

January 15, 2023

Chairman Nathe and Members of the Education and Environment Division of the ND House Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for creating the ND Higher Education Challenge Grant program and supporting it over the last decade. As a donor considering philanthropic options, we make decisions based on where we think the dollars can have the most positive impact and the Challenge Grant program moves supporting ND Higher Education to the top of the list. It is simply the most effective incentive program we have come across and we were pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the program.

I encourage you to support Governor Burgum's budget recommendation of \$50 million in funding to support the eleven NDUS schools. You have created and funded a program that results in a win-win situation for both students and for ND businesses counting on those students to provide the future workforce to grow their businesses.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

John Erickson