

**Comments to the North Dakota Senate  
Appropriations – Education and Environment Division Committee  
Senator Ron Sorvaag, Chair**

**Submitted by Ally Kujath, University of North Dakota student**

**Submitted January 21, 2025**

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Ally Kujath, and I am a senior at the University of North Dakota, majoring in Political Science and Business Economics

When I was deciding where to attend college, the scholarship opportunities at UND, and specifically within the Nistler College of Business & Public Administration, were a deciding factor. It was obvious to me that the University of North Dakota cared greatly about the success of its students.

Receiving scholarships has significantly impacted my college experience by reducing my financial burden and allowing me to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities.

Instead of spending countless hours in a part-time job to cover tuition costs, I have been able to dedicate my time to meaningful experiences such as studying abroad in France, participating in student organizations, and engaging in research projects. The financial support has also allowed me to volunteer in the Grand Forks community with the Girl Scouts and Bio Girls. These opportunities have enriched my education and broadened my horizons in ways I never imagined.

A college education requires facing many challenges, both big and small, and having the perseverance to rise above. Scholarship recipients are students who are not afraid to strive for excellence and chase their dreams. Behind every successful student is a network of support; whether it's a professor who inspires you, a family member who made sacrifices, friends who stay up late to study with you, and, importantly, the donors who make scholarships possible.

I am incredibly grateful to the alumni and friends of UND who fund scholarships for students like me. Knowing that there are individuals who believe in the power of education and are willing to invest in the future of students is truly inspiring. Having the state of North Dakota be a partner in that philanthropy shows me that the entire state is invested in my success!

I recently received the Pancratz Dean's Emerging Leaders Scholarship. It was funded by Linda Pancratz and received a matching grant from the Challenge Fund in 2016. I am deeply appreciative of her generosity, not only in the form of my scholarship, but also her other contributions to campus. As an active user of the Pancratz Center in the Nistler College. I have benefited greatly from the resources and support it provides, including resume and cover letter assistance, interview preparation, and internship search guidance.

The North Dakota Challenge Grant program plays a vital role in supporting students like me. By incentivizing private donations, the program significantly increases the impact of philanthropic giving. Thank you for your past support of this vital program. I believe that continuing to invest in the North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Grant is crucial for ensuring the continued success of workforce development in the state and for empowering future generations of students.

Thank you.

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