



*Your*

**IMPACT**

MAY 2021

*This* IS WHAT YOUR  
COMMITMENT HAS DONE.

NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT



**KASEY BUCHHEIT**  
ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF NURSING, '21  
LIFTING STUDENTS HIGHER, CALMAR

Building future philanthropists is the objective of a new 100 percent student-led leadership program at Northeast Iowa Community College, "Lifting Students Higher."

Lifting Students Higher is the first program of its kind at a community college to receive funding from the national Morgridge Foundation. In the program, student leaders at the College's Calmar and Peosta campuses serve on a board similar to the NICC Foundation. Students review applications from students in need and then allocate funds to help their peers.



**FELIPE UTRERA-RUIZ**  
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS  
LIFTING STUDENTS HIGHER, PEOSTA

Calmar board student president, Kasey Buchheit, is thrilled to have an opportunity to give back and help his fellow students.

"It's so important to me to be in a position to help students with challenges they have," said Kasey, a May 2021 Associate Degree of Nursing graduate.

The group's Peosta campus president, Associate of Arts student Felipe Utrera-Ruiz, sees great need. "This first year we're 'figuring out the buckets' where students need financial support, such as car repairs or high energy bills. Philanthropy is something I've always wanted to do," Felipe said.

The Lifting Students Higher group, along with current initiatives at the College such as the Student Support Fund, are helping students overcome barriers to completing their education and minimize loan debt.

# STUDENTS *Helping* STUDENTS.

The Student Support Fund and Lifting Students Higher programs at Northeast Iowa Community College are helping many students who need assistance during a hardship.

Marlynn Larron, a native of the Marshall Islands, serves as a mentor, tutor and translator for Marshallese students in the Dubuque Community School District. The Associate of Arts student encountered financial barriers to her education this past year.

The funding assisted Marlynn in covering several expenses, including energy costs for her home.



**MARLYNN LARRON**  
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

“Without support from the Lifting Students Higher and Student Support Fund, I wouldn’t have been successful, and I am determined to get a 3.5 GPA or higher at the College. These scholarships are generous for me and to other single moms. I believe I will be the first Marshallese person living in Dubuque to earn an Associate of Arts degree. It’s so important to me because I want my children to walk in my footsteps – so others see that they can do it too.”

# You ARE BUILDING COMMUNITY VITALITY.

Your support of Northeast Iowa Community College builds our communities one successful student and business at a time.

Graduates who secure well-paying, rewarding employment sustain their families and contribute to employers. It is this very success of graduates and businesses, working together, that brings vitality to local communities and the economy.

In fact, 85 percent of the College's graduates start and advance their careers in northeast Iowa. Our graduates are the trained professionals you rely on;

nurses, paramedics, mechanics, carpenters, engineers and many more.

"I attended an Iowa university for three years and returned to Northeast Iowa Community College because it has an excellent Engineering Technology program. I started my career as an engineering tech before completing my first semester," said 2020 graduate Sean Duggan.

As a donor to the College, you are helping to build a better future for our students, their families and impacting community vitality and economic growth.



**SEAN DUGGAN**  
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, '20

*"Receiving the Golden Ticket felt like a message from my sister that I needed to return to NICC."*

**ERIC RUD**  
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS  
GOLDEN TICKET RECIPIENT



## HOW *You* IMPACT STUDENTS.

Knowing he would eventually take responsibility for his family's farm in New Albin, Iowa, Eric Rud enrolled in the College's Agriculture Business program.

But the daily commute to campus proved to be too taxing for the young farmer and he dropped out. During that same year, Eric faced a devastating loss when his sister, Erin, died in a car crash.

New Albin State Bank, as a member of the President's Circle at NICC, has the ability to nominate students for scholarship consideration. After a committee review Eric received the Golden Ticket scholarship for the ag business program.

"Students who learn ag management will make their family business more successful. When students can improve their business and education, that is money well spent," said Paul Wahlen, Senior Vice President, New Albin Savings Bank.

Eric has since re-enrolled and is taking most of his Agriculture Business courses online.

# LARRY KRUSE'S ENDURING LEGACY FOR

## College Writers

After years of teaching in K-12 education, Larry Kruse joined the Northeast Iowa Community College learning and writing center faculty in 1997. During his time at the College Larry helped hundreds of students improve their writing skills through one-on-one tutoring. Tragically, in 2020, Larry died in a car crash.

Larry's passion was the written word. For as much as he loved to write, equally matched was his love to inspire great writing in his students. That's why Larry spearheaded the College's annual student writing contest.

After his retirement in 2018, Larry decided to become part of our Legacy Society.

The Legacy Society recognizes individuals who choose to leave an enduring legacy with the College through a charitable planned gift in their will.

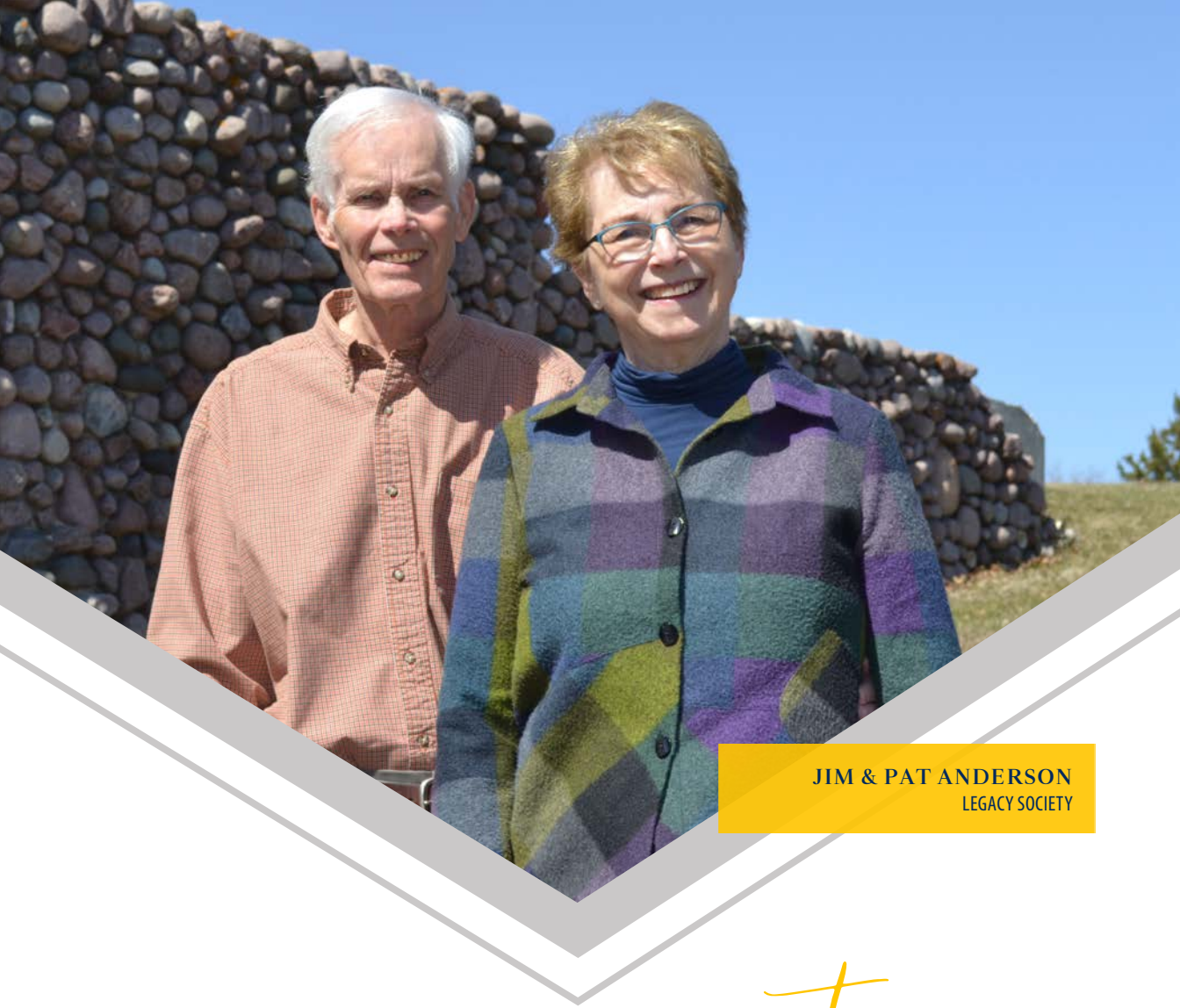
In addition to Larry's endowed scholarship, through his legacy gift, the Foundation is able to award scholarship prizes to the winners of the newly renamed Larry Kruse Memorial Writing Contest. Larry's passion and purpose continues to live on through our students.



**LARRY KRUSE**  
LEGACY SOCIETY

## LEGACY SOCIETY

The Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation Legacy Society recognizes individuals committed to making a difference in the lives of students through a charitable planned gift directed to the fund or initiative of their choice. Legacy Society members are recognized at the annual Hall of Fame event and are listed on the Legacy Society recognition plaques located on both campuses. There is no minimum gift amount to be inducted to the Legacy Society.



**JIM & PAT ANDERSON**  
LEGACY SOCIETY

## SEEING THEIR SCHOLARSHIP IN

# Action

As retired educators, Jim and Pat Anderson knew becoming part of Northeast Iowa Community College’s Legacy Society would help them fulfill their wish to continue supporting education after their passing. But the Decorah couple also wanted to witness their gift in action now.

“It’s amazing how some students have to work multiple jobs to afford tuition. We wanted to give students who otherwise couldn’t afford it an opportunity to even consider getting an education,” said Pat Anderson.

That’s why, in 2018, Jim and Pat established the Jim and Pat Anderson annual scholarship. Six NICC students have since been awarded this support.

“It helps us realize how valuable a scholarship can be and it just makes us feel good,” said Pat.



**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Advancement



## YOUR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT CREATES

# Opportunity

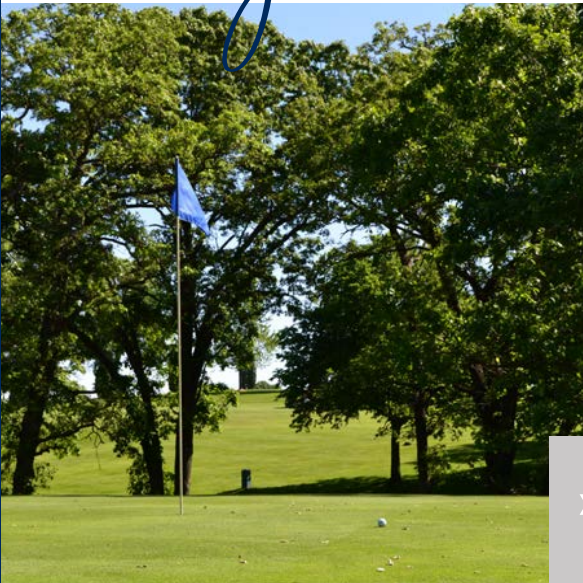
As a donor to Northeast Iowa Community College you make a profound impact on students' educational success. The success of every student who attends NICC often depends upon the availability of scholarships to lessen the burden of tuition, fees, books, supplies and other expenses, such as transportation and childcare.

"Receiving a scholarship allowed me the financial freedom to volunteer and make connections in the community. Those connections opened doors for me," expressed 2020 Associate of Arts graduate,

Cassidy Byrnes. Scholarships helped Cassidy to transfer successfully to an Iowa university to complete a four-year degree.

Scholarship opportunities for students are critical and every dollar of support makes a difference, no matter the amount. Your support builds a successful foundation for current students, future students and the next generation of skilled professionals in northeast Iowa.

## You WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS.



### GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12**

South Winn Golf & Country Club  
2585 175th St.  
Calmar

**MONDAY, JUNE 21**

Thunder Hills Country Club  
16682 Thunder Hills Drive  
Peosta

» Visit [www.nicc.edu/alumni](http://www.nicc.edu/alumni) events for more info.