2019 Annual Report and Honor Roll of GIVING...



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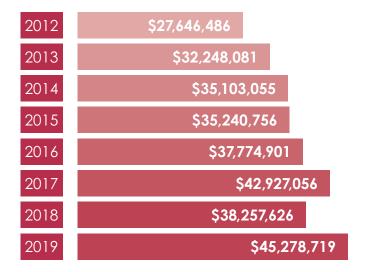




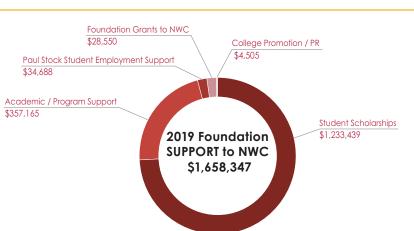


Unrestricted \$19,950 Gift-in-Kind Residence Hall Remodel Projects \$17,459 \$17,156 Yellowstone Building Endowed \$10,714 Scholarships / Funds \$292,503 Facility Campaign 2019 GIVING \$230,058 \$1,007,365 State of Wyoming Match \$38.850 Athletics Expendable Scholarships \$212,514 \$106,651 Academics / Misc. \$61,510

NWC FOUNDATION TOTAL ASSETS



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Healthy Impacts



Dave Bonner, Stefani Hicswa, and Shelby Wetzel

Experiencing the challenges of college life changes a person forever. The relationships formed during years on campus can last a lifetime. New friends, inspiring professors and loyal community supporters all become part of a student's life story.

Large and small, YOUR gifts to support scholarships, programs, facilities and our general fund are important to us and make a difference in the lives of NWC students. It is our pleasure to present the Foundation's 2019 Annual Report.

This year as you turn the pages, you will read student success stories regarding healthcare education at Northwest College. We thank you for choosing to invest in people them and others - who will soon shape our world.

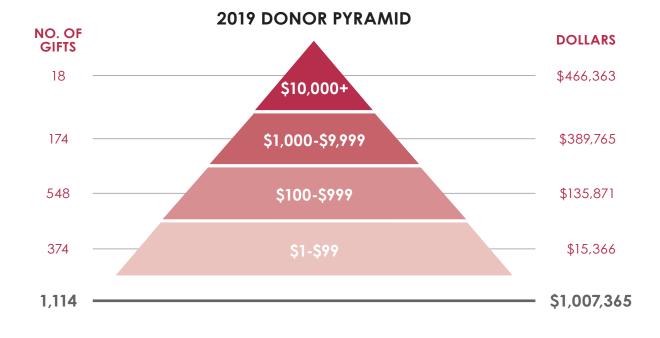
With heartfelt appreciation,

Dave houser Gully Wet

DAVE BONNER President **NWC** Foundation

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"I didn't think I was college material—it wasn't even in my realm of reality." – Mechelle Rivera

When Northwest College alumna Mechelle Rivera took her first biology class in college in the early '90s, she eyed the diagrams of cells in the classroom and could only think, "I am so glad I am not going into the medical field."

But it wasn't because she was uninterested or disliked the material.

"I didn't have the confidence in myself that I could do what it takes to work in the medical field," said Rivera, who is now a registered nurse at the Public Health Office in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Reflecting on her past experiences with academics, much has changed for Rivera since her high school graduation in 1986.

"I don't know how I graduated from high school," she said. "When I look back at my transcripts, my GPA was extremely low. I didn't think I was college material—it wasn't even in my realm of reality."

However, things began to change when she received an AmeriCorps stipend a few years later and decided to attend school at Northwest College. Intending to study elementary education, she enrolled in introductory English and math classes.

At the heart

After earning enough credits, Rivera spent the next 13 years as a paraeducator, working with high-need students. Though she always knew she had a passion for helping and caring for others, it was during the last few years of her education career she felt compelled to make a big change: nursing school.

But in order to apply, she knew she needed a slew of science courses. Without hesitation, she dove in headfirst, enrolling in anatomy and physiology, biology and chemistry.

"With each of those science classes that I took, my self-confidence grew," Rivera explained.

As she begins the third year of her nursing career in Sheridan, she remains committed to giving back through the "Stethoscopes for Students" program, which allows NWC alumni and friends to purchase a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff for incoming nursing students. "The stethoscopes are valuable because they're an essential tool that students need," she said. "It's a very thoughtful and important gift from the Foundation."

est

Knowing there are many students reluctant to attend nursing school, Rivera offers some advice to those considering a career in healthcare: stick with it.

"It's going to be the hardest couple years that you've ever put into anything, but it's worth it."

She also encourages students to discover how they learn best while working through prerequisite courses, knowing that it's important to



sometimes approach new material from a different angle.

Everyone learns differently, she explained. Rivera experienced her own difficulties, especially when beginning her prerequisite courses.

"In order to understand something, I had to review, and review and review," she explained. "It left me feeling a little discouraged."

But one day, after sharing her frustration with her professor Mathew Osborne, NWC instructor of biology, he told her about an intelligent, highlyrespected professor he once had in college. This professor shared with Osborne that he achieved his career goals with hard work and dedication to academics—not by natural ability.

"That story made me realize that the way I learn is OK and normal—this is just how I learn," Rivera said. "It kept me from wanting to just quit."

As she progressed through school, Rivera found that same level of care and understanding in the nursing faculty as well.

"Their doors are always open," she said.

"Nursing hasn't changed me, but the path has."

Reflecting on what she learned at NWC, she's put her skills to the test during the coronavirus pandemic.

Most recently, Rivera's been contact tracing, which is the process of supporting patients and warning contacts of exposure in order to stop chains of COVID-19 transmission. In doing so, she's been able to use her interview and therapeutic communication skills learned in the nursing program at NWC.

Though she's already earned one degree, Rivera has no plans of slowing down any time soon when it comes to her education.

In fact, she's already half way through her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

"Everything that I went through got me to the point of becoming a nurse," she said. "Nursing hasn't changed me, but the path has."

Stethoscopes for Students



The "Stethoscopes for Students" program is a new tradition at Northwest College. The program allows alumni and friends to purchase a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff for each incoming nursing student to launch their healthcare career. All donations to the Foundation matter, but it can be hard for individuals to imagine how \$75 can make a difference. Yet small gifts, pooled together, can do great things! When 29 donors joined in giving during 2019 to the stethoscope program, the cumulative effect raised \$2,800 to help 36 students. This year the program aims to help 24 nursing class members at the Powell campus, 12 licensed practical nursing students, and 12 hybrid nursing class students in a brand new program in Cody that consists of online coursework, and face-to-face labs and clinical experiences.

On top of tuition, fees, and books a nursing student has over \$640 in additional first year start-up expenses which includes purchasing required equipment like scrubs, a lab coat, shoes, hemostat, scissors, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff and pre-entrance expenses.

A \$75 donation will sponsor one nursing student with a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff. When students open the stethoscope box, they will find a card with the donor's name and contact information.

The Stethoscope for Students program will help students like Mechelle Rivera — featured in the accompanying story — who would not have been able to enroll at NWC without scholarship funding and other support. Donations enhance the education of the next generation of highly qualified nurses who are vital contributors to our local healthcare system. Please join in supporting our next generation of nurses. Let's make a difference in their lives, and thus the lives of their future patients and families! It's a gift that helps all of us.

Interested in sponsoring a nursing student?

We are eager to put your gift to work with those of others. Please contact Tawnya Peterson in the Foundation office today!

Tawnya Peterson \cdot (307) 754-6034 \cdot tawnya.peterson@nwc.edu

To donate online visit nwcollegefounation.org/nursing



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Northwest College has played a crucial role in the professional and personal success of countless students. The following alumni, listed by class decade, made gifts to demonstrate the special place NWC holds in their hearts.

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ALUMNI GIVING

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ALUMNI PROFILE... Thea Marx ['18]

After becoming a mom and caring for her grandmother during her last years, Northwest College alumna Thea Marx's childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian was resurrected with a new twist: naturopathic medicine. A Wyoming native, she has been a Cody resident for 20 years, where she's taken on a variety of roles such as executive director of the Western Design Conference, president of marketing and business consulting firm Marx Productions Inc., and a volunteer at a variety of clinics. She embarked on her goals in 2016 by completing her prerequisite courses at NWC. Currently, she lives in Derby, Connecticut, where she is beginning her third year of medical school in the naturopathic medicine program at the University of Bridgeport. Marx plans to return to Cody in five years and establish her own practice after graduating and completing her residency.

How is your medical school journey going?

Medical school is indescribable. It's an intense, soul draining, rewarding, amazing experience. The amount of information you are expected to absorb is staggering. You creatively adapt to use every precious moment to learn, understand, review. One moment, you feel so beat up and mentally exhausted, you're not sure you can go on, but you do; the next you feel validated for all your hard work. It's a crazy, wonderful roller coaster of learning and growing. It's like being in Navy Seal training, except you are doing hundreds of mental pushups in soft sand with the clock ticking over your head, instead of waves crashing over you, or you're plunging into the deep darkness of the unknowns of mapping neurons instead of an unknown sea in the depth of night. Often, you are digging deep for that last bit of courage to overcome the self-doubt and burnout that keeps taunting you from the corners of your tired brain. The fall-out rate is tremendous. Only 50% of my class is still on the roster as we start our third year.

What has been your favorite experience so far?

My favorite opportunity has been to preceptor with an emergency department physician at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York City. It's one of the top three busiest emergency departments in the country, seeing nearly 150,000 patients a year. I had no idea I would love emergency medicine so much. I've never been so fulfilled as when I walk out of there after a 12-14 hour shift.

What's been your biggest surprise?

How close my class is. I always heard how cutthroat medical school is, and some of the classes above me are like that, but we aren't. We work so hard together and lift each other up. No one is ever allowed to fall back before someone stretches out a hand and pulls them forward. One of my professors said he believed we were the only all-female cohort in the country and most likely, the hardest working, collectively.

What are you looking forward to most when you return to Cody?

The clean air, the mountains, the community, the people! My horse!! Space. In Connecticut, I am one of 3.5 million in a state that is only slightly larger than Park County. I miss the miles of open space and the hiking trails, where I don't see another person all day and the wilderness. I really miss the wilderness. And the taco bus. Good Mexican food is impossible to find back here.

Though Marx misses Wyoming, she promised herself she would "bloom where she is planted" and enjoy her time in Connecticut. She regularly escapes to the nearby state park to spend time outdoors. In her free time, she enjoys travel, cooking, yoga and taekwondo. She is currently preparing for her first round of board exams, set to take place this summer.



Steve Webster ³ David Wharton % Brett Whitlock \$ ³ Cathy Whitlock (Olsen) \$ ³ Teri Winland (Spann) % ³ Tim Winland % ³ Anonymous (1)

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Timothy Brown %

Amanda Enriquez +

Zach Everson +

Patrick Garcia +

Tracy Gasaway +

Lesley Boardman + ³

Carolyn Wood (Cockrell) +

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While private financial support is vital to NWC, donations of equipment or goods are also valuable. The NWC Foundation thanks all who provided in-kind gifts during the year.

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Some of the largest gifts the Foundation receives are made through estate plans. The Trapper Legacy Society recognizes Northwest College alumni and friends who have named the NWC Foundation as a beneficiary in their plans, thereby making a lasting tribute to NWC.

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