenton Kenney's Normandale story is a bit nontraditional, and in his view, an example of what helps Normandale be the special place that it is. Trenton always had a passion for learning, but

in 2008, when the recession hit, his family lost their home and his grades subsequently declined. His educators at the time did not instill faith in him, and he struggled to rediscover his passion for learning. Not being admitted into the college he hoped for was a wake-up call. He took some time off to explore his options and eventually decided to come to Normandale.

Here, with the passionate staff and support system, his hunger for learning was reignited. He got involved in campus organizations and helping other students through tutoring. Eventually, Trenton earned a scholarship, which not only helped him financially by allowing him to focus more on his studies, but it also served as validation for all of his dedication. It showed him that he was capable and that his passion for education was not a waste of time or energy. Trenton extends thanks to all donors for helping Normandale students achieve their potential and believe in them when others have not.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**Rex Gaskill** began working at Normandale in 1973 as an instructor in speech, now known as communications, and as the director of forensics. Rex was also the faculty advisor of the forensics team. The team, which competed regionally and nationally, did extremely well. While the forensics team is no longer active, the legacy of excellence that they created is still engrained in the campus culture. Rex worked at Normandale until his retirement in 2012, when he left his post as the dean of liberal arts. He has long been passionate about Normandale, commending the first-rate faculty and staff and the unbeatable passion they have for working with students. He has worked at three other colleges and says that none had the direct instructor-to-student interaction that Normandale has. Rex volunteers for the Foundation because he enjoys working within the database and being able to provide support at the many events the Foundation spearheads each year. In addition, Rex serves as a board member on the Foundation Board of Directors. We thank Rex for his many years of service!



Foundation at our recent Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event, congratulating one of their 25 recipients: Ernie Lindstrom, left, Normandale student Mohamed Ali, and Bobby Everett, Normandale alum.

# **A PASSION FOR** PERSEVERANCE

Janet Desmond created the John E. Desmond and Janet C. Desmond Foundation after her husband passed away in 2003. The Desmonds, who ran Tom Thumb Donuts at the State Fair, were passionate about supporting the community. When Janet passed away in 2013, Ernie Lindstrom and longtime friends of the Desmonds, Bob Everett and Rod Beltz, looked for ways to carry on their generous legacy.

Merriam-Webster defines perseverance as "continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition." Pushing forward through obstacles isn't always enjoyable, but the rippling effects of perseverance can have positive impacts not just on oneself but also on the people around them.

In fall 2017, a student named Sonia Boyer took a 3D Art class at Normandale taught by Art Instructor Sheryl McRoberts. Sonia had recently graduated from Richfield High School and was taking extra classes to prepare for applying to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She has no arms, and used her feet to cut, sculpt, draw, and shape. With perseverance and help from her high school teacher, Jen Kraus, Sonia met the challenge in front of her and went forward with the class.

Sonia's story was featured in this publication and read by longtime Normandale Foundation supporter Ernie Lindstrom. Ernie was inspired by the Richfield graduate's story of perseverance along with the support of her former teacher. He worked with the Normandale Foundation, and the other members of the John E. Desmond and Janet C. Desmond Foundation to donate \$5,000 to the Art Department. "When I told the Art Department, they were just flabbergasted," Normandale Foundation Director of Development Jane Fenton recalled. "Up until then, we didn't really have much of an entry point for donors to give to the departments."

After donating to the Art Department, the Desmond Foundation agreed to make a pair of \$5,000 gifts to two departments chosen by a committee of Normandale Foundation board members for the 2019–20 academic year. The Hospitality and Business Management Department and the Math and Computer Science Department were the chosen recipients.

The Hospitality Department will use the funds to enhance their online learning opportunities for students.

"The equipment [we purchase] will be utilized to interview hospitality and business leaders in the greater Twin Cities, conduct virtual property tours, and allow faculty to create quality content that will assist with creating a more visually engaging classroom experience," said Hospitality Management instructor Brandon Supernault.

The Math and Computer Science Department plans to use the opportunity to purchase computing, robotics, machine learning, and A.I., engineering, and general automation equipment to expose their students to new opportunities. "Normandale has a strong STEM area and having this equipment will put us even a step higher," explained Computer Science instructor Jim Polzin. "The students will benefit by having access to equipment that they would be using on the job or in a lab, equipment that most people, in general, don't get access to."

The ripples of perseverance will continue to float out into the future, as the John E. Desmond and Janet C. Desmond Foundation has expressed a desire to continue their support of Normandale students and departments.

"We were very impressed with all of the great things the Art Department did with the initial grant we provided," said Lindstrom. "That inspired us to continue to provide the funds for other departments. It is impressive to see all of the great ideas Normandale instructors have to enhance the experiences of the students, and we are happy to do whatever we can to help provide the opportunities."

**Creating Futures** 

# **FOSTERING** GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Normandale is continuously searching for opportunities to match new program initiatives with key industry needs, understanding that industry and community partners are in need of employees who can demonstrate global perspective and awareness.

DV Sace

Normandale student Corbin Condon (right) taking part in an instrumental duet with a local musician (name unknown) during the Senegal Study Abroad Trip in May 2018.

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE.

The Normandale World Languages and Cultures Department provides a number of opportunities for students to gain the skills and knowledge to thrive with international cultures within Minnesota and across the globe. These opportunities were established with a pair of grants from the Office of Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL) through the U.S. Department of Education, and recently, through support from the Normandale Foundation.

"Internationalization, or a coordinated approach to teaching global-readiness, has existed in four-year institutions for quite some time," said Heidi Kreutzer, chair of the World Languages and Culture Department. "It has been exciting to create a customizable model for two-year contexts like ours."

One opportunity that the World Languages and Cultures Department created from the grants was short-term, highimpact study abroad trips to Peru and Senegal, along with an upcoming "study away" trip to Miami concentrating on Cuban and Haitian diasporic communities. The Peru and Senegal courses reflect the Normandale internationalization team's priorities of designing study abroad programs in Boda provided \$45,000 to establish the Boda-Grindahl Travel Scholarships for Internationalization Studies, which will enable approximately 18 students in financial need to take part in upcoming Miami, Peru, and Senegal trips."We see substantial potential to engage donors in the work of the college's Internationalization team," said Interim Foundation Executive Director & Chief Institutional Advancement Officer Andrea Specht. "Travel scholarships are just the beginning of what is possible."

## INNOVATIVE LEARNING. LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES.

Normandale student Jewel Bracho was part of both the Peru and Senegal trips during the 2018–19 academic year and considered them life-changing experiences.

"These study abroad opportunities have expanded my knowledge of Spanish and French, and, most notably, built a sense of community and union with people completely different from my own," said Bracho. "The experiences made me more open-minded and understanding of cultures with different values and beliefs."

The high-impact study abroad trips are one of several new initiatives launched by the World Languages and Cultures



countries that tend to be underrepresented in traditional world languages and cultures programs.

### A GENEROUS GIFT OF SUPPORT.

When Normandale introduced these study abroad programs to Suzanne Boda, Senior Vice President – Los Angeles, American Airlines, she immediately wanted to help out. Department. In the past two years, the department has developed one of the first Somali Area Studies programs in the nation, formed a 14-credit International Experience Certificate that can be paired with a variety of different degree tracks, created an International Experience Center on campus, and put together an ongoing Diaspora Speaker Series.

## Nelson-Brinkman Scholarship

# **SUPPORTING** ASPIRATIONS

## Joan Brinkman and her husband Ted attended Normandale's 50th Anniversary

**Open House last year,** happy to reconnect with the place that launched them both into their respective careers. Ted was also a wrestler, and they both loved Normandale's former football coach, Fred Moyer.

"We know what it's like to connect with great educators who inspire you," said Joan. Her brother Gary was on the Business faculty for many years as well. Joan named Carol Kerner, newspaper advisor, as another formative mentor. "Girls couldn't take sports back then," she laughed.



Joan studied elementary education and worked as a teacher for most of her career. Now, she's turned her expertise into a college coaching business for high school students and their families.

This is the first year to award the Nelson-Brinkman Scholarship, which alternates between Education and Business students.

# JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE AND MAKE A FOREVER IMPACT

The Legacy Circle is a special group of donors who have included gifts to the Normandale Community College Foundation in their estate plans. Joining is as easy as designating the Foundation as a beneficiary of your:

- will
- revocable living trust, charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust
- charitable gift annuity
- 401K, IRA, or other qualified plan
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- savings account or certificate of deposit
- real estate
- other assets

For more information or to request a copy of our Legacy Circle enrollment form, please contact Director of Development Jane Fenton at **952.358.8143** or **jane.fenton@normandale.edu.** 

We are deeply grateful to the Legacy Circle members (listed at right) for ensuring that Normandale continues to thrive for generations to come.

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Pat and Sydney Bonnie

# **GIVING OUT OF** GRATITUDE

# If you ask Pat and Sydney how long they've been together,

you'll get a lot of laugh-punctuated quips: "He mowed our lawn when I was a little girl," or "We're counting the months like years, so 15 at the end of 2019," and "It's almost our 12-month-anniversary." Each in their seventh decade, they revel in each other's company and frequently finish each other's sentences.

Pat and Sydney rediscovered each other after their paths from their small Kansas town had taken them in very different directions in life. Sharing a love of science and being selfconfessed nerds, they reconnected through a "reply all" on an email from a mutual friend discussing dinosaur bones.

Today, they are married and enjoying every minute that they have together. Pat recently retired from a 10-year teaching tenure in anthropology at Normandale. Before that, he was among those who helped found Minnesota's precursor to Silicon Valley in his work at Control Data, now Seagate, as featured in the TPT show "Solid State: Minnesota's High-Tech History," which aired on Sunday, October 13.

Pat and Sydney both bring a well-developed love and appreciation for education, especially for two-year institutions. Pat still guest lectures for business and physics classes at Normandale, and Sydney is a passionate advocate for two-year schools herself.

They both know what it's like to get help when you need it the most, which is why they recently made a commitment to replenish the student emergency funds known as the Random Acts of Kindness awards. These funds are awarded through Normandale's Student Advising Department and go toward any unexpected expense that threatens a student's continuation in school.

The couple is also in the process of constructing a planned gift through the Normandale Legacy Circle and hope to tie it in with their shared love of science. "It's fitting that we would create our legacy in honor of the subject that brought us back together and created such happiness," they say.

> "It's fitting that we would create our legacy in honor of the subject that brought us back together and created such happiness."

### 2018-2019 DONORS

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Estates of Donald and Ramona Johnstone

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Note: We work diligently to ensure all names are listed correctly. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions and contact us so we may correct future listings.

## IN MEMORIAM

In gratitude for their service and passion for Normandale, we recognize the following current and former faculty and staff who have passed away since July 1, 2018. Ken Bursaw Joyce Carey Patrick Terrance Fahey Robert Fusaro Gloma Hamernick Jennifer Isaac Robert Kenyon Nancy Lichtenstein Bill McGuire Curt Nelson Joe Poell George Reisdorf Mary Ellen (Hauck) Seth Joan P. Spivey

# FISCAL YEAR 2019

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)**

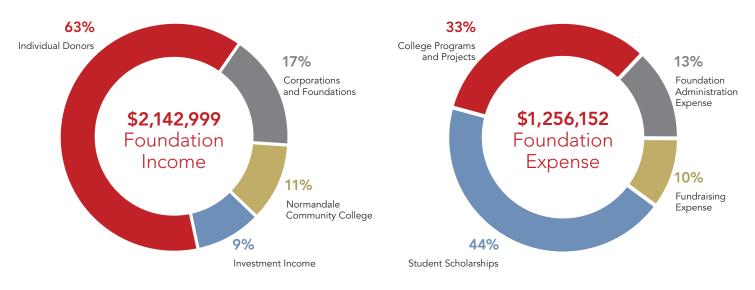
ASSETS	TOTAL	
Current Assets	\$	263,789
Investments – Program Fund	\$	3,505,216
Investments – Endowments	\$	738,316
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	4,507,321
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Liabilities	\$	12,463
Total Net Assets	\$	4,494,858
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	4,507,321





Provided in Scholarship, Program, and Project Support

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED)



as percent of total revenue and support

as percent of total expenses



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Having fled from Syria with her family, lived as a refugee in Egypt and Turkey, and arrived in the United States to seek asylum, Bayan Tawakalna has a big story and even bigger dreams.

Bayan hopes to use her degree in computer science and minor in public health to live out her passion for computers and improve the health care system for refugees.

"Normandale has welcomed me with open arms. I have a story with almost every single faculty member here – everyone will believe in you no matter what. In most cases, that's all it takes for students like me to succeed and believe in themselves."

- Bayan Tawakalna Academy of Math and Science Scholarship Recipient

# HER STORY. YOUR IMPACT. FOREVER VALUED.