

TEACH THEM TO FISH



NPC Friends & Family

November 2023
www.npcfriendingfamily.org

The Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism, tells us that if you give someone a fish, you feed them for a day, but if you teach them to fish, you feed them for a lifetime. That's the philosophy behind one of my most time-consuming – and rewarding – activities. No matter where our NPC students go from here, I want them to endeavor to reach their college goals without debt. It is only a half-joke when I tell people that it is easier for me to raise scholarship funds for NPC Friends and Family than it is for me to give them away. Ten years ago, I received very few applications for scholarships, despite the poverty that is endemic across our area. I began to ask students, faculty, and staff: Why are students not applying for scholarships? Two things came to the forefront: Community college students, particularly those returning to college as working adults, do not see themselves as “scholarship material”. Students also saw the requirement that they write a 500-word personal essay, and felt that they did not know what to say. Remember that a great many of our NPC students are the first generation in their families ever to attempt a post-secondary education, so they don't have the guidance of parents and older siblings in navigating all things “college”. The late, great Pres Winslow, at the time a member of NPC's district governing board, and a former career counselor, helped me create a simple workshop to teach students the basics of applying for scholarships. Along with teaching the class regularly

at locations across our service area, including at our partner high schools, I have developed both written and video tutorials and posted them online. I also make it broadly known that I will help any student who asks me with editing their essays, not just for NPC Friends and Family scholarships, but for any scholarship to go to any college. With each passing semester, I get more and more strong, competitive scholarship applications. I do not select the awardees (more on that in the second article), so there is no conflict of interest in my helping students to put their finest selves forward. Best of all, there is a growing number of students who have gone on to university programs, who have told me that they are still winning scholarships, based on what they learned as NPC Friends and Family awardees.

It is your kindness and generosity that funds these scholarships, so you stand behind these students! Together, we can empower them with the knowledge that they do not have to incur massive debt to reach their college goals. There are oceans of dollars available in scholarships, with a variety of eligibility criteria, for all kinds of students. I am deeply committed to teaching them to fish, and I am so grateful to all of you for providing such a bountiful catch.



AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS THE NPC FRIENDS AND FAMILY WAY

Maintaining the integrity of the scholarship awarding process is just as important as teaching students to apply for scholarships. To build their confidence to become regular applicants, students must feel they can trust that their submissions will be given fair and impartial consideration. So how do we decide who wins NPC Friends and Family scholarships?

First, students can count on knowing when to apply. On October 1, we begin accepting applications for most NPC Friends and Family scholarships for the following spring semester. On March 1, we begin accepting applications for scholarships for the following fall semester. (A few scholarships fall outside these time frames, because they have unique eligibility and application criteria, but the scoring process is the same.) The application windows are open each semester for approximately six weeks, and deadlines are firm, so students are strongly encouraged to apply early. The opportunity to apply, along with the link to the application site, is emailed to all registered students, and also posted on our NPC Friends and Family page at www.npc.edu/ffscholarships, and on NPC's website and social media sites.

A single, online application, puts a student into consideration for all NPCFF scholarships for which they meet the eligibility criteria, and they can win up to two per semester, based on the scores they receive. The online application site provides details for how to apply, including minimum eligibility criteria, documents needed, and prompts for the scholarship essay. The application site also includes links to the online scholarship essay tutorials. Students are strongly encouraged to either read or watch the scholarship tutorial before writing their essays, and they are directed to how to get help from me in editing their work.

As the deadline approaches, I assemble teams of volunteers to review applications. Review committees consist of members of the NPCFF board, college faculty, staff, administration, and even the college district governing

board. Members of the communities we serve also take part. The entire process takes place online. I send each reviewer a set of applications, along with a scoring rubric that is based on the application requirements, and a spreadsheet for recording scores. Review committee members are not known to one another; it is important that each reviewer assesses and scores each application according to their own viewpoint. This helps to assure the validity of the review. Reviewers are asked to recuse themselves from scoring applications from students they know personally. As scores are returned to me, I enter them on a master spreadsheet. I total the scores for each applicant, eliminating the highest and lowest score, and then calculate each applicant's average.

Scholarships are awarded by rank of average scores, and we award as many as possible, based on the funding we have. The cutoff score is determined in part by the score for all applications, and the number of scholarship dollars we have available each semester. In other words, if an applicant receives a score that is significantly below that of all other applications, they are not awarded a scholarship. In these cases, I contact the student and work with them to improve their essay for the next semester. In almost every case where an applicant receives a very low score, it is because they did not follow the essay prompts, and/or they did not edit their essay. We announce awards prior to semester registration, so students can plan accordingly. Funds are disbursed a couple of weeks prior to the start of the semester, after students have registered for classes.

This process is not only intended to help NPC students surmount financial barriers, but to give them the confidence to write strong essays, and to keep applying for scholarships, no matter where their educational goals take them. Happily, because of great supporters like you, we can almost always award every applicant at least one scholarship every semester! I hope this will always be the case, but I am also working constantly to increase the number of applications!

NPC STUDENTS, THROUGH THEIR OWN VOICES

It is common to hear from those who volunteer to review scholarship applications, and thus come to know NPC students a little, how inspiring, moving, surprising, and just delightful the students are. Here are excerpts from just a few essays.

My mom takes me out of school in the middle of the day. This isn't out of the ordinary, but more like a monthly thing. Behind the eyes of a middle school student, it's a day off and a nice outing with my mother, but for her it is added anxiety, because this is the day she schedules her appointments. "Why do I need to come along and miss school?" I ask my mom. "Well mija, I can't communicate with my doctor or anyone else. So I need your help."

Years go by, and now I am an adult. I didn't know it then, but this would be the start of my career goal. I received employment in a clinic and would schedule individuals for their doctor's appointments. At the time, I was the only person able to communicate with any Spanish-speaking patients that walked through those doors. Though people want to ignore it, some people do not like to assist those who are different or cannot communicate with you. I began to see the same need my mother had all those years ago - help with translating, and sometimes just a little compassion. I saw that the healthcare atmosphere needed me in a bigger role, not just as an office staff member.

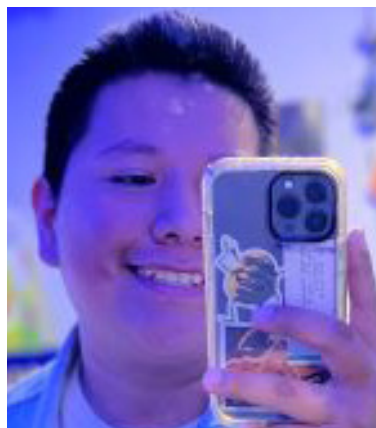
-Stephanie, Show Low, Arizona

Associate of Applied Science, Surgical Technology

Jon Graff, PhD, Career and Technical Education
Scholarship



Stephanie



Malachi

I graduated from Alchesay High School as a junior in the Class of 2022. I was in online school, because I live with my grandma and my uncle who are disabled, and I wanted to keep them safe from catching COVID. I was completing 13 to 15 assignments each day, which helped me graduate

early. It is my educational goal and dream to learn how to weld, because that is one way I can help my community in the future. During the COVID quarantine, I found an interest in welding, because my mom would always talk about how my grandpa used to weld. I watched YouTube videos about it, and that helped me to decide that that was what I wanted to do after high school. I want to earn my Level 1 and Level 2 Welding Certifications this spring, and my Level 3 certification in the fall 2023 semester.

My education is being partially funded by the Pell grant, supplemented by some help from family. I do not have a steady job, but I get income by going out into the forest to cut firewood. I sell it to people to help fund me going to school. During the COVID quarantine, I also taught myself to code and program. I also learned how to fix cars and small engines such as chainsaws and lawnmowers.

-Malachi, Whiteriver, Arizona

Associate of Applied Science in Welding

Corky Elikann Memorial Scholarship

NPC STUDENTS, THROUGH THEIR OWN VOICES (CONTINUED)

I am an Indigenous student from the Navajo Nation. I am eighteen years old and graduated from Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, Arizona. I attend college at the Northland Pioneer College (NPC) Kayenta Center. My mother earned her associate degree in Early Childhood Education from NPC, and I decided to follow her footsteps. As a Navajo, I want to show my younger siblings how important it is to continue learning and show them the many positive opportunities education can bring.

My mother and I bring in the family income, and it is not enough to support a family of five. Even though a college education is my main priority, my family is always on the top of my mind. I am thankful that I have the resources and determination to help me complete my classes successfully.

-Adriana, Kayenta, Arizona

Associate of Applied Science, Early Childhood Development

Claude Millet Endfield Early Childhood Development Scholarship

(Adriana will be in the first cohort in NPC's brand-new degree program: Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education!)

While pregnant with my second child, I was diagnosed with Stage 2 triple-negative breast cancer. I felt the ground fall out from beneath me and suddenly I was in a free-fall. I eventually found my footing in the support of my friends and family, and largely in the compassionate medical staff at the cancer center. As cancer has the habit of doing, it changed the trajectory of my life in many

ways. I am fortunate to say that today I am three years cancer free; my children are both happy and healthy, and I am ready for the next chapter of my life. My experiences with the medical staff at the cancer center inspired me to seek a career in the healthcare field. I am proud to say that I have been accepted into the Northland Pioneer College nursing program and will begin classes in the fall. My goal is to become a registered nurse with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and serve the White Mountains for many years to come.

-Kristen, Show Low, Arizona

Associate Degree in Nursing

White Mountain Women's Club Scholarship

I earned my CNA license and became a caregiver for a mentally disabled elderly woman with diabetes. She didn't like to be touched or make eye contact. She didn't enjoy my company, and often showed much disdain for me through her words and actions. I cared for her for two years, but sadly, she was diagnosed with cancer and passed away. While she was ill, she didn't know what was happening, only that she was in pain and never felt good. Toward the end of her life, I was caring for her when she suddenly stopped me, looked me in the eyes, and told me that she loved me and thanked me for taking care of her. She passed away a few days later. It was then that my ambition was awoken into a mission and a passion. I knew she benefited from my help and more than anything else, I wanted to become a nurse and make that kind of difference in other people's lives.

-Tara, Pinetop, Arizona

Mary Kay Smith Lindy Nursing Scholarship for Native American Students



Adriana



Kristen



Tara

NPC STUDENTS, THROUGH THEIR OWN VOICES (CONTINUED)

Chief Manuelito said, “My Grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our children to take it.” At a glance, the Navajo Nation shows that only 7% of Navajos attend college after high school. Many strong, intelligent Navajo students have the ability to continue their education, but are struggling with trying to afford it. We’re taught that education will bring us a better future by coming back with knowledge to help our people; yet college can seem like a dream that is out of reach for many.

School is a time to grow and to experience the good and the bad, and school has shaped me in the most impactful ways. Ever since I was a young child I’ve always had my mind set to continue my education after high school. As a strong Native American young woman, I’m driven by every beat to not let financial stability stop me from my dreams of graduating college. I hope my fierce drive, aspirations, and dreams will give you a clear image of who I am and why I believe I would be an excellent candidate for this scholarship.

-Ashlyn, LeChee, Arizona

Associate of Science

Taking Flight Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Eric B. Henderson

AndyVon Baccalaureate-Bound Scholarship

Ashlyn earned her Associate of Science from NPC in May 2022 and is in her second year at the University of Arizona, studying Biomedical Engineering.



Ashlyn



David

At the age of four I was drawing pictures of owls and characters from cartoons, by eleven I was writing my own stories. I took every art class I could get into during my school years. At age fifteen I was introduced to alcohol, alcoholism had run in my family for many years. I began to contend with depression and hopelessness and enjoyed the relief alcohol provided. I eventually developed a dependency, though quite unaware at the time. By eighteen I had been hospitalized for the first time...

At the age of twenty-nine I married my best friend and started back at school. I now compete in 5k races and obstacle courses, I have a home with a beautiful garden and chickens. My life is unimaginably beautiful and beyond comparison. Though alcoholism is a lifelong condition I have a new sense of hope and purpose that I built with a connection to those around me.

-David, St. Johns, Arizona

Associate of Applied Science, Welding

Martin Lucas Memorial Scholarship

If you have been reading NPC Friends and Family newsletters, or corresponding with me for a while, you have heard me say many times that NPC students are the finest and bravest you will ever meet, because they will let nothing come in the way of their reaching their college goals. I honestly cannot say that I could have earned a college degree, had I been faced with the barriers that confront our NPC students. Thank you for all you do to help them achieve their goals and dreams and thus make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Make a Difference – Donate Today!

NPC students are succeeding in spite of all the odds. Many are the first generation in their families to attend college. Lots of adults are coming back to school while coping with the responsibilities of caring for children or elderly parents. Most have incredible financial need and they succeed because of the scholarships made possible, and sustained, by generous people like you!

YES! I want to donate to NPC Friends and Family and help support NPC student scholarships.

Donations can be made online via credit/debit card at www.npcfriendsfamily.org by clicking the “donate” button. Donations can also be made by using this form. Make your check or money order payable to NPC Friends and Family. **THANK YOU!**

Please add my gift of \$_____ to the following:

- Bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education Scholarship** – For students in NPC’s first bachelor’s degree program
- Eagle Fund** – Unrestricted scholarships for students in greatest financial need
- AndyVon Scholarship Fund** – For Native American students
- Arvin Palmer, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship** – For graduates of Snowflake High School
- Charles E. Lisitzky Memorial Scholarship** – For Native American students
- Claude Millet Endfield Early Childhood Development Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students in the ECD program
- Doris Reed Nursing Scholarship** – For nursing and allied health
- Jeanne Swarthout, Ph.D., Presidential Excellence Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students with a GPA of 3.5
- Jennifer Lee Witt Memorial Scholarship** – For degree seeking students
- Jon Graff, Ph.D., Fund** – For NPC students who are university bound, career bound or college-bound
- Martia A. Smith Memorial Art Scholarship** – For all full-time, degree-seeking students
- Mary Kay Smith Lindy Scholarship for Native American Nursing Students**
- Pres Winslow Memorial Scholarship** – For high school graduates enrolled at NPC
- Taking Flight Scholarship in memory of Dr. Eric B. Henderson** – For NPC graduates going on to a university
- U.S. Military Veterans Scholarship** – For veterans, their spouses and their dependents
- VAL 153 Memorial Scholarship** – For students in Fire Science and Paramedicine (EMT) programs

What your donation looks like as tuition:

- \$70** – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo County
- \$210** – Provides tuition for one three-credit class
- \$420** – Provides tuition for one student to attend half-time
- \$840** – Provides tuition for one student to attend full-time (12 credits)



**Begin a legacy –
Help students in need by
starting your own scholarship**

Please contact me at:
(Phone or Email)

**so I can discuss how to create an
NPC scholarship fund.**

Thank you, for your continued support and donation.

You can learn more about and also give to NPC Friends and Family at www.npcfriendsfamily.org

NPC Friends and Family is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be used for tax purposes.