



# Forward Together

July 2025

[www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily](http://www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily)

## Opening the Door to Opportunity

I first came to NPC three years ago as an instructor in the College and Career Preparation Department. I was tasked with developing an Integrated Education and Training (IET) program for students who wanted to become nursing assistants while simultaneously completing their high school equivalency. It quickly became apparent that beyond the daunting challenges of returning to school, seeking two certifications at once, and managing work and home life, nursing assistant students face additional financial barriers: the cost of fingerprinting, scrubs, shoes, travel to clinicals, licensure exams and fees, and more.

When you see a student need at NPC, what ghostbusters do you call? NPC Friends and Family! Betsy Wilson immediately responded with an idea: circle back to previous funders, the Del E. Webb Foundation, and see if they would consider providing a grant to support these students. I worked with Betsy and Karen Zimmerman over the next two years to put together a proposal and manage the grant the Del E Webb Foundation generously awarded us. Our first two cohorts completed in December 2024 and May 2025, and the investment from Del E Webb truly made that possible. As one student wrote to the Foundation, “there were

times when my dream of pursuing a higher education seemed impossible, but the financial assistance you have provided me helped me tremendously and kept me going.”

This is the power of support, access, and opportunity: it not only makes education financially feasible, it empowers students to know that someone believes in their potential and wants to invest in their future. Both literally and figuratively, it keeps them going. This summer, as I step in as the new Executive Director of NPC Friends and Family, that is the aspect of the work that most excites and inspires me. We—you all—have the opportunity to foster opportunity, to empower and encourage, to invest in the learners who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Our NPCFF Board recently fine tuned our Mission Statement to better reflect what Friends and Family has come to mean over the last 11 years. The original mission, Supporting and promoting lifelong learning through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism, was missing critical elements: Students, Scholarships, and Empowerment. Our new mission captures that: **Empowering students and promoting lifelong learning, through advocacy, volunteerism, fundraising, and awarding scholarships.**

My goal for this first year is to do just that: to get scholarships into the hands of students. And you, our friends and family, make that possible. You’ll read in the following pages about a few of our scholarship recipients, new program offerings at NPC, and the record number of applications and awards we have heading into the 25-26 school year. Thank you for helping to make these things happen through your generosity, your advocacy, and your volunteerism. Thank you for your continued commitment to the work we are doing and for welcoming me into that work. I am honored and excited to join the Family.



Jesse Reeck, Executive Director



# NPC ON THE HOUSE – It’s All About COMMUNITY!

A native of the White Mountains, Chris Corbin is passionate about giving back to the community. He is particularly interested in investing in and supporting local students in their pursuit of a college education. This is the fifth consecutive year he and his wife, Michelle, have awarded scholarships to local high school seniors on behalf of The House to continue their studies at Northland Pioneer College. The House restaurant provides scholarships to graduating seniors from Blue Ridge, Show Low, and Snowflake high schools.

But it’s not just about the scholarships – it’s about celebrating the students who receive them. Chris, Michelle, and the staff at The House treat the students, their families, friends, and now, other scholarship donors to a complimentary dinner. They refuse to let anyone pay even a penny for the meal. Scholarship winners are asked to bring a special teacher or

medical assisting and phlebotomy. This determined Show Low High School senior is also a certified CNA. He plans to continue his studies at NPC and enter NPC’s nursing program. Fellow NPC On The House recipient Alexander Judd is also on a mission to provide support to others through a career in nursing. A senior at Blue Ridge High School, he has already built a strong foundation as a member of Health Occupation Students of America. He also participated in three years of soccer, two years of wrestling, and four years of track. He has held leadership roles in Civil Air Patrol, served as FBLA vice president, and participated in the Young Guns youth shooting program. Judd plans to begin his Associate of Applied Science in Nursing at Northland Pioneer College and then transfer to a university to earn his BSN.

For scholarship recipient Salvador Kreuger, it’s all about leading with heart, faith, and determination. Adopted at birth and raised in a close-knit, faith-filled home, Salvador’s life experiences inspired his dream of becoming a nurse. He is a senior at Snowflake High School and a proud member of the National Honor Society, the jazz band, and his soccer team. He is planning to start NPC’s nursing program and earn his LNA certification. In addition to his academic efforts, he works as a certified personal trainer and runs a small clothing business to help cover costs for clinical supplies, scrubs, lab kits, and transportation between campuses.

In a happy coincidence, a former NPC On The House scholarship recipient, Serena Lopez, was also enjoying dinner at The House during this year’s celebration. She was a recipient of the NPC On The House scholarship in 2022 and is currently enrolled in NPC’s nursing program. This year, she is also one of the awardees of the White Mountain Woman’s Club (WMWC) scholarship to NPC, which is awarded through NPC Friends and Family. The scholarship from the WMWC will help her through her second year in NPC’s nursing program. She took time to say a few words on the impact the scholarships have had on her. “Without the extra support of these scholarships, going to school would not have been possible,” Serena said. “It truly takes a village, and I am so grateful to be a part of the family here at The House, at NPC, and in the loving embrace of this community as a whole,” she said. “For me, having the support of all of you behind me is what drives me to succeed.”

mentor to the celebration, too. Each winner, and all their guests, are invited up onto the big stage in “The Yard” outside The House, where they are given a “Big Check”...Chris and Michelle....They are true friends to NPC and champions for students, families, and our community.

Taking home the NPC On The House scholarships for Academic Year 2024-2025 were awardees Korbyn Greenwood of Show Low High School, Blue Ridge High School senior Alexander Judd, and Salvador Kreuger of Snowflake High School.

Korbyn Greenwood is a dedicated student with a passion for helping others and is on a clear path toward becoming a registered travel nurse. Since the age of 14, he has worked full-time while attending high school, where he also played baseball. He is studying in NPC’s Medical Assisting program, where he hopes to earn national certifications in



# A New Opportunity – The KGJ Roofing Scholarship

Kenny Garvin is the owner of KGJ Roofing, a roofing contracting company that has served the White Mountain Area since 2014. In May of 2024, he and his wife came to The House restaurant in Show Low for dinner. It happened to be NPC Night at the House, when the NPC On The House scholarship recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year were being recognized and honored. Seeing young people up on the stage in The Yard, receiving “Big Checks”, Kenny asked his friend, Chris Corbin, what was going on. Chris explained how he became involved with NPC Friends and Family, which led to the creation of the NPC On The House scholarships.

Like Chris, Kenny grew up in the White Mountains. A graduate of Mogollon High School, he is a product of Career and Technical Education. His son went through Northland Pioneer College’s Welding program. Now a very successful business, KGJ Roofing has been voted Best Roofing Company in the White Mountains in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Like Chris, Kenny felt strongly about giving back to the communities that support him and his business. He asked Chris how he could fund a scholarship for NPC students, and Chris put him in touch with Karen Zimmerman and Betsy Wilson at NPC Friends and Family.

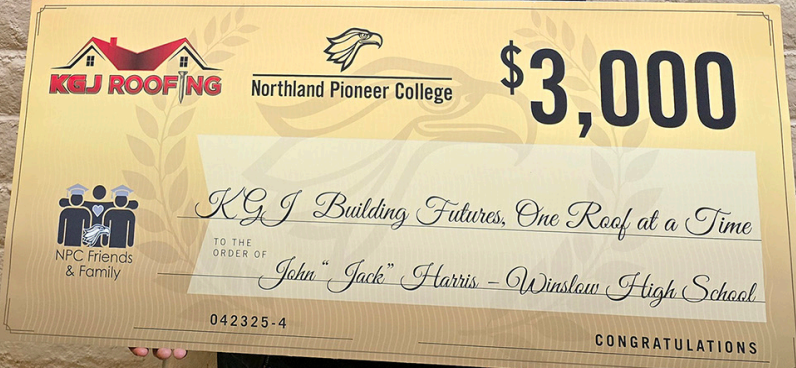
The inaugural recipient of the KGJ Roofing Scholarship is John ‘Jack’ Harris, a 2025 graduate of Winslow High School. Jack got his start with NPC while in high school and participated in two semesters in NPC’s welding program. With the help of the KGJ Roofing Scholarship, Jack plans to continue his studies at NPC’s, Painted Desert Campus in Holbrook, where he intends to earn his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding.

Harris discovered his passion for hands-on work during a summer job as a plumber’s apprentice, but quickly realized

that real skills come from training, not just watching. That realization led him to NPC’s Welding program, where he’s thriving academically, never scoring below 90%. He said, “I’ve been fascinated with working with my hands, and NPC’s classes teach me a lot of what I need to know to get a welding job. I take these classes very seriously.” He drives to class daily in a truck he rebuilt himself after the engine failed and supports his education through savings and pet-sitting.

NPC Welding Faculty Wesley King notes that “John was always at the top of our class in the theory/testing side of our class, and his hands-on skills ended up being some of the best I have seen in years. He showed up every day and worked hard to complete the coursework. He is a hard worker with a lot of drive to be successful. I see him doing great things in the future.” The scholarship from KGJ Roofing and NPC Friends and Family will help him cover his second year of welding courses and allow him to keep building a future defined by hard work, skill, and community.

A special ‘Thank-you’ to Kenny Garvin and KGJ Roofing for this wonderful new opportunity for NPC students!





## MORE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



The overall competition for scholarships from Northland Pioneer College Friends and Family (NPCFF) for the Fall 2025 semester yielded great results. We now use an online simplified process for submitting applications and provide support for students in the form of workshops and written and video tutorials. Additionally, Karen Zimmerman, NPCFF Development Coordinator, worked tirelessly throughout the year to connect with students and empower them to complete the application. As outgoing Executive Director Betsy Wilson enthused: “Karen’s experience in academic advising and her expertise with outreach to high school students as a former NPC Early College Advisor has taken our whole scholarship program to the next level. She’s a wonderful partner who is dedicated to connecting NPC students with scholarship opportunities. We want our students to know how to find and apply for scholarships, no matter where their educational journeys take them.”

With support from NPC’s incredible marketing team, these changes brought in a record 77 qualified applications, an increase of over 50% from the previous cycle. Fifty-nine of the 77 qualified applicants (77%) received at least one scholarship. In addition to the awards made in this regular application cycle, special application windows open for the Summit Healthcare Foundation, Martin Lucas Memorial, Bachelor’s, and CASO scholarships. Along with the AndyVon

transportation grants available to NPC students from Federally-recognized Indian Tribes who travel more than 30 miles one way to attend class, NPC Friends and Family will award roughly \$120,000 in scholarships this Fall.

Applications are scored by teams of volunteer reviewers made up of 7-9 individuals from the NPCFF board, the NPC District Governing Board, college faculty, staff, administrators, and the community at large. The average score among the awardees was 86.8%. The highest score was 97.0%, earned by surgical tech student Lisa Benally of Indian Wells. Scholarships will be of great benefit to Lisa, who will continue to travel a round trip of close to 300 miles to the White Mountain Campus in Show Low to attend classes for the summer and fall 2025 semesters. Kinzie Martin of Snowflake, who is pursuing an Associate of Science degree, earned an average of 96.88%. Sadonah Chischilly, a St. Johns student entering the new Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education program, rounded out the top three scores with an average of 96.00%.

These students and all of our scholarship recipients will head into the Fall 2025 semester with an extra measure of both financial stability and confidence thanks to generous donors and advocates like you. Thank you for making it possible to reach, support, and affirm more NPC students every semester.

# Bachelor’s Degree Programs!

NPC now has three bachelor’s degree programs! May 2025 Commencement saw the first graduates of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (BAS-ECE), and students are now also enrolled in NPC’s Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education (BAEE) and Bachelor of Applied Management (BAM) degree programs. Obtaining a bachelor’s degree in education equips individuals with the essential knowledge and skills to become effective and impactful teachers, meeting a desperate need in our service area. The BAM degree builds on any earned associate degree, including those in technical and medical fields, stacking business and leadership skills

to better equip entrepreneurs, administrators, and managers.

All three of these degrees build on associate degrees available at NPC, and low tuition rates make them much more affordable than earning a bachelor’s elsewhere. Students in all three programs can apply for scholarships from NPC Friends and Family! In fact, three of the first four BAS – Early Childhood graduates earned an NPCFF scholarship at some point in their studies at NPC. What’s more, for the first time ever, NPCFF’s Fall 25 AndyVon Baccalaureate Bound scholar, Karlita Pablo, will be pursuing her bachelor’s right here at NPC!



## THE GOLDEN EAGLE SCHOLARSHIP TAKES FLIGHT!

You read in the May Special Edition newsletter about Betsy Wilson’s retirement and her establishment of the Golden Eagle Scholarship Fund. The Golden Eagle Scholarship, named after our NPC mascot, will be awarded for the first time this Fall 2025 semester. Donations to this scholarship can be made in honor of or in memory of any individual, and we will recognize these honorees on our website, [www.npc.edu/friends-and-family](http://www.npc.edu/friends-and-family). Thank you to those of you who have already contributed in honor of Betsy—the impact of her work, service, and joy will truly live on in these scholars and all of our lives and communities for generations to come.



# 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 to [www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily](http://www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily) 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:**

- ☐ **Golden Eagle Fund** – Give in honor of Betsy Wilson or any loved one
- ☐ **Bachelor’s in Applied Management** – For students adding a Business degree to their credentials
- ☐ **Bachelor’s in Elementary Education** – For students training to be PK-3 teachers
- ☐ **Bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education Scholarship** – For students training to be pre-school teachers
- ☐ **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 and Louis 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
- ☐ **Newman Family Memorial Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students on the I-40 corridor
- ☐ **Therapeutic Massage Program Scholarship** – For enrolled therapeutic massage students
- ☐ **Gene Schaechterle Memorial Scholarship** – For students in any CTE program

## What your donation looks like as tuition:

- \$75** – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo County
- \$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 (12 credits)



***Mail your donations to 611 South Main St, Snowflake, AZ 85937***

**You can learn more about and also give to NPC Friends and Family at [www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily](http://www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily)**

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