

GIVING THANKS



NPC Friends & Family

July 2021

www.npcfriendsfamily.org

IMAGINE

Dear Friends,

Imagine a cause, to which you are very dedicated, that is fraught with ongoing problems to be solved. Then imagine someone calling you, out of the blue, and offering to provide a wonderful, incredibly generous gift to help you solve some of those problems, and thus advance your cause. That is exactly what happened in late spring of 2021, when a retired couple, who would like to remain anonymous, got in touch with me to explore how they could help NPC's Native American students earn college certificates and degrees.

The way this came about is still a bit of a mystery to me, but I am deeply thankful that the couple learned about NPC Friends and Family through their estate-planning attorney... whom I have never met. In fact, the couple, who moved to north-central Arizona five years ago from southern California, had never even heard of Northland Pioneer College, nor been to our service area.

They came to visit and learn. Northland Pioneer College is a unique institution, in that it serves an area of over 21,000 square miles – about the size of West Virginia – through nine different campuses and centers, and a sophisticated distance learning network. There is no central campus. There is no student housing. Most of our students are working adults, who must juggle the responsibilities of employment, and care of children and elders, with their studies.

The pair came away from their first visit having learned a lot that they did not expect about a college, the likes of which they had never encountered. They recognized that NPC students, especially those who reside on tribal lands, are challenged by the constraints of time, poverty, and for many, being the first in their families ever to attempt a college

education. They had also become keenly aware that one of the greatest barriers our students face is distance. Even with the college's state-of-the-art distance learning technology, getting from home to classes can be overwhelming. This is especially critical if your desire is to learn construction technology, nursing, welding, or any of the many skill areas that require hands-on, face-to-face learning.

The couple came to visit again, and we talked more about these challenges. Rather than being daunted, they were even more resolved to help. The result was an initial endowment of \$100,000.00, which will fund the AndyVon Transportation Grant for Native American Students. This incredible gift will provide \$1,000.00 to each student who qualifies, so that they can gain access to the kinds of degrees and certificates that will help them to transform their lives.

Our new friends and benefactors are dedicated to this cause. They plan to continue working with me, evaluating the results of their transportation grant, and exploring additional ways of helping NPC's indigenous students, who reside in remote areas, to gain a college education.

As I have shared with you in past newsletters, there is great good in this world. That there are people out there like this pair of angels, who literally materialize to help solve seemingly insurmountable problems, just because they care and they can, is something quite like a miracle. Imagine a world full of angels like this, who care, and who can, and who DO. Just imagine.



Betsyann Wilson Executive Director

A FAMILY'S LOVE FOR THEIR MATRIARCH GIVES RISE TO A NEW NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

NPC Friends and Family is pleased and honored to announce the Mary Kay Smith Lindy Nursing Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the family in memory of Mrs. Lindy – “Kay”, honoring her lifelong career dedicated to the nursing profession, and her devotion to the Native American people of Northeastern Arizona, whom she came to know and love through her work.

Kay was the middle of five children and attended St. Bernard Elementary School and Edgewood High School, where she graduated at 17. She completed her nursing degree at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota where the students were educated by The Sisters of St. Francis and trained at the Mayo Clinic. In addition to an excellent education at St. Mary's, Kay made lifelong friends, with whom she shared a love of science, some good trouble, and the compassion of their Catholic faith, a faith she lived by throughout her life.

Kay returned to Madison to the Veteran's Hospital where she met Wayne Smith, a tuberculosis patient given only a few months to live. The rebel in Kay, together with her faith, dismissed this diagnosis and she and Wayne were happily married for twenty-five years before he died in 1979. They moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1960, where they reared seven children.

Kay continued her nursing career at Doctor's Hospital in Phoenix and Scottsdale Memorial Hospital, where she was a staff nurse, supervisor, head nurse and the nursing manager of the Emergency Department eventually being promoted to the Ambulatory Division Director. She also continued her education in hospital administration at the University of Phoenix. She constructed a model for a “mobile emergency unit,” which ultimately became the foundation for ambulatory services in the Valley, the standard of practice for expanded services which continues today. Kay did her thesis on the 10-hour work day, which she implemented for the emergency room staff. This supported a better work-life balance, employment satisfaction and increased productivity, and most importantly to Kay, resulted in a higher quality of care for the patients. Kay lived in Scottsdale for over fifty years.

Kay's last formal position was with the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation. For several years she traveled around the country and internationally as an Emergency Room Consultant and surveyor. Kay was joined in her travels by Raymond Lindy, whom she married in 1980. They had a very happy full fifteen years before Ray died unexpectedly. In addition to grandparenting eighteen grandkids, they volunteered with New Song, an organization for bereaved children.

It was during her time with the JCHA that Kay traveled to Northeastern Arizona and came to know the Native American people there through her work with reservation hospitals. She loved the people, their sense of humor, and the excellent care they provided. Her daughter, Kathy Hoffman, recalls that the Native people stuck with Kay and impressed her more than people from anywhere else she traveled.

Kay died on April 23, 2021 of Alzheimer's Disease, which she lived with for thirteen years. She was 89. The Mary Kay Smith Lindy Nursing Scholarship, established by Kay's children, will honor the memory of this remarkable woman, and carry her legacy of caring forward, by providing scholarships each year to Native American students in Northland Pioneer College's Associate Degree in Nursing program.



Kay Smith Lindy

INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER TAKES FLIGHT

Awardee Is Part of NPC Family Tradition!

NPC Friends and Family is proud to announce the first student to win the Taking Flight Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Eric B. Henderson. The scholarship was established in spring 2020 to honor Dr. Henderson, who dedicated over twenty years to Northland Pioneer College, as both faculty member and administrator. What began as a way for friends and loved ones to make memorial donations in recognition of Eric's devotion to higher education grew into an endowed scholarship fund that is worth over \$56,000.00 and still growing!

Dr. Henderson's family, which includes NPC Mathematics professor, Xander Henderson, wanted to help students go beyond community college, in pursuit of advance degrees. I was delighted by this decision. We have nothing else like it. We have a number of great scholarships that help students who are enrolled at NPC, but before the Taking Flight, we had nothing to assist those who want to continue their education.

The Henderson Family was particularly concerned about the needs of students who must move away from the area to attend a university. Applicants for the Taking Flight scholarship must be accepted to a residential, rather than online, baccalaureate program. Wisely, the Henderson Family also sought to get applicants to reflect on their future educational goals by asking that they include in their applications, not only a detailed description of their degree plans, but an essay addressing this prompt: *Describe a major challenge that you have faced in your life and how you overcame it (or are working to overcome it). Describe the challenges that you anticipate over the next five years as you leave home, complete your bachelor's degree, and go on from there to further studies or a career. How will your past experiences help you to overcome these new challenges?*

The inaugural Taking Flight scholar is Trace Hancock of Taylor. Trace graduated from NPC in May with an Associate of Science degree, knowing in January 2021 that he had been accepted into the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as a Veterinary Science major. In his scholarship essay, Trace described the experience of being a teenage missionary in Mozambique, away from home for the first time, and barely able to speak or understand

the official language of Portuguese. Through sheer determination, and by "forcing myself to use it at any opportunity," Trace passed as a native speaker within a year. He will begin classes at the U of A in Tucson in Fall 2021, with the career goal of becoming a veterinarian and having his own practice. Trace reflected on the many facets of this challenge, from balancing his studies with employment and family, to learning how to successfully run a veterinary practice. Clearly his eyes are wide-open to the future, and he is well-prepared to reach his goals.

In a serendipitous twist, Trace's grandfather, Dr. Arvin Palmer, also dedicated many years of his life to Northland Pioneer College. Dr. Palmer was among the grassroots group that began efforts to found the college in the late 1960s. Like Dr. Henderson, he also taught at NPC for many years, and retired as a vice-president. Dr. Palmer passed away in fall 2020, and his legacy also lives on through a scholarship that benefits graduates of Snowflake High School. All of Dr. Palmer's children attended NPC, including Trace's Mom, Jeanette, who serves as Assistant to the Facilities Coordinator at the Silver Creek Campus in Snowflake.

Throughout their careers, Dr. Eric Henderson and Dr. Arvin Palmer helped an untold number of Northland Pioneer College students to transform their lives through education. How fitting it is that the family of one is helping the family of the other to further this beautiful tradition, thus carrying the legacy of both of these champions of education far into the future.



Trace Hancock

FAREWELL

As some of you who follow us on social media may be aware, NPC Friends and Family lost two very fine gentlemen this past winter. Their ongoing support made a tremendous difference in the lives of NPC students. They were friends, in the truest sense of the word, to the foundation and to me.

Linford “Louis” Smith, Oct. 1926 – Dec. 2020



Louis Smith established the prestigious Martia A. Smith Memorial Art Scholarship in August 2008. Louis created the scholarship through an endowment fund in memory of his late wife, who was a popular and talented adjunct art faculty at NPC. Martia was a gifted and award-

winning ceramicist who also created beautiful works in stained glass. The scholarship provides up to \$3,000.00 each year to a full-time NPC student who is academically and artistically talented.

Born in 1926, the third of twelve children, Smith's family homesteaded in the Williams, AZ area. He grew up a child of the Great Depression, and served in the US Navy in both World War II and the Korean War. These experiences formed in him a profound love of country, an unimpeachable work ethic, a strong sense of personal responsibility and a passion for the power of education. He helped to establish Glendale Community College, and served for many years as chair of its Reading department; he also taught Adult Basic Education in both reading and mathematics.

Through his efforts to establish the memorial scholarship, Louis became acquainted with former NPC Art Chair Lee Sweetman. The two became inseparable, and they shared many happy times and adventures together, traveling the world, visiting with family, relaxing at their Pinetop cabin, and rooting for the AZ Diamondbacks and Cardinals. Lee was at Louis' side when he passed away peacefully in the early morning of December 12 at their home in Peoria.

Louis was a true raconteur, so his stories about his personal history conveyed a wonderful sense of time and place and the perspectives of one of America's Greatest Generation. I dearly loved Louis, his stories, and especially his mischievous sense of humor.

The terms of his endowment demonstrate his resolve, which was shared by Martia, and which is shared by Lee, that art is a vitally important part of culture. I am happy that, hereafter, with Lee's blessing, the scholarship, which will carry their memories into the future, will be called the Martia and Louis Smith Memorial Art Scholarship.

Jon Graff, PhD, April 1942 – Jan. 2021



I became friends with Jon Graff when he rode in our second Pedal the Petrified in September 2014. At 72, he was a strong rider who clearly enjoyed the area, and told me how much he liked the ride. I was astonished when, several months later, I received a substantial gift

from him in support of the next year's Pedal the Petrified. Since 2014, when Jon first rode, Pedal the Petrified has generated over \$100,000!

On the corner of our ride logo are the initials “JG”. We added them in 2018, the year Jon wasn't sure he'd be able to ride at all. The cancer he had fought for six years had become very aggressive over the summer. We spoke often about whether he could even make the trip. Jon's oncologist permitted him to attempt the 50-km ride, and I was honored to ride that leg with him. But Jon went on that day to complete the entire round-trip – all 100 kilometers. A month before, he hadn't known whether he'd even make the trip to Arizona.

His spirit was, and is, indomitable. Since learning his prognosis was terminal, he began “bucket listing”, and sending his “Reports from the Field” – emails of his adventures, always with photographs - and always at least one study of a flower. He rode the Going to the Sun Road, explored Ireland, New York City and Civil War battlefields. He danced in Luckenbach, Texas, toured the Texas Hill Country, got run over by a truck, sustained life-threatening injuries, and was back on his bike inside of six months.

Jon continued to include me in his journey, keeping me apprised of his triumphs, and of the ongoing spread of his cancer, without a shred of self-pity. It is a true friend who will openly share with you the bad as well as the good. Jon ended his life's journey peacefully and with dignity, surrounded by friends on Friday, January 29.

Jon left NPC Friends and Family a generous bequest that will assure his scholarships support NPC students in perpetuity. To me, his photos of flowers represent the seeds he has sown here at NPC. They will go to seed, and the winds will carry them far beyond the place where first they grew. So many lives, touched by one individual who seized the day, lived life to the fullest, and believing he could make a difference, left the world a much better place.

EDUCATION AT NPC IS “ON THE HOUSE” FOR THREE 2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Like many restaurateurs, they had a long and difficult year of being shut down, then open for takeout only. Friends Chris Corbin and Matt McGowen, who own the popular eatery and gathering place, The House, in Show Low, wanted to give back to the communities that supported them through the darkest days of the pandemic. Dedicated champions of education, they gave \$6,000 to NPC Friends and Family to fund a brand-new scholarship for 2021. NPC On The House will award \$2,000 each academic year to one new graduate from Snowflake, Blue Ridge and Show Low High Schools.

This year's Blue Ridge winner is Christian Cabrera, who will study computer information systems. Christian was enthusiastically recommended for the scholarship, due not only to his excellent grades, but also for his prowess with technology, particularly robotics. He has competed as both a member of a three-person team, and as an individual, in designing robots. As an individual, he won the judge's pick for most unique design in a VEX Robotics competition. VEX Robotics is a robotics program for elementary through university students. Christian has already earned 18 credits toward his associate degree.

Lila Taylor, the awardee from Snowflake High School, has worked since the age of 14 to save money for college. She aspires to become a nurse. Not only highly recommended

for her academic ability, Taylor has also been very active in the National Honor Society, 4-H and FFA. That's an impressive balancing act for a student who earned excellent grades in both high school and college courses before she graduated from high school! In addition to the NPC On The House Scholarship, Lila also won NPC Friends and Family's inaugural Arvin Palmer, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship, which will provide her an additional \$500 each semester to help her reach her goals. Dr. Palmer was an NPC Vice President, and was instrumental in the founding of the college.

Show Low High School is represented by Audrey King. She aspires to become an elementary school teacher. She will earn her Associate of Arts in Elementary Education from NPC, then pursue her bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Audrey was inspired to follow this career path by her mom, who ran a pre-school and daycare while Audrey was growing up. When she was twelve, Audrey began babysitting, and became a volunteer Junior Leader with the City of Show Low Summer Play Days program. In her senior year of high school, she got an internship with Whipple Ranch Elementary School in a kindergarten classroom, and as she put it, "I fell in love with the classroom environment!"

All three of these very worthy scholars will be honored at an awards presentation in August at The House. While this will present a great opportunity to recognize each of them, and to applaud their accomplishments, it will also be a nice send-off to them as they embark on their college careers at NPC in the Fall 2021 semester! Students like these, who show such enthusiasm, dedication, and promise, and friends like Chris Corbin and Matt McGowan, who so tangibly demonstrate their belief in them by providing this terrific scholarship, are truly what community is all about.



Christian Cabrera



Lila Taylor



Audrey King

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:

- ☐ **Eagle Fund** – Unrestricted scholarships for students in greatest financial need
- ☐ **AndyVon Transportation Grant** – 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:

- \$65** – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo County
- \$195** – Provides tuition for one three-credit class
- \$390** – Provides tuition for one student to attend half-time
- \$780** – Provides tuition for one student to attend full-time (12 credits)



**NPC Friends
& Family**

**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.