



METRO STATE UNIVERSITY

A member of Minnesota State

2024-2025

Impact Report

metrostate.edu/give

Thank You

Dear Friends of Metro State University Foundation,

As we navigate a changing reality for higher education and the nonprofit sector, the Metro State University Foundation remains committed to serving Metro State University and our students. As you will see in this Impact Report, the university, alumni, and community members alike come together to ensure our students have the opportunity to learn and complete their degree, and fulfill their goals of being a university graduate.

Together, we work to secure a vibrant future for our university and the students who come through our doors. As students juggle busy lives while keeping up academically and contributing to their communities, the transformative power of education is evident through their accomplishments. Your investment in our students through scholarships, emergency funds and programs provides essential support and show our students they are surrounded by a community who cares about them.

As we look ahead, we remain unwavering in our mission to support our students. We are deeply grateful for your engagement as a donor, volunteer, advocate, and ambassador. Your dedication is vital as we continue our work.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community and for your commitment to our mission. We look forward to another year of growth, success, and transformative impact.

With gratitude,



Jen Augustson
Chair, Metro State University Foundation Board



Rachel Hughes
Executive Director, Metro State University Foundation



Jen Augustson and Rachel Hughes

Thank You

Dear Friends,

This past year, your generosity has made a profound and measurable difference in the lives of Metro State University students and, by extension, in the strength of Minnesota's communities.

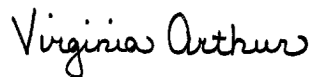
Because of you, students received emergency grants that allowed them to navigate unexpected financial crises without abandoning their education. For these students, the difference between staying enrolled and dropping out came down to timely, compassionate support. You gave them that chance to keep going.

Your impact extends even further. This year, 497 students received scholarships totaling more than \$682,000, opening doors to higher education that might otherwise have remained closed. These awards did more than cover tuition—they relieved financial pressure, boosted confidence, and allowed students to focus on learning, research, and community engagement.

In this report, you will also learn about two extraordinary scholarship programs and the people behind them. The Kopp Family Foundation Scholarships and Random Acts of Kindness program funding provides critical support for students, ensuring they can overcome unexpected obstacles and remain on the path to graduation.

Metro State continues to serve as an essential partner in Minnesota's workforce pipeline. Your investment ensures that they are well-prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. Your gifts do more than fund programs. They transform lives, strengthen communities, and build a brighter future for us all.

With gratitude,



Virginia "Ginny" Arthur
President, Metro State University



*Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Senator Sandy Pappas '86,
President Ginny Arthur, Senator Eric Lucero '01*

Mission Statement



Foundation Mission Statement

Metro State University Foundation works to secure a vibrant future for our university and the students who come through our doors. Generating public awareness, along with private support, the foundation seeks to increase endowments and other support from alumni, corporations, foundations and friends to support scholarships and other forms of support for Metro State University and their students.

Who We Serve

Metro State Foundation, based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, serves the university and enrolled students across four campuses in Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Impact

Gifts to the Foundation are investments in students and university. Support was distributed in the following areas:

Metro Fund	\$118,839
Programs	\$661,342
Scholarships	\$881,783
Total	\$1,661,964

The Foundation supported students by funding and managing the scholarship award process and awarding 497 scholarships. The Foundation also provided support for 19 emergency awards to students through the Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

The Mark and Kristin Gallagher Writing Scholarship



Kristin and Mark Gallagher

It took Mark Gallagher 41 years to earn his degree. Now, he's giving back to encourage other students to follow their dreams and persevere.

Mark Gallagher '10 was born and raised in South St. Paul. In the fall of 1969, he embarked on his college odyssey at the University of Minnesota. Getting a college degree had been Mark's dream since he was a child, but it wouldn't come easy.

As the Vietnam War raged in southeast Asia, Mark was drafted into the U.S. Army. He joined the Minnesota National Guard in the fall of 1971 so that he could stay in college and fulfill his military obligation to his country.

In July 1972, while training at Camp Ripley, Mark sustained a severe brain injury on his 21st birthday. It was pouring rain and the jeep he was riding in slid off the trail and Mark was thrown headfirst into a tree. Mark spent the next four months (one in a coma) at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Miraculously, not only did Mark survive, but he was able to go to work as a printer with Deluxe Check Printers in 1974.

Deluxe had an extraordinary education program to encourage employees to pursue lifelong learning. Mark ended up taking 44 classes in 23 years, essentially one each semester. Mark's first class was in auto maintenance. He wanted to see if he could still learn after sustaining his brain injury. Success in that class gave Mark the confidence he needed to continue his educational journey. He went on to take a wide variety of courses, from real estate to electronics, which helped him to rebuild his life and made his college dream seem possible.

Mark went on to work at Ideal Printers, which also had an education program. While there, he took beginning and intermediate classes on how to write a memoir, which gave him the confidence to go back to college at Metropolitan State University in the fall of 2006. Mark graduated May of 2010 with a Professional Writing degree, 41 years after first starting college.

Mark has since finished his memoir and is looking for a publisher. He has written 67 articles for *The Dayton's Bluff Forum* and seven articles for *The South St. Paul Voice*.

It was Mark's wife Kristin who first had the idea of creating a scholarship at Metro State to honor Mark. *"When Mark crossed the stage to receive his diploma in 2010, I envisioned a writing scholarship to be given in his name. While Mark insists my name stand with his, in my mind, this scholarship is a salute to the passionate dreamer."*

The Gallaghers were thrilled to meet their first scholar, Akuc.

Akuc graduated in May 2025 with a degree in communications and a goal to be a music journalist. She aspires to write about musicians who are unknown or forgotten. As a teenager, Akuc would listen to music and jot down her thoughts. She would write about new music that she discovered and pour over the dust jackets of records in her extensive vinyl collection to learn what musicians had to say about their own work. Following graduation, Akuc planned to intern with an independent record label.

Akuc shared with the Gallaghers that by funding her scholarship, they have contributed to her story and journey.



Akuc Chuor

Kopp Family Foundation

For nearly 30 years, the Kopp Family Foundation's generous investments in scholarship and emergency grant funding to Metro State University has positively impacted more than 500 students in helping them make the decision to continue attending and completing college to earn their degree.

Named for its founders, Lee and Barbara Kopp, the Kopp Family Foundation has supported greater opportunity for education and provided financial stability and improved quality of life for many experiencing financial hardship in the Twin Cities since its inception in 1986.



Lee and Barbara Kopp

Both Lee and Barbara came from humble beginnings. That experience gave them insight into the difficulties created by financial hardship and highlighted with first-hand experience the transformative value of an education. With this belief in mind, they established the Kopp Family Foundation. With a vision of a thriving community, the Foundation has given financial support to schools and other nonprofits focused on education, community youth, the aged, and families.

This quote by Henry James was one of Lee's favorites. It sums up how he felt about giving. *"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."* Barbara was all about: always learning, engaging with others, being empathetic and compassionate, lending an ear to those who needed to be heard, and most of all striving for change to expand our connections to lead a fuller, more positive life.

A spirit of generosity, kindness, and respect for others guided Lee and Barbara throughout their lives and continues as the guiding principle of the Kopp Family Foundation today (Kopp Family Foundation 2023 annual report).

Since 1996, there have been more than 500 scholarships awarded from the Kopp Family Foundation to Metro State University students (including retention and Presidential scholarships). Since 2008, 385 undergraduate scholarships have been awarded, and starting in 2024, the Kopp Family Foundation also began supporting a new graduate scholarship award as well.

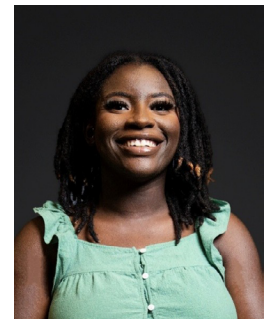
One of the inaugural graduate scholarships was awarded to Master's in Advocacy and Political Leadership student, Roseline Ameyaw. Roseline shared the following in expressing her gratitude to the Kopp Family Foundation:

"I am deeply honored and grateful to be selected as a recipient of the Kopp Family Foundation Scholarship. As a first-generation college student myself, learning about Lee Kopp's journey from being the son of a parking lot attendant to becoming a champion for education deeply resonates with my own story."

In addition to the undergraduate and graduate scholarship support, the Kopp Family Foundation has also provided significant support to Metro State's students through their Foundation's Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Kopp Family Foundation and the Random Acts of Kindness fund, Metro State has critical funding available to support students experiencing unforeseen basic needs-related emergencies often caused by unexpected loss of income, medical situations, or items that cost significant amounts of money that would prohibit them from being able to attend classes. Metro State is grateful for this support which is only made possible because the Kopp Family Foundation understands the importance of removing financial barriers from a student's path to success and social mobility.

Together, Lee and Barbara through the Kopp Family Foundation, have provided invaluable support where and when it is needed most, helping students bridge the gap on their path to graduation. This support provided has an immense and often transformative effect, serving as a key driver for the bright futures of both Metro State University students and the communities they serve.



Roseline Ameyaw

Rise to Shine Breakfast

Raising Funds and Friends for Metro State Students

On Thursday, April 24, 2025, the Metro State Foundation welcomed board members, their guests, and other community partners to our Rise to Shine breakfast event to raise awareness and funds for student scholarships. Alumni, faculty, students, and President Arthur all highlighted the critical need to support students financially in their educational journeys. In addition to President Arthur, special thanks go to Metro State alumni Casey Selle Charging '17 and Mohammad Zafar '08, students Richard Tavarez, David Osbon '25, and Tanya Hausladen '24, and College of Sciences Associate Dean Kate Ries and Associate Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Carrie Carroll. Also, thank you to Foundation board member Beth Russell for chairing the event. Generous sponsorships from local companies and individuals underwrote the program, making sure that every dollar raised would go to student scholarships. Monies raised will fund 35 scholarships in the 2025–26 academic year.

"We have a student population that truly embodies the spirit of perseverance. Their stories of overcoming adversity are both humbling and inspiring. They don't just attend classes; they bring a wealth of life experiences that enrich our university community. Their dedication to their studies is a testament to their character and their commitment to building a better future for themselves and their families." - Professor Kate Ries

Thank You

Metro State University Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the 2025 Rise to Shine event. We are grateful for your partnership. Your vital contributions help propel our students toward success!

Silver Sponsor

Travelers

Bronze Sponsors

Mairs & Power

Winslow Capital Management, LLC

Breakfast Sponsors

Boyum Barendscheer, HealthPartners Regions Hospital, Chris Boese, and Laura Hawkins '84

"Not only does your support help get us across the finish line financially but knowing that the community is invested in our success means so much." - Mohammad Zafar '08



Scenes from the breakfast

Make A Difference

Why Recurring Gifts Matter at Metro State



Shoua Madland

At Metro State University, we know that lasting impact is built over time. That's why recurring gifts, from monthly contributions of \$10 to quarterly gifts of \$100 or more, are so powerful. These consistent, reliable donations help us plan ahead, respond to student needs more quickly, and ensure that every student has the chance to thrive.

Recurring gifts provide steady support for scholarships, emergency funds, academic programs, and student services. They allow us to build a financial foundation that students can count on, particularly those who are balancing school, work, and family responsibilities. In fact, 63% of Metro State students are Pell-eligible, and many rely on donor support to stay enrolled and focused on their future. A recurring gift is a commitment to the success of every student who walks through our doors.

For Shoua Madland '09, Metro State's director of Graduate Admissions and a proud donor, giving is personal. *"I donate because this is a way I can give back and support our students. Metro State has shaped so much of who I am, first as a student and now, as a staff member. I see every day how even a small gift can make a difference for students in navigating their own academic journey."*

Recurring donors like Shoua are partners in our mission. Their generosity helps fund emergency assistance through the Student Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Fund, and creates scholarship opportunities that change lives. Best of all, recurring giving is easy to set up and adjust at any time, making it one of the most convenient and impactful ways to give.

Together, our recurring donors create a dependable stream of support that allows Metro State to say "yes" more often—yes to a student who needs help with a car repair, yes to covering the cost of a certification exam, yes to a scholarship that makes graduation possible.

Consider joining our community of monthly donors. Your recurring gift, no matter the size, helps turn today's students into tomorrow's leaders. Make your gift recurring today!

Volunteer Week

Greetings from the Alumni Board!

This past year has been a powerful reminder of the difference our alumni can make when they come together in service to others. Their dedication and generosity have strengthened Metro State University and created meaningful opportunities for our students and community.

This past year, **179 alumni volunteers gave more than 640 hours of their time** to support Metro State. Whether mentoring students, speaking at career panels, sharing expertise in classrooms, or serving in leadership roles on the Alumni Board and committees, their contributions have left a lasting impact.

We were also excited to see alumni step up during our **Week of Service** this past spring and fall, donating blood in partnership with the Nursing Student Association and the American Red Cross, providing essential items to benefit the Student Parent Center, and serving meals to our unhoused neighbors at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. These efforts not only met critical needs, but also demonstrated the deep care and commitment of our alumni community.

Looking ahead, we invite you to stay connected and explore new ways to get involved. Every hour volunteered and every act of service strengthens Metro State University and enriches the lives of our students.

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to make Metro State stronger.

With appreciation,



Ryan Ringwelski '21
President, Metro State University Alumni Association



Ryan Ringwelski

**To learn more
about volunteer
opportunities at
Metro, scan here:**



By the Numbers

Statement of Financial Position (6/30/2025)

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	361,239
Investments	1,856,438
Contributions, Net	5,433
Prepaid	67,721
Total Current Assets	2,290,831

OTHER ASSETS

Contributions Receivable, net	13,071
Endowment Contribution receivable	44,580
Investments Held for Endowment	10,984,957
Total Other Assets	11,042,608

TOTAL ASSETS	13,333,439
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	41,696
Scholarships Payable	8,751
Unearned Revenue	0
Total Liabilities	50,447

NET ASSETS

Board Designated for alumni association	0
Board Designated for endowment	611,895
Undesignated	989,201
Total Net Assets without donor restrictions	1,601,096
Perpetual in Nature	7,002,308
Purpose restrictions	4,679,588
Total Net Assets with donor restrictions	11,681,896

Total Net Assets	13,282,992
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	13,333,439
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Our Commitment

The Metro State University Foundation exists to support Metro State University's mission by raising private voluntary support from alumni, parents, friends, corporations, foundations, and others. In addition to providing ongoing support, the Foundation is dedicated to helping the university build an endowment that supports the long-term priorities of the university. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 governed by a volunteer board of trustees who share their time and talents for the good of the Foundation and Metro State University.

Foundation Board of Trustees

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Director of Foundation & Corporate Affairs
Metro State University Foundation (Retired)

Harpreet Anand, *Treasurer*
Vice President, Corporate Tax
Travelers

Jeanette Augustson, *Chair*
Vice President
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Joseph Ellis '19 (Honorary)
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Xcel Energy

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Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer
Winslow Capital Management, LLC (Retired)

Suhanthi Kamesh '01
Vice President, Compliance Executive
FIS Global

Ochen Kaylan '08, *Secretary*
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Ochen K

Noah Korba
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Vice President of Operations
Homeward Health

Alumni Board

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MSP Airport Police Department

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McGough

Deidra Isaac '16
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Ashes 2 Beauty Salon & Beauty Supply, LLC

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Homeward Health

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Inventory Control Manager
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Eric Rios '15
Business Development Manager
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Shanasha Whitson '00, *Engagement Officer*
Executive Director
Community Partnership Collaborative 2.0

Amanda Wong '17
Communications Manager
McGough

Darrell Young '20
Director of Community Education
Bloomington Public Schools

Making a Gift

There are many ways to make a gift to the Metro State University Foundation. Choose what works best for you.

Online: Make a gift online with your credit card at metrostate.edu/give. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a monthly gift. Scan the QR code below.

Check or EFT: Send a check for a one-time gift or a voided check to set up a monthly gift via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

Donor-Advised Funds: Make a gift through a grant from your donor-advised fund.

Tribute Gifts: Pay tribute to a loved one with an honorary or memorial gift in their name online or via check.

Corporate Matching Gifts: Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program to double the impact of your contribution!

Stock: Your gift of appreciated stock could be a tax-wise way to support Metro State University. Visit metrostate.edu/give/ways-to-give for more information.

Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA: If you are 70.5 or older, you can make a rollover gift up to \$108,000 directly from your IRA to Metro State University Foundation—known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). You may use your QCD from your IRA to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD), which could provide tax savings. To be considered a QCD, the check must come directly from your financial institution to Metro State University Foundation.

Legacy Giving: You can make sure your family is taken care of while also making the best gift of your lifetime to Metro State University Foundation. To learn more about leaving a legacy, visit metrostate.giftlegacy.com.

Founders Hall 321, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106 | 651-793-1830

