



Thank You

**NMC Foundation
Stewardship Report**

(July 2023- June 2024)

Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.

GLORIA STEINEM





Dear Friend of NMC,

From the moment a prospective student steps foot on campus, we coach them on planning.

Academic Advisors, Student Success Coaches, and dedicated instructors help students map out their education and career journeys—whether planning a class lineup, transferring to a university, or securing their first job.

Planning is essential, but so is adapting to unexpected challenges. For many students, those challenges are financial—an unexpected car repair or rising grocery prices can derail their path. Your generosity, through the Student Emergency Fund, NMC Food Pantry, and many other funds, has kept countless students on track to complete their classes and graduate. One of those students is Ripley Hall, featured on the cover and in a full-length story later in this report. I know you'll enjoy reading about how, thanks to your support, Ripley went from a high school senior without a plan to a student leader at NMC who is pursuing a career in paleontology.

Your support not only helps students plan for their futures but also enables NMC to chart its own course. As we wrap up *NMC Next*, our three-year strategic plan, I'm proud to share that we've made significant progress in areas like Future-Focused Education and Student Engagement and Success. The completion of *Thrive*, our Campus Master Plan, has further positioned NMC to meet the evolving needs of our students and community.

Because of you, our students and college have the resources they need to create a bright future. As we approach NMC's 75th anniversary, we are planning to provide lifelong learning to our communities for years to come.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Nissley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick Nissley, Ed.D.
President, Northwestern Michigan College

Your Support of Education and the Arts Changed Their Lives Forever!

Thank you from people in our community who enrolled in college courses, attended community education programs, and were inspired by art this year.



Thank you from 1,423 NMC students to whom you awarded scholarships: You made college possible for people in our community who otherwise could not afford to pay for classes at NMC by providing donor-funded scholarships for tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, transportation, and other costs of attending college.



Thank you from 93 students from 7 local high schools who participated in Academic WorldQuest: Because of your support of the International Affairs Forum, local high school students participated in the fun, fast-paced team competition—the only high school global affairs competition of its kind in northern Michigan.



Thank you from those who enjoy the outdoor sculptures at the Dennos Museum Center: You jump-started restoration efforts of the outdoor sculpture collection by funding a skilled conservation expert to develop a comprehensive maintenance and repair plan, which will ensure long-term preservation of the magnificent sculptures.



Thank you from hundreds of NMC students you kept from going hungry: You donated food, personal care items, and financial gifts to the Student Food Pantry, which meant students and their families didn't have to worry about whether or not they could afford their next meal.



Thank you from 3rd-8th graders in Benzie County: You provided College for Kids classes in robotics, art, and theater to kids in Benzie County—the first to be offered beyond Traverse City—along with scholarships to help them attend.



Thank you from 10 graduates of NMC's first 16-week condensed Police Academy program: Thanks to your support of the college, the Police Academy condensed its program from two semesters to one, addressing the critical, statewide need for additional police officers.



Thank you from 67 NMC students you saved from dropping out of school: You gave generously to the Emergency Assistance Fund, which saved students from dropping out of college when they experienced an emergency—like a house fire or unexpected car repair—by providing funds and referrals to community organizations.



Thank you from the audience in the Dutmers Theater: You replaced the crackly speakers and outdated soundboards in the Dennon Museum Center's theater with a digital sound system that envelopes the theater in rich, dynamic audio, ensuring a pleasurable and memorable theater experience for every audience member.



Thank you from 24 culinary students awarded scholarships at A Taste of Success: Your sponsorship of, and attendance at, *A Taste of Success* (the first in-person edition since 2019!) raised more than \$157,000 for student scholarships and the greatest needs of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute.



Thank you from the more than 6,000 people who tune into WNMC each week: Your support brings truly independent, grassroots radio to more than 5,000 people in our region via the airwaves, and another 1,000 people in 56 countries around the world via the live stream!



Thank you from more than 500 local high school and NMC students who connected with international experts: Your support of the International Affairs Forum made it possible for local students to meet world-renowned experts in global affairs who visit Traverse City for International Affairs Forum lectures.



Thank you from 4 students in the pilot cohort of the Neurodiversity Support Center: You helped students with a range of learning differences, including but not limited to anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, (ADHD), and obsessive compulsive disorder receive services to help them transition to college such as mentoring, structured study times, skill-building workshops, and more.

The Art of Access

Because of your generosity, the Dennon Museum Center is more accessible to those with sensory, hearing, vision, and mobility needs.

Thanks to you, this year the Dennon Museum Center began initiatives and upgrades that make it **easier for all people to visit the museum** like:

- **Becoming a Certified Autism Center designation** by training staff, volunteers, and docents in autism and sensory awareness, and by providing support and options for visitors who need accommodations or special assistance to make their visit easier. The museum is thrilled to help Traverse City work toward attaining recognition as Michigan's first Certified Autism Destination;
- **A brand-new hearing loop system for the Milliken Auditorium**, providing an enhanced listening experience for those who visit us with hearing aid devices;
- **Replacing the original stage and house light fixtures from 1991 in the Milliken Auditorium**, making the house lights brighter and therefore entry/exit into the space much safer for our visitors; and
- **New audio and video equipment in the Dutmers Theater**, making sound in the mini-theater clearer and louder than ever.

In addition to **making the arts available to more people**, many of these facility improvements are important milestones in the rigorous process of applying for first-time accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), which, with your help, the Dennon hopes to achieve by 2027.

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- 1 College 4 Kids students using noise-canceling headphones during a high-sensory art project at the museum.
 - 2 Laurel Premo's recent concert that showcases the new lights in Milliken Auditorium.





3 On a busy free day, Rosie the therapy dog was at the museum to help children relax during storytime.

“Success is the
sum of small
efforts, repeated
day in and
day out.”

—ROBERT COLLIER





From 'Uncertain' to Pursuing Her Passion at NMC

Thanks to you, Ripley went from an uncertain future to pursuing a career in paleontology.

Growing up in Traverse City, Ripley Hall changed homes and schools frequently. She graduated from high school through homeschooling during the COVID-19 pandemic. She wanted to go to college, but wasn't sure she'd be accepted because of her non-traditional path to high school graduation. **And, if Ripley was accepted, she wasn't sure she could afford to enroll in classes.**

Thanks to you, Ripley was accepted, and warmly welcomed to Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). **Because of your generosity, she received scholarships to help her pay for classes, joined a student group that turned her into a leader, and, while on a study abroad trip to Brazil, formulated a plan to pursue a career in paleontology.**

By the time Ripley graduated from high school, she and her mom had moved 23 times within the city limits of Traverse City. Along the way, her schools changed, too: first TCAPS Montessori and then The Greenspire School. She finally graduated from high school through online homeschooling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soon after graduation, Ripley and her mom moved in with her grandmother in order to care for her. Though happy to help her grandmother and to finally have a stable home, it's expensive caring for an aging loved one.

Ripley wanted to go to college, but she didn't know if she could make it work. **How could she afford to pay for classes? Would she have to take on student debt? Would a college accept her even though she never took the SAT? And, if they did, what would she study?**

The answer for Ripley was the college that, no matter where she moved in Traverse City, was always in her backyard. NMC welcomed Ripley with open arms.

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- 1 Because of your generosity, Ripley received scholarships to help her pay for classes, joined a student group that turned her into a leader, and, while on a study abroad trip to Brazil, formulated a plan to pursue a career in paleontology.



Thanks to you, Ripley received scholarships to help her pay for classes. “It was a weight off my shoulders,” said Ripley of receiving the scholarships that allowed her to cut down on her work hours and focus on school. With more time to devote to school and extracurriculars, Ripley joined the Multicultural Club, eventually becoming its President.

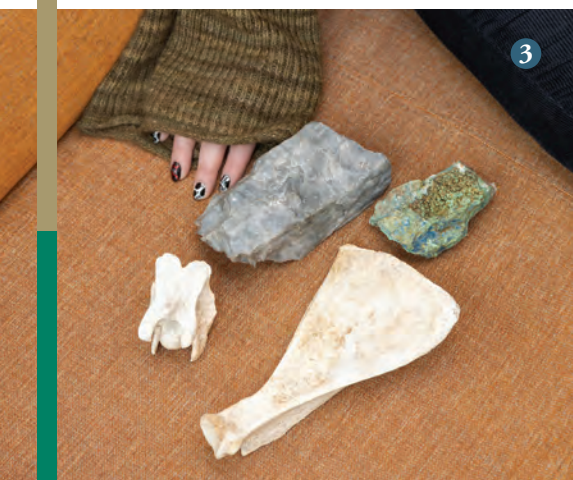
The Multicultural Club piqued her interest in other cultures, and Ripley went on the short-term study abroad trip to Brazil. **Thanks to donor-funded scholarships and profits from the International Affairs Forum, Ripley received a Global Opportunities Scholarship that helped her pay for the trip.**

While in southern Brazil, Ripley explored a rock face with an inscription from an indigenous tribe. According to the trip’s guide, very little was known about the inscription or the tribe. In that moment, Ripley realized there were many things in this world that hadn’t yet been researched, or even discovered!

Her experience in Brazil inspired Ripley to take more courses at NMC in geology and anthropology like “Life of the Past,” which focuses on Great Lakes and North American fossil records.

Because of your support, Ripley has a plan for her future. With one year to go at NMC, she’s considering joining another study abroad trip this year. And, she’s consulting with her instructors on which universities she should transfer to in order to pursue her passion for discovering the still-hidden fossils, plants, and other wonders of our world.

Because of your kindness, Ripley went from feeling uncertain about college and her future to becoming a student leader with a plan to pursue a career in paleontology. Thank you for caring enough about local students like Ripley to support scholarships, student groups, and study abroad programs at NMC.



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- ② Thanks to you, Ripley received scholarships to help her pay for classes. “It was a weight off my shoulders,” said Ripley of receiving the scholarships that allowed her to cut down on her work hours and focus on school.
 - ③ Because of her study abroad experience, Ripley is taking more courses at NMC in geology and paleontology.

“Never stop dreaming, never stop believing, never give up, never stop trying, and never stop learning.” -ROY T BENNETT



FY24

FINANCIAL REPORT (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Your Generosity (NMC Foundation Resources)

● Direct contributions	2.96 M
● Events	.19 M
● Endowment	7.00 M
● Legacies	.10 M
● Total	10.25 M

Our Collective Impact (Resources Distributed to NMC)

● Education and the Arts	4.68 M
<i>Scholarships</i>	<i>1.36 M</i>
<i>Capital Projects</i>	<i>1.26 M</i>
<i>Program Support</i>	<i>2.06 M</i>
● Administration	.42 M
● Development	.19 M
● Total	5.29 M

Audited financial statements are available on our website at nmc.edu/foundation





Dear Friend of NMC,

It has been a privilege to join Northwestern Michigan College this past year as your new Chief Advancement Officer. It is so wonderful coming back to my home state of Michigan and being close to family but more importantly arriving at one of the most exciting times in the College's history.

From the moment I arrived, I've been inspired by the deep generosity and commitment of this incredible community. Thank you for welcoming me—and for ensuring NMC continues to be “the community's college.”

As we prepare to celebrate NMC's 75th anniversary in 2026, I'm excited to partner with you in planning our future. This milestone is a chance to honor our past while dreaming boldly for tomorrow. Initiatives like our *NMC Next* strategic plan and our *Thrive* campus master plan will ensure NMC continues to serve as a cornerstone for our region's success.

But we cannot do this alone.

Your philanthropy has and continues to make a critical difference. Your giving has transformed lives. From scholarships that turned uncertainty into opportunity, to emergency funds that kept students on track and nourished both their minds and bodies, to investments in our programs and facilities, your support makes a lasting difference.

Your philanthropy has made, and continues to make, a critical difference. Together, we're shaping a future that builds on 75 years of extraordinary achievement.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dino M. Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Dino M. Hernandez

Chief Advancement Officer

Vice President of College Advancement/Executive Director, NMC Foundation

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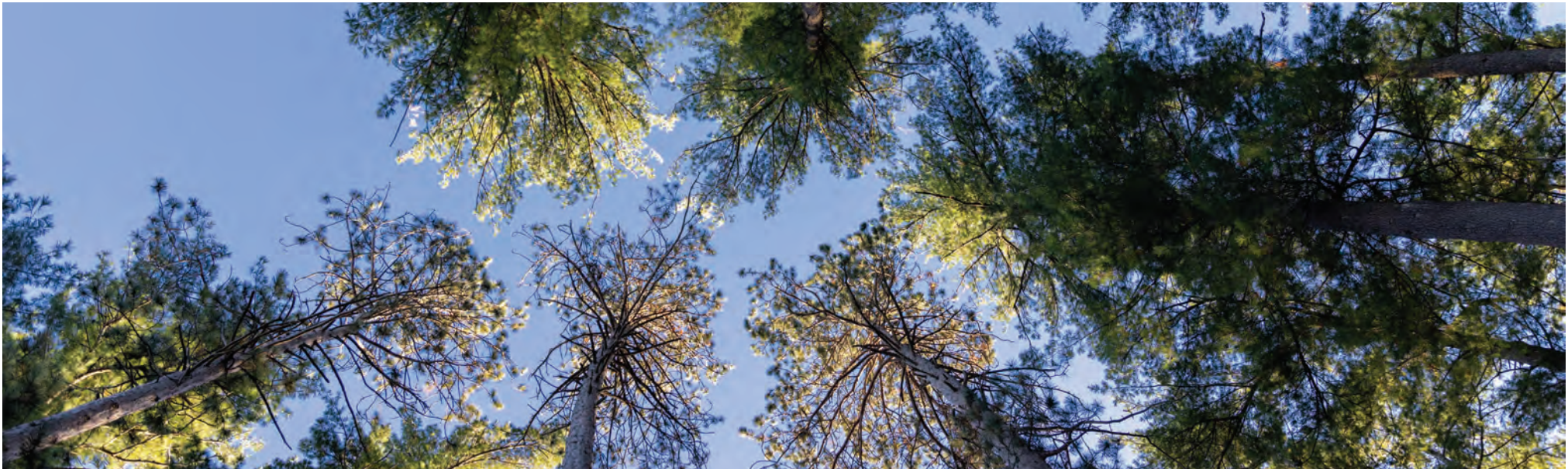
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Alana McKinnie // Foundation Team Assistant

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NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

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