



NIU FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018



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ABOUT THE NIU FOUNDATION

The NIU Foundation Board of Directors believes that philanthropy is a potent and viral force and represents a vast source for growth in support of NIU. As such, the vision of the NIU Foundation is to develop, support and encourage a culture of giving throughout the NIU community.

The NIU Foundation's mission is to energize and connect the private sector with the NIU community to secure and steward resources that support the future and growth of NIU.

Creating life-changing opportunities for our hardworking, dedicated students and faculty is the NIU Foundation's highest priority. Thousands of donors support us in our mission. NIU donors are helping change the world, starting by changing students' lives.

Activity Report of Private Support

During fiscal year 2018,

13,317 donors

made gifts to the NIU Foundation for the benefit of NIU

New Gifts and Pledges: \$9,175,983

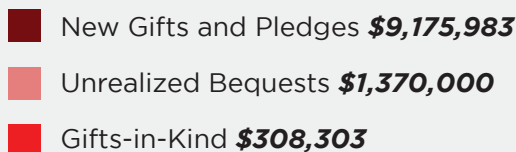
Unrealized Bequests: \$1,370,000

Gifts-in-Kind: \$308,303

Total Fundraising Activity:

\$10,854,286

Breakdown of Fundraising Activity:



Endowment Fund Performance For Fiscal Year 2018

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The goal of setting asset allocation and expenditure strategy for the NIU Foundation Endowment Fund is to maintain the spending power of the fund, in inflation-adjusted (real) dollars, far into the future.

The NIU Foundation Finance Committee reviews the asset allocation regularly using ranges approved annually by the NIU Foundation Board of Directors.

Assets - As of June 30, 2018, the NIU Foundation's total assets were \$138 million, \$79.2 million of which were endowment.

Endowment Market Value (dollars in millions)

\$74.7	beginning of year
\$2.4	gifts to endowment
\$2.1	investment results, net of spending
<hr/>	
\$79.2	end of year

Investment Return

Annualized total over	1 year	5 years
Actual	7.8 %	7.5%
Target weighted	7.6%	7.5%

Impact on Student Scholarships and Programs

\$2.9 million (2018-2019)

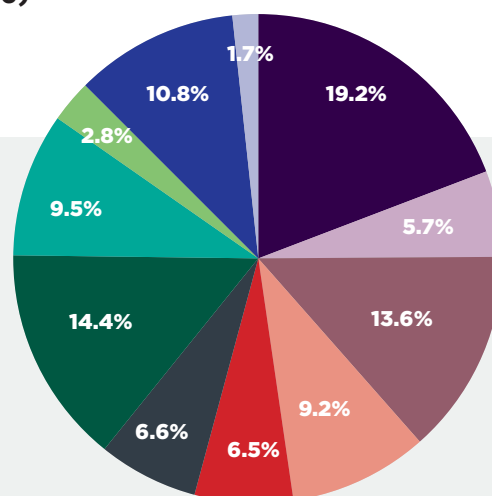
\$2.7 million (2016-2017)

\$2.6 million (2017-2018)

\$2.5 million (2015-2016)

Asset Allocation

Equities Domestic – Large/Mid 19.2%	Fixed Income 14.4%
Equities Domestic – Small 5.7%	Natural Resources 9.5%
Equities International 13.6%	Real Estate 2.8%
Emerging Markets 9.2%	Diversifying Strategies 10.8%
Equities Private 6.5%	Cash 1.7%
Equities Directional Hedge 6.6%	



By the Numbers



Estimated cost to attend NIU for one year
(tuition, fees, room and board)

2019:
\$29,118

1970:
\$1,700

53%

of NIU students
are among the **first generation** in their family
to attend a four-year college



3/4

of NIU's student body
comes from underserved populations



85%

of NIU students
receive financial aid



36%

of NIU students receive
scholarship support



By graduation, the national average debt for a student loan borrower is

\$37,172

13,317 donors gave

\$10.9M

in FY18
outright gifts

9 out of 10

NIU Foundation
scholarship
recipients graduate

3,801

donors gave

\$347K

to the university's
strategic priorities.
That's up 32% over FY17

The NIU Foundation
has awarded

\$19.8M

in scholarships
in the past 10 years



\$3.4M provided for scholarships in FY18





NIU President Dr. Lisa Freeman and Dr. Doug Rose

GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN INSPIRES RECORD PARTICIPATION

More than
300
donors
participated,
totaling nearly
\$95K
in gifts.

More than 300 donors participated in the NIU Foundation's FY18 Giving Tuesday campaign with gifts totaling nearly \$95,000.

The campaign got a boost from NIU President Dr. Lisa Freeman and her husband, Dr. Doug Rose, when the two made a \$25,000 gift for scholarships. The couple pledged the gift every year of Freeman's presidency.

"We would be excited to make this gift any day of the year, but we hope that by doing so on Giving Tuesday we can encourage and inspire others," Freeman said. "We view this as a demonstration of how much we believe in our students and this institution."

"Our students hold our futures, our children's futures and our grandchildren's futures in their hands. Helping them achieve their dreams will help take care of us all," she said.



RED AND BLACK GALA SUPPORTS NIU'S HIGHEST PRIORITY

The FY18 Red and Black inspired a generous outpouring of support – more than \$400,000 to provide scholarships for NIU students.

An elegant black tie evening, the Red and Black celebrates the impact of scholarships and the generous donors who make them possible. Every dollar raised supports student scholarships.

Our generous supporters
contributed more than
\$400,000
in funds to student
scholarships.

ALUMNI STRENGTHEN NIU TIES THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS:

Christian Dow and Trace Tyler

A pair of NIU alumni who lived at the same time on opposite sides of Huskie Stadium as students—but never crossed paths—are proof that it's never too late to forge ties that benefit the NIU community.

About 10 years after leaving campus, at a 2004 pre-concert rooftop party in Denver, NIU alumni Christian Dow and Trace Tyler met for the first time. Since then, through numerous trips to NIU football games in DeKalb and across the country, they have forged a strong bond.

In FY18, they created a shared scholarship in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. The scholarship awards students who need a little financial boost to cross the finish line to graduate.

For Dow and Tyler, it was only the start: Tyler is establishing an endowed scholarship at the School of Law, and Dow is now exploring how he can expand his support to the College of Engineering Mechatronics program. These men, who worked to put themselves through college, appreciate how financial support can significantly impact a student's journey.

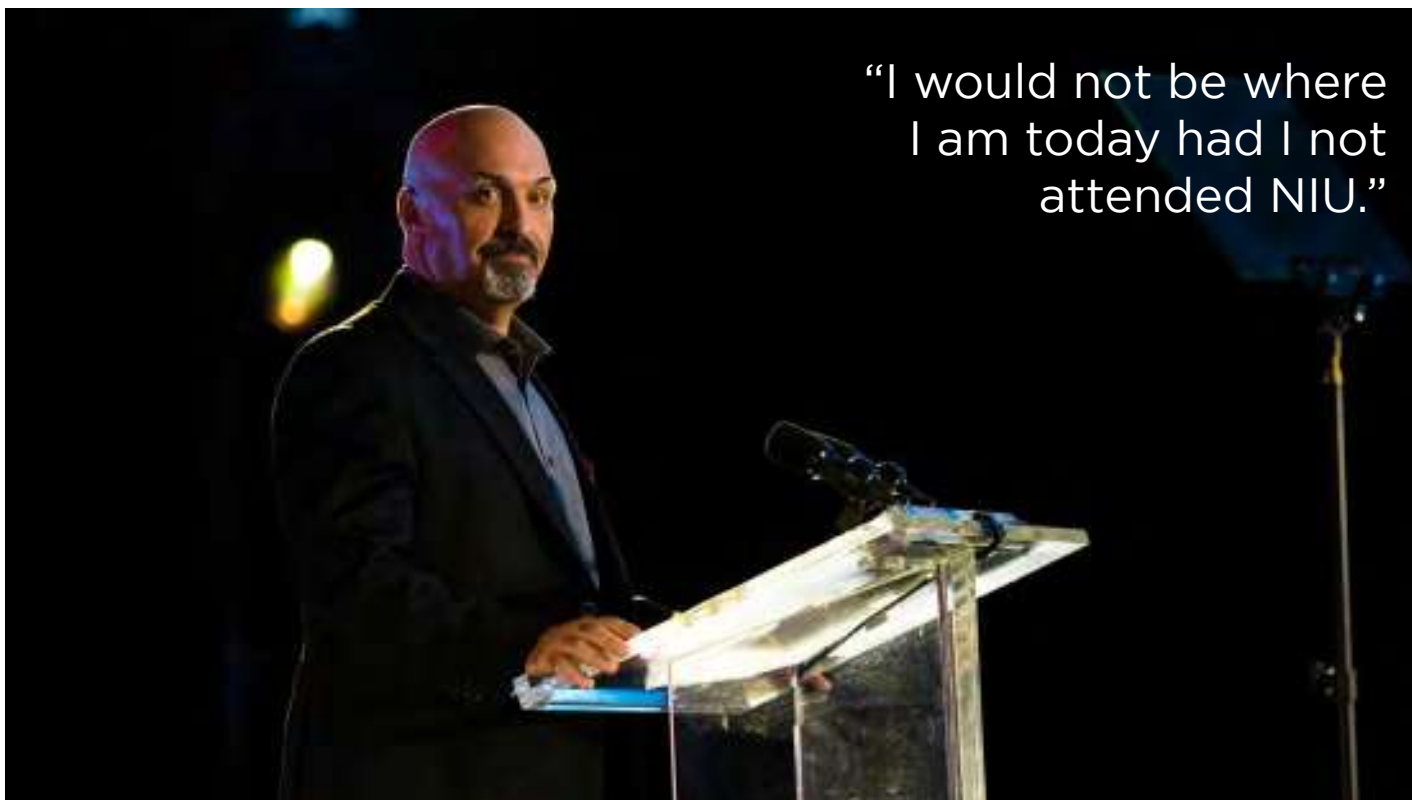
Both relocated to Colorado shortly after earning degrees from NIU. That was in 1995 for Dow, who is president of Panther Industries in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Two years later, Tyler moved to the Centennial State, pursuing a career in law, estate planning, and other financial services that has led to his current status as owner of two American Family Insurance agencies near Vail, Colorado.

Dow's company, a manufacturer of automated labeling machinery, has developed a relationship with STEM School Highlands Ranch to help students develop the skills vital to a manufacturing career. This experience sparked his interest in helping NIU students. He had already committed financial support to the university through his estate but felt a tug to do something more—and more immediately.

"NIU students are go-getters—they make things happen, and this is a good way to give back," he says. "I'm in a position that it just makes sense."

"If you've been blessed, pay it forward," adds Tyler. "And you can start small. Over time, it grows."



“I would not be where
I am today had I not
attended NIU.”

DEFYING OBSTACLES AND EXPECTATIONS: John and Denise Burns

John Burns had to overcome a few hurdles as an NIU student.

Like a true Huskie, he overcame them all, and in 1988, he graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Now, he and his wife, Denise, are giving generously to NIU so that other students can likewise clear hurdles and graduate.

In November 2017, John and Denise Burns were honored at the NIU Red and Black gala for the couple's \$1 million gift to the **Angel Touch** program, which helps students in good academic standing who are facing a financial roadblock as they near graduation.

“I would not be where I am today had I not attended NIU,” Burns said. “It provided me several chances: a training ground to lead others, patience when I failed, guidance and faith when I least expected it and confidence to eventually succeed.”

In his speech at the Red and Black, Burns described a few of the hurdles he overcame as a student. Those setbacks aside, he displayed enough promise that he was recruited the following year to be an RA (Resident Assistant) at Stevenson South Towers.

The RA position was a godsend: his father had recently lost his job and Burns was financially hard-pressed to continue at NIU. For two years, he received free room and board while developing invaluable leadership skills.

Encouragement from an English professor pointed him toward journalism. After writing for Crain Communications in Chicago, in 1996 Burns founded a company, Sheffield Research, in which he oversaw whistleblower investigations against pharmaceutical manufacturers and other healthcare providers. Those efforts resulted in recoveries in excess of \$1 billion.

In 2008, Burns created Citizens Rx—a pharmacy benefit management company to help employer groups and state and government health plans reduce and control rising healthcare costs.

“Looking back, I had an angel looking out for me—Northern Illinois University,” Burns said. “Our gift is our way to say thank you to NIU by paying it forward while also paying it back.”

ALWAYS A HUSKIE:

Sally Stevens extends her tradition of generosity



After a quarter-century of extraordinary generosity to NIU, Sally Stevens took her giving to another level in 2018 in the hopes of inspiring others to follow suit.

Her estate gift to the NIU Foundation will forevermore provide scholarships to support countless students who have financial need. The bequest comes on top of steady aid she has already provided, including an endowed scholarship to the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Established in 1996, that scholarship provides annual support to three students, one each in the School of Art and Design, the School of Theatre and Dance, and the School of Music.

Stevens grew up during the Great Depression and while her family wasn't among those hardest hit economically, it left a lasting impression. "I knew the worth of money and that I had to be careful with it," she said. "And I learned that when you do have something to give to those in need, it's time to help."

"I am grateful for having had a great life," Stevens says. "I'm still a Huskie."

For Stevens, the giving is an outflow of the heartfelt bonds she developed over a 32-year career working at NIU. In that span, she served as secretary for six NIU presidents. Along the way, she enjoyed many musical, theatrical and other cultural performances on campus.

Funding through her endowed scholarship has helped more than 70 talented students who are in pursuit of degrees in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. And, in honor of her support, a second-floor theater in the newly renovated Stevens Building is formally called the Sally Stevens Players Theater, also affectionately known as 'The Sally.'

"I am just amazed at the caliber of students each year who receive these awards," Stevens said. "These are the ones that we want to go on and change the world."

FIGHTING SOCIAL INJUSTICE: Scholarship helps law student help others



Nehal Hindi

Motivated by her experiences with social injustice and discrimination, recent graduate Nehal Hindi came to NIU to study law and become an advocate for herself and others. As a recipient of the **Vera S. Verbal Embracing Diversity Scholarship** from the College of Law, she was able to spend her final year of law school getting a head start doing just that.

Hindi grew up in Chicago, the middle child of Palestinian-American parents. As a child, her father tutored her in Arabic on the weekends, and her family spent a year living in the West Bank when she was in grade school. Her passion for learning and her personal experiences with prejudice and discrimination helped to lay the groundwork for her eventual career path.

While studying psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Hindi took an interest in learning more about the law and how it can be used to create change.

“The first time I visited NIU’s College of Law, I remember the nervousness and excitement I felt as I walked through the halls of Swen Parson. I knew I wanted to be part of a law school that valued public interest work like NIU,” she said.

“I am very thankful for receiving this scholarship; it helped me both financially and academically.”

“I hope to use my law degree to give back to vulnerable communities, to work with refugees, and advocate for human rights across the world,” she said.

FINISHING WHAT HE STARTED: Scholarship has ‘huge impact’ on returning student



Jonathan Gustafson

When returning to school as a non-traditional student, Jonathan Gustafson was grateful to find scholarships to help him.

When Gustafson first enrolled at NIU, he was pursuing a music degree. Along the way, he left NIU for a humanitarian mission in South America. Gustafson lived for two years in Paraguay, where he did missionary work and served as a leader for other missionaries in the area.

After returning home, Gustafson married, started a family, and put his education on hold. Over the years, he was able to apply what he learned in South America as a sales representative in Latin America.

After some unexpected organizational changes, Gustafson decided to take control of his future and go back to school. When considering where to enroll, he said he chose to return to NIU based on the reputation of the College of Business.

As a non-traditional student with limited access to financial aid, scholarships played a vital role in Gustafson's ultimate success.

"The impact is huge. My goals are lofty, and without the help of individuals and the NIU Foundation, I don't know how I would achieve them," he said.

Even while juggling family obligations, school and a part-time position with UPS, Gustafson plans to complete his undergraduate degree and then pursue an MBA. He hopes to stay with UPS and eventually advance to a top position with the company.

Long-term career success isn't the only thing Gustafson sees in his future. He also plans to give back to NIU and help other students.

"How amazing it will be when I am able to return the generosity I have received," he said.

THE DECIDING FACTOR:

Scholarship recruits top student to NIU

Natalia Dmitruk had already applied to 10 colleges when she learned that NIU could be a fit for her academic and career aspirations.

She immediately applied and soon received her acceptance to the university's College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. However, for this standout student from Mt. Prospect, Illinois, college would still be out of reach without extensive monetary support.

A crucial difference-maker for her was the OMRON Electronics Scholarship.

"I don't want to give up on my goals because of finances, and this generous assistance keeps my parents from having to carry such a high financial burden," said Dmitruk. "It inspires me to continue working hard to reach my goal of becoming an engineer."

Her parents, Andrew and Margaret, are Polish immigrants who came to the United States in their 20s, each with only a suitcase, a strong work ethic and a desire for a better life.

"The money that they make is used to provide the necessities for our family," said Dmitruk, who has a younger sister in high school. "The harsh reality is that without financial assistance, we are unable to afford my college education."

Dmitruk is studying electrical engineering with an emphasis in biomedical engineering, with a double-minor in mathematical sciences and Spanish.

In addition, Dmitruk works upwards of 10 hours a week in NIU's Engineering Building to cover the cost of books and other educational expenses. "Even with that, I find it hard to balance work and school," said Dmitruk. "I cannot imagine what it would be like without the generous support I receive."

After graduate school, Dmitruk hopes to work either in the field of prosthetics or fighting tumor growth. "I would love to work alongside doctors in a hospital to make the greatest impact I can in people's lives," she said.



Natalia Dmitruk



I Younan An

ALL ABOUT THE GREATER GOOD: Scholarship propels international student to career in public service

When I Younan An was a young boy growing up in Cambodia, the world came to him: tourists from countless countries regularly descended on the bustling marketplace in his neighborhood.

Conversing with that steady stream of visitors was an essential part of An's journey in learning English. Now, having graduated in 2018 from NIU with a political science degree, An is working diligently toward a master's degree in public administration so that he can make an impact on the world.

"I like to see myself as a global citizen," said An. "I don't see myself in one place."

Last year, his ambition to work for the United Nations or a nonprofit government organization gained additional momentum when he was awarded a scholarship through the **John G. and Barbara C. Peters Student Endowment**. The financial support ensured the completion of his undergraduate studies.

Among other accolades, An received the Student Lincoln Laureate Prize from NIU in 2018. The award recognizes the top senior from each of Illinois' four-year universities who exhibit excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

An attained a double minor in economics and sociology and a certificate in women's and gender studies. Eventually, he wants to return to Cambodia.

It's the fulfillment of a dream that eluded his parents, both of whom are survivors of the Cambodian genocide in the 1970s that curtailed their own educations and opportunities.

"I never thought I would receive all of these awards and recognition," said An. "It's a great opportunity and I hope that this story will impact other students from all over the world who want to receive their degree here in the U.S."

FIRST IN THE FAMILY: Scholarship puts college education within reach

In 2011, along with his mother and two older sisters, 15-year-old Gilbert Bwetabure moved from Uganda to the Chicago suburbs. He dared to dream that despite his family's financial challenges, a college education was within reach.

Through the generosity of donors, that hope has become a reality. The NIU Foundation Impact Scholarship helped Bwetabure receive an industrial and systems engineering degree from the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Bwetabure became his family's first college graduate in December 2018. It came only slightly longer than three years after he enrolled at NIU. The next month, he began working as quality unit lead for automobile manufacturer Chrysler's plant in Kokomo, Indiana.

"I am very grateful for the scholarship, which helped me focus on academics and not be pulled away by working too much," Bwetabure said. "The scholarship helped push me closer to graduation."

Bwetabure traces his success partly to the strong work ethic modeled by his mother, Jean.

"My mum works two jobs to pay bills and put food on the table," he said. "Living in a new country is challenging, but I was determined to do whatever I could to accomplish my goals."

While at NIU, Bwetabure worked about 20 hours a week as a tutor in the Division of Academic Affairs. He was also part of the University Honors Program, the African Students Association, the NIU Soccer Club and the National Society for Black Engineers.

Bwetabure plans to earn a master's degree as well as the know-how and experience necessary to launch his own engineering firm.

Fittingly, he is drawn to the field because of its potential to make a positive global impact: "I believe in changing the world," he said. "I want to make it a better place for people to work and live in."



Gilbert Bwetabure



**DONORS TO THE
NIU FOUNDATION ARE
HELPING CHANGE THE
WORLD...STARTING
BY CHANGING
STUDENTS' LIVES.**

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in our mission. NIU donors are
helping change the world...
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students' lives.*

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