Northland Pioneer College Friends and Family

Giving & Giving Back

Fall 2025

A Time to Give

During this holiday season of giving, I am often struck by the exponential power of generosity. One small gift, act, or sacrifice can have an outsized wave of impact as individuals return the favor or pay it forward.

This is universally true in education: a teacher's impact on a student ripples outward to the student's family, future coworkers and clients, and the community at large.

And this is especially true with NPC Friends and Family scholarships. These scholarships are often the vehicle that makes education attainable for NPC students.

We fund scholarships that pay for tuition, fees, and books, of course, but the dollars often stretch to travel costs, technology & supply needs, childcare, and basic household essentials. We pay for GED exams and placement tests that first open the door to a college education. And we provide emergency support to students in crisis.

As we open the door to opportunity, our students clearly understand that they are being empowered to do the same for others. Many of our applicants describe their passion for using their education and career to give back to their family and their community. The generosity continues and expands. This newsletter highlights some of those voices and the ways in which your investments in students' lives are going to pay rich dividends for years to come.

I am deeply grateful for the gifts from Friends & Family like you that spark this potential in our students. Thank you for planting these seeds of generosity and hope!



Jesse Reeck, NPCFF Executive Director

Pedaling for Scholarships

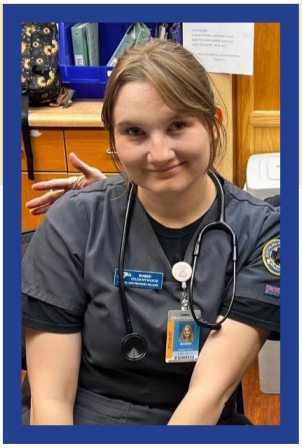
Following days of pounding rain, thunder, and lightning, Saturday, September 27th broke beautifully fresh and clear - perfect weather for NPC Friends & Family's 13th Annual Pedal the Petrified fundraiser bike ride through Petrified Forest National Park. While a few folks were deterred by the weather leading up to the event, over 200 cyclists still took to the road to explore the beauty of this magnificent National Park while raising funds for scholarships for students at Northland Pioneer College.

The event brought in over $42,000 for scholarships and emergency support for students in need, and it brought in many new friends of the College as well. A full story can be found at **www.npc.edu/news**



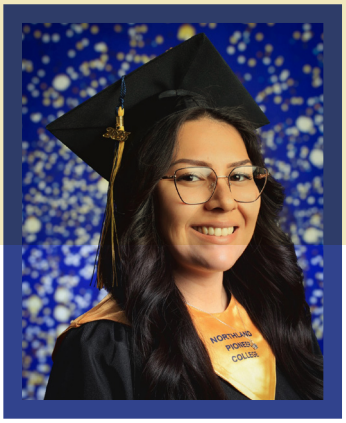
Empowered to Give Back

The following are excerpts from just a few of the application essays describing students' desires to serve their communities.



"My ultimate educational goals include obtaining both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in nursing and becoming a nurse educator. I am heavily inspired by all of my teachers, and the support they have given me. I hope one day to become an inspiration to future generations of nurses."
~ Bobbie Benkert, Nursing, Winslow Women's Club Scholar

"With the help of this scholarship, I will be able to give back to my community with a profound passion in teaching. I plan to inspire, uplift, motivate and teach the young minds of our incoming generations."
~ Sadonah Chischilly, AA - Elementary Education, Jeanne Swarthout Presidential Excellence Scholar



"This degree is not just for me… it is a steppingstone to return to the Navajo Nation and help my community heal. [I am committed] to bringing behavioral health resources to my community, where the need is urgent. This investment would not just change my life, it would ripple outward, helping me heal families and combat addiction, just as Rainbow Treatment Center helped me. I'm ready to pay forward the second chance I was given."
~ Joshua Kay, Behavioral Health, AndyVon Academic Scholar



"At the beginning of my career [as a paramedic], I didn't know that the work I would continue to do would be so impactful, not only on myself, but also on the families that I would encounter. I soon realized that I was made for this line of work. Being present in stressful conditions and still being able to function and provide life-changing interventions to preserve life. This educational drive that I started years ago has brought me to the Nursing Program with NPC and my future career goals are only fueled by the fire that I have in my heart to serve my rural communities [across the Navajo Nation] that covers a square mileage of 1,978 miles. This is a bit larger than the State of Rhode Island!"
~ Serphina Manygoats, Nursing, Mary Kay Smith Lindy & AndyVon Transportation Scholar

"Art is the one language everyone can comprehend and experience. Art gives people a voice, a way to express emotions and words they might not be able to speak. Art restores hope to the hopeless. Hope is what I want to give others.

"I want to focus my education on teaching and instructing disabled individuals in art. I feel it is a person's responsibility to use the gifts given to us for our community improvement and to enrich others' lives within our abilities. A community I wish to serve by teaching and sharing the language of art."
~ Jana-Ray Nielipinski, AA - Art, Fill the Gaps Scholar



"Receiving financial [has helped] me achieve a secondary education, which I will use to help others who need assistance emotionally, mentally, and behaviorally."
~ Alexa Cuestas-Quezada, Behavioral Health, Jennifer Lee Witt Memorial Scholar



"My dream is to have my own daycare center to help give back to my community by working at our local Hopi Head Start. I am hoping that receiving my Bachelor's in Spring 2026 will open doors for me to help my community by opening a daycare center. They say, 'It takes a village to raise a child' and I do believe we educators can make a change to better the future for our children."
~ Tiffany Honahnie, BAS - Early Childhood Education, Fill the Gaps Scholar



"My dream is to own my own business as an entrepreneur. With the skills that I have attained, I would like to start a business on the Navajo Nation Reservation. People there are without means to travel or receive services in my line of work. Services and opportunities are very limited and very far in between. With my business using my various skills, I would like to give out good quality and honest service on every level to my customers, and my community. My plan is to travel to some of these homes and provide services for them either with my welding or with water/mold restoration."
~ Isiah Spencer, Welding, White Mountain Economic Development ITT Scholar



"After about 13 years of doing very little besides working service jobs and keeping the lights on, I reached the conclusion that what I wanted out of life was what made me happiest. Ultimately, I realized what makes me happiest and most fulfilled is helping others, and that if I were going to do anything, that'd be a good place to start. I thought [about] the people who came to help me, when I needed help most, and the answer was clear."
~ Daniel Martucci, Fire Science, VAL 153 Memorial Scholar



"I want to be a part of protecting this country and the people in it. This is no longer just a possibility: this is my dream and passion, soon to be my reality as a crime scene investigator… With the help of a scholarship, I will be one step closer to achieving my passion of bringing justice to the public." ~ Samantha Gonzalez-Zuniga, AAS – Administration of Justice, Jon Graff, PhD, University Bound Scholar



"My career goal is to work with disabled and special needs children in a director's position for the White Mountain Apache Tribal Head Start in my hometown of Whiteriver, Arizona. Having a certified educator who is experienced and skilled in working with special needs children has become an extreme challenge for my community. Many teachers in the Head Start Schools have no experience with special needs; my goal is to help alleviate those challenges and serve my people." ~ Karlita Pablo, BA-Early Childhood Education, AndyVon Academic

"[In this photo I'm] working with a student with a disability...I was engaging with the student one-on-one, asking, 'Where are the teacher's eyes?' to get an understanding of what the student knows, since the student was very minimal in talking. Using different materials such as googly eyes, cotton balls, tape, and other items, the student proceeded to tape googly eyes on me, demonstrating comprehension. This was the best practicum experience I had and is one of my most talked-about stories. This also helped the educators think of ways to engage with the student and better understand the student's comprehension."

NPC Friends & Family
1611 S. Main St.
Snowflake, AZ 85937

Make a Difference – Donate Today!

Your end-of-year gift to NPC Friends & Family will empower students like these to give back to their families and communities. THANK YOU for being a part of this community of generosity!

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

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

A complete list of scholarship funds and **online donations via credit/debit card can be found at www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily** or donations can also be made by using this form. Make your check or money order payable to NPC Friends and Family. **THANK YOU!**

What your donation looks like as tuition:

$75 – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo Co.
$225 – Provides tuition for one three-credit class
$450 – Provides tuition for one student to attend half-time
$900 – Provides tuition for one student to attend full-time

Mail your donations to 1611 South Main St, Snowflake, AZ 85937

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