

Alumni Association Board of Directors

The NIC Alumni Association Board of Directors consists of alumni and community volunteers who strive to keep those who have been part of North Idaho College connected to the college.

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NIC Foundation, Inc. **Board of Directors**

Founded in 1977 as an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. the NIC Foundation encourages private support to enhance educational excellence and provide student scholarships.

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On the cover: Graduates 2025

"Alumni and Friends," September 2025

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Greetings from the Alumni Association and **NIC Foundation**



As I write this letter, I do so with pride in our college, gratitude for our community, and optimism for what is ahead.

As an NIC alum and retired educator, I have witnessed how vital our college is to our community and our educational system. NIC is a place of opportunity, transformation, and second chances. Through the support of our community, this is reflected every day on campus and in people's lives.

The Alumni Association is working hard to actively engage our graduates and build stronger connections between past and present. NIC is investing in programs that reflect the needs of today's students by supporting innovation while honoring the long-standing traditions that shaped us.

The future is something we will build together, and I invite you to be part of this next chapter. Whether through mentorship, outreach, scholarships, or simply sharing your story, you are an essential part of our ongoing journey.

Thank you for being a member of this extraordinary community. Together, we are stronger, wiser, and ready for what comes next.

Join the NIC Alumni Association today at *nic.edu/alumni* and share your story.

Jim Lien

North Idaho College Alumni Association President



As President of the NIC Foundation, I'm thrilled to share the incredible impact we're making, together.

Thanks to your generosity, we're awarding scholarships to over 1,000 NIC students each year, empowering them to overcome financial barriers and pursue their dreams. But we're not stopping there.

We're setting a bold new goal: increase our scholarship funding by \$500,000 annually. With your continued support, we can reach even more students,

change more lives, and fuel more futures.

This 2025 Year in Review is packed with powerful stories of students whose lives have been transformed through your support. Their journeys are a testament to what we can achieve when we invest in education and in each other.

Let's keep the momentum going.

Your support isn't just a donation, it's a lifeline. Let's continue building a brighter future for our students, our college, and our entire community. I invite you to read the Year in Review and join us in making an even greater impact.

Peter J. Smith IV

North Idaho College Foundation President



Thank you for Investing in Oreans!

Gifts to the Investing in Dreams Scholarship empower students to shape their futures by supporting their education and training, giving them the encouragement and resources they need to achieve their goals.



Sarah

Education

"I have always dreamed of attending college and becoming a teacher. With this scholarship, I will be able to reach my goals and fulfill the lifelong dream that I have in my heart. Thank you for the opportunity to receive this award. I am very grateful."



Will

Machining and CNC Technology

"I am really looking forward to having a job that I am good at and enjoy. My goal for the machining program is to graduate debt-free and to complete the classes with excellence. Through your generosity, you have impacted my life so that I can also be one of those people making an impact in their communities for the better."



Shavlie

Dental Hygiene

"I knew I wanted to be a dental hygienist from the age of 10. Getting accepted into North Idaho College's Dental Hygiene Program was a dream come true. I am truly grateful for this scholarship and excited to continue my journey with your support. Knowing I have your support as I pursue my educational goals means so much to me."

Make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success today! Use the enclosed envelope or contact the NIC Foundation office at (208) 769-5978. Gifts can also be made securely online at nic.edu/aive.

Message from the College President



NIC is celebrating a period of impressive growth and achievement, reaffirming its commitment to student success and community impact. Enrollment was up 15% in Fall 2024, reversing over a decade of declining numbers and marking some of NIC's highest enrollment figures in recent history. The trend continues with increased enrollment for full-time and dualcredit high school students.

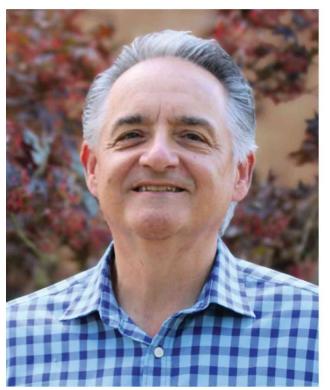
NIC's hands-on approach and expanding services are helping more students launch careers quickly. Our renowned nursing program remains Idaho's topranked, and the most recent cohort of surgical technology graduates achieved a 100% exam pass rate for national certification - well above the national average. With a 92-year legacy of skill-building for North Idaho residents, our technical and workforce training programs are thriving, enhanced by strong ties to local employers.

As NIC welcomes the future, our focus on student achievement, quality instruction, and vibrant campus life continues to energize the region and inspire alumni pride. There's so much happening at NIC - come be a part of it!

Nick Swayne, Ph.D. North Idaho College President

Alumni Award Recipients Honored

Each year, the North Idaho College Alumni Association Board of Directors recognizes outstanding individuals who greatly enhance NIC and the Alumni Association through their commitment and service. The Alumni Association is proud to honor Steve Widmyer as Distinguished Alumnus, Mary Sanderson as Alumna of the Year, and Kevin Schneidmiller as Honorary Alumnus. The awards were presented at the annual Scholarship Celebration and Alumni Award Ceremony in November of 2024.

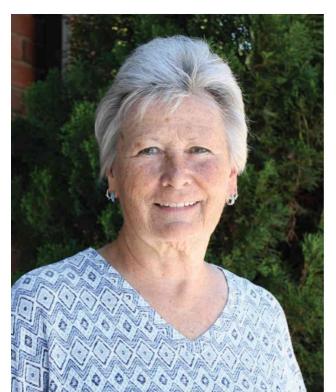


Steve Widmyer was selected for the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for his accomplishments in his profession. community service, and a decades-long impact on North Idaho College.

As a Coeur d'Alene High School graduate, Steve has continued to support the community throughout his career. He served as mayor of Coeur d'Alene from 2014–2022 and continues to demonstrate his deep love for Coeur d'Alene through his community leadership, service, and generous contributions.

Steve has served NIC over the decades in various roles. He was a cabinet member of the Building the Future Campaign in support of the Parker Technical Education Center, a former NIC Trustee, and a member of the NIC Booster Club. Steve's accomplishments set an example for alumni, students, and employees.

"For me, being a student at North Idaho College meant an opportunity that I may not have otherwise had. North Idaho College provided the foundation for me to succeed not only professionally, but in life," Steve says. "Receiving the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is a tremendous honor. I am very proud to be a graduate of North Idaho College. NIC has thousands and thousands of great alumni. To be recognized with this award means the world to me. Thank you."

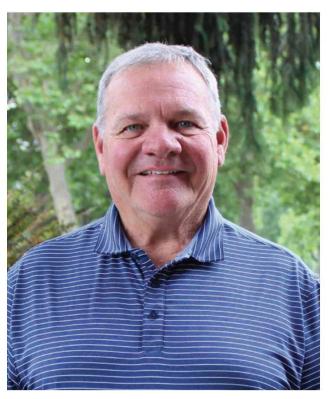


Mary Sanderson, M.D. was recognized as Alumna of the Year for her lifelong dedication to promoting health and wellness in our community and advancing educational opportunities at North Idaho College and beyond. Her unwavering commitment serves as a powerful example of how supporting both community and education can create a lasting legacy.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Sanderson has been an active and valued member of the North Idaho College Alumni Association. She played a key role as a capital campaign cabinet member for the NIC Foundation's Providing Opportunities - Fulfilling Dreams Community Campaign. This campaign helped secure funding for the Meyer Health and Sciences Building, which opened in 2005.

Dr. Sanderson's enduring dedication to patient care, community service, and philanthropic leadership is extraordinary and richly deserving of this recognition.

In response to receiving this award, Dr. Sanderson says, "NIC is truly a gem for the community. It gives many an affordable alternative to prepare for an exceptional career and helps support our local businesses and trades. The college provides opportunities for high school students to earn dual credit, is a venue for arts and cultural events, athletics, and a place for the whole community to continue their education."



Kevin Schneidmiller was selected for the Honorary Alumnus Award in recognition of his long-standing support of North Idaho College's construction and trades programs.

Kevin serves as Vice President of Land Development for Greenstone Homes and Neighborhoods and is a strong advocate for education and community in the Inland Northwest. His commitment includes serving as a Post Falls School Board Trustee in the 1990s, working to secure donated land for public use, such as parks, ball fields, and community gathering spaces, and participating annually in the Post Falls High School Awards Night.

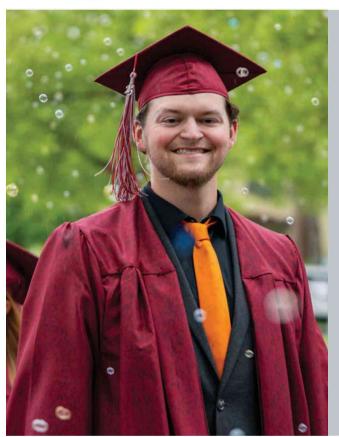
At North Idaho College, Kevin brings his industry expertise and philanthropic spirit to his volunteer work. He serves on the NIC Foundation's Construction Oversight Committee and plays a vital role in the construction of the Really BIG Raffle grand prize home. He contributes both guidance and resources to maximize the fundraiser's impact on student scholarships and program enrichment.

"NIC means a lot to me because of its mission to provide education and training," Kevin says. "Seeing the passion of its educators and students is truly rewarding. Being part of the Really BIG Raffle and witnessing its impact through scholarships has been wonderful. I don't volunteer for recognition, so to be

selected as the 2024 Honorary Alumnus means a great deal. Being associated with such a great institution will always be meaningful to me."

Kevin's dedication to education, community development, and student success is inspiring and truly deserves recognition.

To nominate an individual for an Alumni Award in recognition of their commitment to NIC and the community, visit nic.edu/alumni. Alumni Award nominations are accepted year-round.



Join the NIC Alumni Association

Join thousands of alumni who stay connected with North Idaho College. Membership is free!

The Alumni Association is open to anyone who has completed at least 12 academic credits or the first semester of a certificate or apprenticeship program at NIC. You don't have to be a graduate to become a member.

Benefits include membership eligibility at the Student Wellness and Recreation Center, 50% discount for home athletic events, 10% discount on logo merchandise at the Cardinal Bookstore, and more!

JOIN TODAY!

Visit nic.edu/alumni or scan the QR code.





For Mike and Barbara Miller, education has always been a core value.

Barbara grew up in a Missouri home where education and creativity were highly valued. Her academic journey from undergraduate studies through her PhD was supported by scholarships, a gift she doesn't take for granted. Mike is originally from Illinois. His appreciation for education and sense of responsibility was instilled during his prep school years and continues to guide his belief in giving back. These principles inspired their professions and aspirations throughout life.

Mike and Barbara met as undergraduates at the University of Missouri, where they connected over a shared passion for the outdoors. After marrying, they spent a short time at Utah State and Oregon State before making Coeur d'Alene their home in 1971. Mike began working at North Idaho College and Barbara at Eastern Washington University, which led to 31 and 44 years, respectively, of dedication to higher education.

At NIC, Mike served as both an instructor in economics and business and later as the Chair of the Business Division. He recalls his time at NIC with great affection, noting the strong sense of community and shared passion for education among his colleagues. "It's a very special place," he says.

Barbara also enjoyed a fulfilling career at EWU as an art historian and professor. She relished her academic role and the many opportunities it provided, such as study abroad trips to Europe. These immersive experiences allowed her students to explore language, culture, and art firsthand.

In retirement, Mike and Barbara remain active in lifelong passions. They own a farm in Illinois and a ranch in Kansas. Mike enjoys implementing sustainable practices in farming and ranching, referred to as regenerative agriculture and holistic grazing. He has also developed an interest in genealogy, a pursuit that began with taking a class at NIC. Barbara continues to explore art, but now as a creator. Her recent work culminated in an invitational art exhibition at the Kolva-Sullivan Gallery in Spokane, a milestone that reflects her continued commitment to artistic exploration. Together, the Millers enjoy spending time with their grown children and are deeply involved in the lives of their grandchildren.

Mike and Barbara's story is one of exploration, generosity, and dedication to each other, to education, and to the world around them. That shared commitment to education inspired their decision to establish a scholarship fund. "We really enjoy being able to help students pursue their dreams," they say. Their legacy lives on, not just in the institutions they served, but in the lives of the students they continue to empower.

Make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success today! Use the enclosed envelope or contact the NIC Foundation office at (208) 769-5978. Gifts can also be made securely online at nic.edu/give.

NIC X-Labs: Shaping the Future Through Innovation





Architectural renderings of the future NIC X-Labs space in the Hedlund Building.

North Idaho College is dedicated to offering meaningful, relevant, and relationship-rich learning opportunities for students that help them address questions like, "Why is this important?" and "How will I apply this in my life?"

This mission-activated teaching and learning strategy is coming to life in a new project called NIC X-Labs. Plans are underway to create a venue on the Coeur d'Alene campus designed to foster impactful hands-on experiences and encourage collaboration among students, instructors, and the community.

In 2022, NIC President Nick Swayne invited students, faculty, staff, community members, and industry partners to share their time, insights, and aspirations about the future of NIC's Hedlund Building.

"I'm pleased to report that this input has helped to shape a bold and inspiring vision for the future of our campus," says Dr. Swayne. "We are excited to introduce a key part of that vision with NIC X-Labs."

NIC X-Labs will be a vibrant lab on campus where creativity, collaboration, and curiosity converge to tackle real-world challenges. More than just a physical space, it is a dynamic ecosystem where every participant is both a teacher and a learner. At NIC X-Labs, students, faculty, community

members, and industry partners can unite to explore the limitless possibilities of design thinking. The "X" in X-Labs represents the powerful intersection where these groups come together to exchange ideas, solve realworld problems, and grow through shared learning.

Marita Diffenbaugh, NIC Director of Innovation, says NIC X-Labs is for everyone - from students exploring new ideas to



Marita Diffenbaugh

faculty seeking interdisciplinary collaboration, community leaders addressing local issues, and industry partners driving innovation.

"This public learning venue will offer the tools, support, and environment to make meaningful progress and build lasting relationships," Marita says. "Through hands-on learning, real-world problem solving, and a strong emphasis on relationship building, NIC X-Labs will create opportunities for continued growth and impactful solutions. Join us in shaping the future, where ideas flourish, people thrive, and together, we make a difference - locally and globally."

For more information about NIC X-Labs, visit nic.edu/x-labs.



I am so thankful to receive this scholarship. I am an aspiring aerospace engineer with sights set on NASA, space travel, and beyond. I work hard to afford college, and I spend my free time studying. This award allows me to chase my dreams. I am determined to accomplish my goals.

Isaiah Engineering



Your support is vital to the overall success of NIC and the students. Make a gift today!

WAYS to give

- Mail your check in the enclosed envelope.
- Give securely online at nic.edu/give.
- Donate gifts of appreciated assets, such as stock or real estate.
- If you are 70½ or older, make a tax-favorable contribution directly from your IRA.
- Designate the NIC Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.
- Establish a named scholarship for your social organization, business, or family.
- Make a contribution in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Maximize your

Donations to the NIC Foundation are eligible for the Idaho Education Tax Credit. Idaho taxpayers qualify for a 50% state tax credit for charitable contributions to education. In addition, your gift may be eligible for both a federal and state income tax deduction. Consult your tax advisor for more information.

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THANK YOU for your investment through the North Idaho College Foundation. Your contribution directly helps students in their pursuit of a quality education and bright future.

Recognition in Gift Societies reflects total cash and in-kind gifts received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. If your name was omitted, misspelled, or listed incorrectly, please contact the NIC Foundation at (208) 769-5978.

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- + Special Recognition
- + Exclusive Privileges
- + Exclusive Privileges

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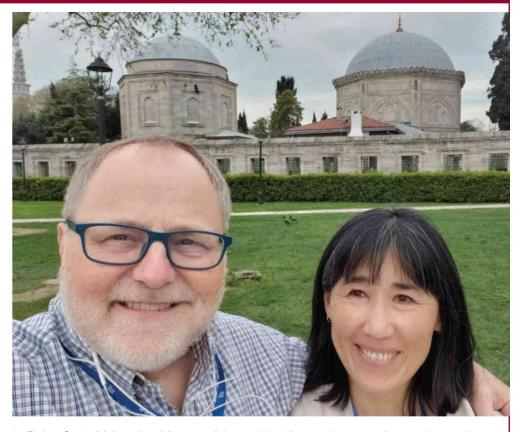
NIC President Nick Swayne

Donor Spotlight – Galen and Miyoung Schuler

Miyoung and Galen Schuler share a dedication to advocacy and service. It has been a guiding principle throughout their lives, shaping their careers and personal endeavors. Miyoung is a passionate and skilled ER Nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise. Galen retired in 2025 after two decades as General Counsel for Green Diamond Resource Company. a private forest management company.

Despite facing various challenges in their educational and professional journeys, Galen and Miyoung successfully navigated cultural expectations and difficult choices that ultimately enabled them to embrace their true callings.

Galen began his journey on a pre-med track at North



Idaho College, before transferring to Boise State University. After careful consideration and many science classes, he ultimately decided his interests lay in political science. He graduated from BSU in '85, completed his master's degree, and then attended the University of Washington for his Juris Doctor degree, where he met Miyoung in the early nineties. They both graduated with law degrees and felt it was time to determine their next steps. After they evaluated their aspirations, Galen decided to leave academia and his PhD program to join a law firm specializing in natural resources, which led him to Green Diamond. Together, they started their family and had three wonderful boys. Miyoung later returned to school to pursue a new, fulfilling career in nursing. She graduated as an RN from Olympic College, a community college in Bremerton, Washington.

Miyoung fondly remembers her time at community college, appreciating the quality of instruction she received.

Galen shares a special bond with his community college, NIC. His father, Barry Schuler, served as NIC President from 1968 to 1986 - a transformative period in the college's history. Ruth, Galen's mother, also invested in education as a third-grade teacher in Coeur d'Alene. For 18 years, Ruth and Barry devoted their lives to the college and the North Idaho community.

In 2022, Galen and Miyoung established the Barry G. and Ruth J. Schuler Memorial Scholarship. As they seek to carry on their family's remarkable legacy of empowering others towards personal growth and success, they hope their financial contributions help support those who may need a helping hand to discover their path in life.

Reflecting on their experiences, both recognize the significant role their educational and professional milestones played in their family's journey. They strive to be an example of growth and authenticity for their children and, through their giving, aspire to make a meaningful impact in the lives of students who are just like they once were.

"North Idaho has become a global destination for people who have tasted success," they say. "It is important to secure opportunities for students there who are just beginning to envision and pursue their own success."

Make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success today! Use the enclosed envelope or contact the NIC Foundation office at (208) 769-5978. Gifts can also be made securely online at nic.edu/give.



Eric and Rita Kilbey recently toured the North Idaho College Parker Technical Education Center, a place where their legacy gift will leave a lasting impact. Their generous support will benefit students in Trades and Industry programs for generations to come, in the very fields that hold deep personal significance to both Eric and Rita.

Eric, a seasoned mechanic whose career began at a General Motors dealership in England, was especially impressed with the facility. After decades of dedicated service, including military tank repair during World War II and heavy machine repair work across England, Canada, and the United States, his praise carried weight. With admiration and quiet but excited observation, he remarked, "You do good work here!"

Eric was born in Yorkshire, England in 1930, and Rita was born in Northumberland, England in 1932. They married in 1954, embarking on a lifetime journey together that led them first to Canada and then to the United States. Eric worked for many car dealerships as a mechanic, and in a variety of agricultural and maintenance shops to service heavy equipment. Rita worked on ranches and alongside Eric, and they both retired in 1988.

The Kilbey's visit to the NIC Parker Technical Education Center was more than ceremonial, it underscored the impact of their generous legacy gift. Their legacy will live on through the students who walk through the doors to learn a trade and build a future. It is a gift resulting from years of craftsmanship and care for community.

For more information on how you can leave your legacy in support of educational excellence and student success, contact the NIC Foundation at (208) 769-5978. Explore our free planning resources at nic.planmylegacy.org.

Educational Excellence - Enhancing Resources for Student Success

Charitable contributions provide the resources for the NIC Foundation Grant Program, which strives to foster innovation and creativity to further enhance educational excellence. Each year, the NIC Foundation makes funds available to North Idaho College staff, faculty, and student groups through a competitive application process.

One recent grant award benefited students learning microscopy, a crucial component in natural science and health professions coursework. Since microscopes are operated by one person at a time, sharing or discussing images to achieve course objectives can be challenging, especially for those with vision impairment. The grant award was used to equip two microscopes with digital cameras that wirelessly stream images to standalone monitors and other devices. This remarkable technology enables students to refine their microscopy skills, share their findings with



other observers, engage in cooperative group discussion about their work, and elevate their educational experience with a sense of camaraderie and confidence.

Since the program's inception, the NIC Foundation has provided over \$1.6 million and awarded 402 grants through the NIC Foundation Grant Program.

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LEGACY SOCIETY

A special thanks to the following supporters for designating the North Idaho College Foundation as a beneficiary of their will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

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If you have included the North Idaho College Foundation in your estate plan, please notify the NIC Foundation so your commitment is properly honored.

NIC Foundation Scholarships and Funds

The following funds have been established to benefit deserving students and specific areas of need. The criteria of each varies. To name a fund for your social organization, business, or family, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact the NIC Foundation at (208) 769-5978 or email foundation@nicfoundation.org.

ENDOWMENTS

Betty Ableman Memorial ACG Collision Repair John and Joanna Adams Wally and Pamela Adams Adams - Whitley Advanced Benefits Rayelle and Michael Anderson Antonelli Botany Associated Students of North Idaho College (ASNIC) James and Christine Barton Bauer Tarnasky BDK/AKV Camille Colstad Beebe, R.N. Memorial Heinie and Rose Bell Memorial J. Douglas and Jan Bell Memorial Priscilla Bell Ben Franklin Young Entrepreneurs C. Robert and Donna Bennett Memorial Janet Benoit Memorial Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Berning Memorial Beta Sigma Phi Beyers-Newby Veterans Edward and Mary Bobby Memorial Bonner County Resident Emmett and Annah Booher Memorial Earlene Joyce Chilcott Boswell Memorial H.W. Branson Memorial Memorial

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Molstead Family Memorial Marilyn Montgomery and Dr. Ernest

Sergeant Greg Moore Memorial Doris Puckett Moorehead Memorial Frank A. Morbeck Memorial Morgan Children's Center Fund

Arthur and Eileen Needham Memorial Mark Nelson Memorial

NightHawk Radiology Services NIC Communication Department NIC Diamond Jubilee

NIC Employees' Providing Opportunities NIC Foundation Investing in Dreams

NIC Retirees Scholarship for Students North Idaho Building Contractors Association

North Idaho Classic Car Club North Idaho Code Enforcers North Idaho Veterans Stand Down

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Adult Education/GED American Association of University Women

Association of Government Accountants Avista Scholars Program

Bi-Mart

Steve Button Memorial City of Stateline

Nell Louise Clingerman Coeur d'Alene Art Association

Coeur d'Alene Kiwanis Club Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation

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Opportunity

Calvin DeHaas Memorial Delta Dental of Idaho

Designing Your NIC Experience El Min West/United Methodist

Ron and Sandy Emerson Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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Travis Shane Farley Memorial Gene Haas

Hayden Lake Country Club Anna Holmberg

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Idaho Education Access Fund Idaho Forest Group

Terry ML Jones Performance Warren "Squirt" and Marion Keating

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Kootenai County Task Force on Human

Relations Nep and Mary Ellen Lynch CTE

Jeffrey Marfice Memorial Wayne Meyer NIC Dual Credit Robert D. Murray Award

Murray Family

NIC Alumni Association

NIC American Indian Studies Program NIC Child Development Program

NIC Culinary Arts

NIC Dental Hygiene Program NIC Foundation Minority Student

NIC Graphic Design

NIC Mental Health Assistant Program NIC Student Nurses Association

NIC Teaching and Learning Center Norco, Inc.

North Idaho Women and Their Money PEO Chapter AG

George and Loretta Reeve Memorial Chris Revnolds Memorial

Silver Valley Economic Development NIC Dual Crédit

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Lou and Margaret Thrailkill Academic Virtual Possibilities Network

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As the NIC Foundation approaches its 50th anniversary in 2027, our dedication and commitment to funding scholarships for students is stronger than ever. We have seen the tremendous impact in the lives of students as they forge their future through education and training.

Time and again, students have told us that without the financial support of scholarships, they would not be able to afford higher education. They have also shared the powerful encouragement that comes from knowing that others believe in them. Coupled together, this support creates an opportunity for students to build a bright future for themselves and their families.

Through contributions and prudent stewardship, the NIC Foundation is proud to provide over 1,000 scholarships to deserving students each year.

However, we know the need is greater. Not every eligible student receives a scholarship. The rising cost of living is a challenge for students who are working hard every day to make ends meet. Some students choose to forgo their education because they simply cannot afford it.

To meet this growing need, the NIC Foundation's goal is to increase scholarship funding by \$500,000 each year.

Partner with us by Investing in Dreams!

With your investment, we will create opportunities for students, our college, and ultimately, our community.

Please join us in these efforts. Contributions of any size make a huge impact! Your financial investment will help us reach even more students, change more lives, and fuel more futures.

Make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success today! Use the enclosed envelope or contact the NIC Foundation office at (208) 769-5978. Gifts can also be made securely online at nic.edu/give.



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This year marked the 32nd consecutive year of an early ticket sellout for North Idaho College



Foundation's 32nd annual Really BIG Raffle fundraiser. Over \$562,000 in prizes were given away on July 9, 2025, to the lucky winners. Steven "Kyle" Hephner was the winner of the Grand Prize new home in Post Falls with ticket #3484. The Really BIG Raffle will be back again on July 8, 2026, with another life-changing opportunity to win a new home and other amazing prizes. Proceeds of the raffle support student success and educational excellence.

Visit nic.edu/rbr or call (208) 769-3271 for more information about the Really BIG Raffle.