

Inspired *Action*

FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT



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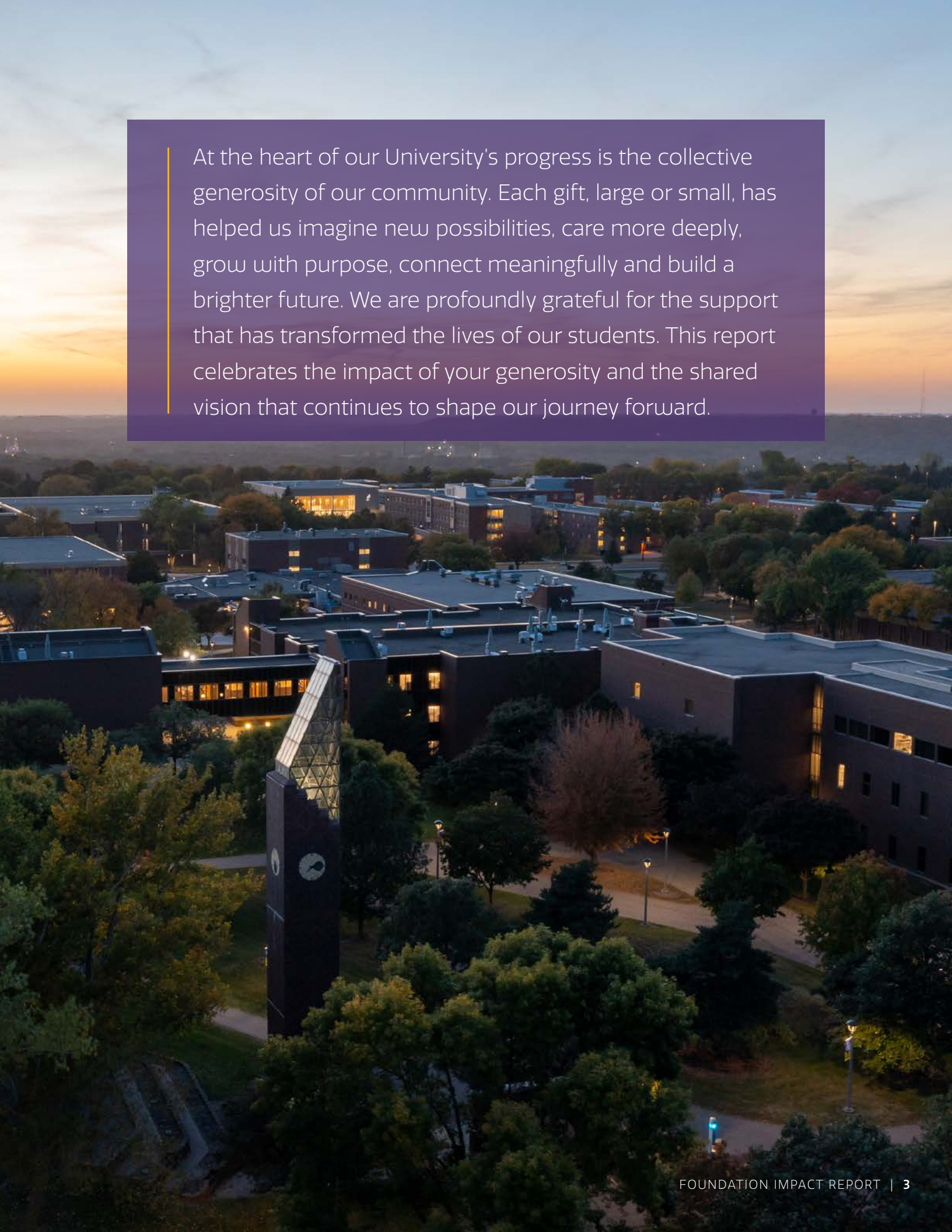
Message from the Board Chair

As chair of the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Board, I'm honored to witness the incredible impact of your generosity. The Foundation exists to strengthen the University's mission by fostering lasting philanthropic partnerships. Every gift helps students dream bigger, reach farther, and achieve more. You are funding the future, and that future is bright because of you. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for your continued support and belief in what we're building together.

Jim Lund

Foundation Board Chair



An aerial photograph of a university campus at dusk. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, a tall, dark, rectangular clock tower with a glass-enclosed upper section stands prominently. The campus is filled with various buildings, some with lights on, and is surrounded by lush green trees. A purple rectangular box with a thin yellow vertical line on its left side is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing white text.

At the heart of our University's progress is the collective generosity of our community. Each gift, large or small, has helped us imagine new possibilities, care more deeply, grow with purpose, connect meaningfully and build a brighter future. We are profoundly grateful for the support that has transformed the lives of our students. This report celebrates the impact of your generosity and the shared vision that continues to shape our journey forward.



INSPIRED TO

Imagine

Big ideas often begin with a spark—an opportunity, a challenge or a moment of inspiration. Thanks to your generosity, those sparks are igniting across campus every day. Your gifts empower students and faculty to explore bold questions, tackle real-world problems and imagine new possibilities. You are funding the future, and that future is already taking shape in classrooms and labs. One powerful example is the CURE Fellowship program, where research begins early and inspiration runs deep.

Inspiration in Action

Giving undergraduates the chance to take part in serious research is what the CURE Fellowship for faculty is all about.

Professors in the program design a research experience in one of their courses that gives research opportunities to students, even in introductory courses.

In her 200-level class, Amber Paulsen researched the effect of different medicines on the immune system trying to kill cancerous blood tumors. “It felt like I was taking what I learned from class and directly applying it to current research.”

Individual research projects can be cost-prohibitive for undergraduates, but funding from the Minnesota State Mankato Foundation has allowed the Undergraduate Research Center to offer CURE fellowships to professors since 2023.

“We’re trying to communicate to students, ‘You can do this in an intro class, and making this discovery could lead to a bigger research project,’” says Patrick Tebbe, director of the URC.

“Embedding a CURE into the class allowed more students to participate meaningfully in research,” says Exercise Science Professor Corey Selland, a CURE Fellow. “Students are often more capable than they think—especially when given the guidance, tools and trust to take ownership.”

[Read the Entire Imagine Story](#)



I want to be at the forefront of innovation, designing and testing new technologies that could possibly have global impacts.”

– Andrew Geistfeld, *Mechanical Engineering*
Bob and Marsha Qualset Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipient



Exercise Science professor Corey Selland works with students.



INSPIRED TO *Care*

At Minnesota State University, Mankato, generosity doesn't just fund programs; it fuels compassion. Your support empowers students and faculty to care more deeply, serve more boldly and lead with purpose. Whether it's through community outreach, mentorship or meaningful research, your gifts help create a culture of care that extends far beyond campus. One powerful example of this impact is captured in the story of Madison Marien, whose journey began with a moment of purpose and a call to serve.

Inspiration in Action

As a child with a heart condition, Madison Marien spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals.

Today, at age 27, she still does—as a registered nurse at Lake City Care Center in Lake City, Minnesota, and at Gunderson St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Wabasha, Minnesota.

Marien obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing in spring of 2024 through Minnesota State Mankato's online program. She worked closely with advisors from the start, which made the online experience a smooth one.

"It was more slick than when I was actually going to an in-person college," she said.

Marien not only completed her bachelor's degree but also joined the National Society of Leadership and Success, a program that encourages personal growth and career advancement while creating a positive community for young leaders.

She's already enrolled at MSU again to pursue a master's degree in nursing leadership and nursing education. It was an easy decision, she says. "I knew right away I was going to go back."

[Read the Entire Care Story](#)

Students in the on-campus nursing program work in the Maverick Family Simulation Center.



“ I’m passionate about using my education and experiences to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and their families.”

– Addison Hackbarth, *Child Development and Family Studies*
Family Consumer Science Department Scholarship

Your Impact by the Numbers

**\$34.5
million**

total

**\$5.5
million**

planned gifts

**\$2.9
million**

scholarships
awarded

6,868

total gifts
received



**\$4
million**

gifts in kind

**\$104
million**

endowment
total

\$109K

in unrestricted
gifts received

**Thank
you!**



INSPIRED TO *Grow*

Growth is at the heart of everything we do at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Because of your generosity, students and faculty are empowered to expand their knowledge, explore new disciplines, and cultivate meaningful change. Your support helps them grow into leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers. One area where this growth is especially evident is in the University's agricultural programming, where students are preparing to meet the future of agribusiness head-on.

Inspiration in Action

The College of Business' FutureSolvers Cultivation Challenge asks students to dream up a financially viable ag business and prove why it would work. Their tools in one scenario: An imaginary \$5 million investment and a particular plot of land that they couldn't sell.

The results showed the vast diversity of what the new School of Applied Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources encompasses at the University. One team created three integrated hubs: a winery/vineyard, geodesic greenhouses and a solar farm. Another designed a self-sustaining farm with Jennie-O turkey barns, renewable energy and a direct-to-consumer beef operation.

The competition demonstrated how the food and ag industry allows business, innovation, technology and the sciences meet and that demand for new talent is on the rise.

"Our message is: If you come from an ag background, there's a job in ag for you. If you come from a different kind of background, there's still a job in ag for you," said Shane Bowyer, associate professor of management who helped develop the College of Business' ag program.



“Coming to the U.S. has been a transformative journey, filled with challenges and growth. Being away from my family for the first time, separated by vast distances, has been both daunting and liberating. It’s taught me invaluable lessons in self-reliance and independence as I’ve navigated through unfamiliar territories and cultures, constantly adapting to new norms and ways of life.”

– Hawi Atinafu, *Computer Science*
Dean and Maxine Turner Scholarship



The School of Applied Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources brings together several disciplines to work together.



INSPIRED TO

Connect

At Minnesota State University, Mankato, your generosity helps Mavericks discover what drives them and who they can impact. Whether it's through the creative expression of KMSU Radio, the joy of literacy shared in Camp Rec N' Read, or countless other programs, your support connects students with their passions and their communities. One inspiring example is the story of two Construction Management students who turned their passion into purpose, empowering the next generation through hands-on learning and mentorship.

Inspiration in Action

MSU Construction Management students Malia Riordan and Kayla Reid dedicated the 2024–25 academic year to helping middle school girls gain hands-on experience in construction by literally building a house.

The two students, both officers in the Construction Management Women's Association at MSU, participated in an initiative known as the Trailblazers Project, collaboration between the Mankato YWCA and APX Construction Group, that introduces girls to various construction trades, including carpentry, electrical work and plumbing, through the process of constructing a small but fully functional home.

In alignment with the YWCA's mission of empowering women, the project reflected the values that Riordan and Reid hope to see more widely embraced in the construction industry. Securing subcontractors to deliver presentations and demonstrations fit well with the CMWA's mission to connect female students with industry professionals.

The program proved beneficial to everyone, even those participants not planning to pursue a career in the trades. Their enhanced confidence will go with them no matter what they do. "At first they were shy," Riordan said. "By the end, they were using power tools and working independently."

[Read the Entire Connect Story](#)



“

Ever since I came to college, I have felt so much more connected with my identity. I am the secretary of the Native American Student Association, which connects Indigenous students on campus. I have been able to find other people who have grown up like me and have similar experiences. These people have grown to be my family on campus and have supported my goals of becoming an Indigenous educator.”

– Sydney Sistad, *Earth Science Teaching (5-12)*
Dennis and Kathleen Dahl Education Scholarship



INSPIRED TO *Build*

The passion, dedication and support of our community has brought us to the threshold of something extraordinary.

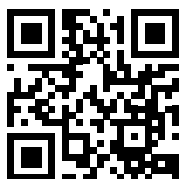
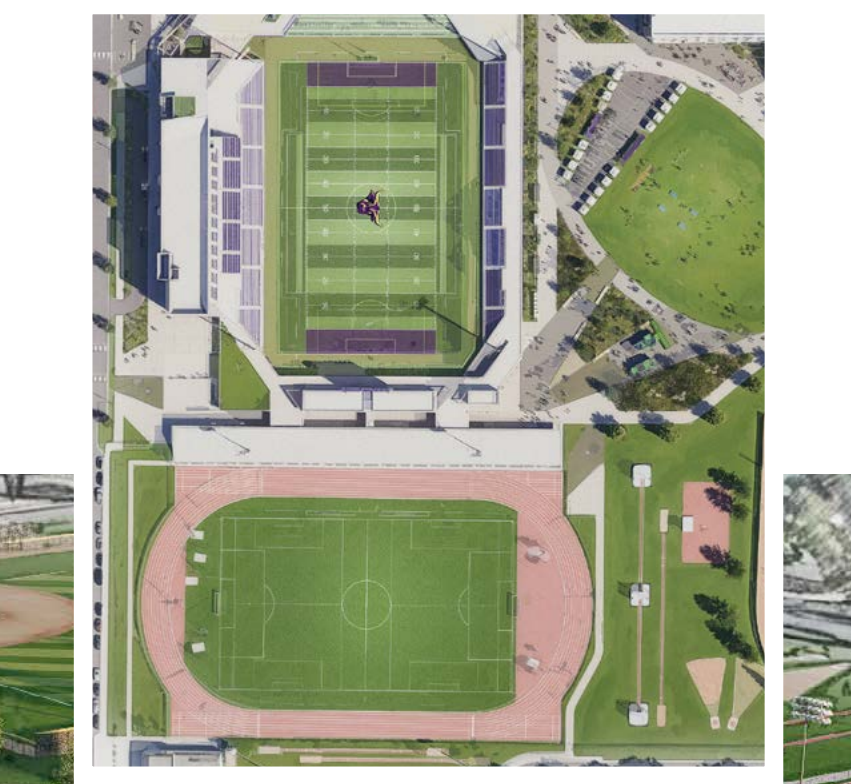
Welcome to **The Future State**

THE FUTURE STATE is a bold investment in our community, our city, our region and our future. It's state-of-the-art facilities will host high-school championships, university athletics and world-class entertainment. It's expanded recreation and wellness spaces promoting health, fitness and lifelong learning. It's a regional hub for economic growth that fuels tourism, attracts the brightest minds and develops top-tier talent.

We are proud to launch the most ambitious fundraising initiative in Minnesota State Mankato history. Together, we have the opportunity to create a lasting impact on the Greater Mankato and Southern Minnesota region. Become part of **THE FUTURE STATE**, and help us reach our \$60 million goal.

All renderings are conceptual. Final designs may vary.





Learn more at:
thefuturestate-mankato.com

Big ideas. Real-world thinking.
Inspired *action.*

