

Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Doug Darling and I have the honor of serving as President of Lake Region State College. I am here to testify in support of SB2030. The HE Challenge Grants have been incredibly helpful for both the Community College foundation and our campus. It has provide an invaluable incentive for private giving. The first biennium 2013-15 – Challenge grant funds were available our foundation raised eight times more funds than they ever had in a single campaign. All told in the four campaigns we raised \$4,851,875 in private funds matched by \$2,425,937 for a grand total of \$7,277,813. Scholarships were \$4.75 million of this with nearly 3,000,000 permanently endowed. The increased number of scholarships we have been able to offer has had an impact on student lives. See two examples below. I would urge you to fund the Challenge grant at least the current level. The \$9 million turns into \$27 with the private funds (\$20 million turns into \$60 million).



**Jakenda, LRSC grad from McHenry, ND.**

**I came from a small school with a graduating class of 10. Lake Region State College made the transition simple because of the family environment here.**

**During my time here at LRSC, I have been involved in volleyball, maintaining my role as the Phi Theta Kappa Co-President, a student employee in the foundation office, and the study abroad program. Thanks to scholarships, I have been given opportunities I never imagined.**



**Emily, LRSC grad from Devils Lake.**

**While at LRSC Emily was active in theater, DECA, Royal Ambassadors, CRU and music.**

**It didn't take long for me to realize that scholarships aren't free money. They are an investment; a sacrifice; someone else's stake in our education. They are a donor's way of supporting and guiding us -- a way of saying "Hey, I believe in you and want to see each of you succeed and live out your dreams."**

**Thank you for your exceptionally generous donations and thank you for believing in us.**