North Idaho College 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW Alumni and Friends

Investing in Oreams

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

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On the cover: Graduates celebrate Commencement 2023

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Greetings from the Alumni Association and NIC Foundation



North Idaho College is truly our community college.

Being part of this community from the day I was born, my goal after high school was to seek a good paying career in this region. North Idaho College was my first step in reaching that goal. Three generations of my family attended NIC, and we all received an excellent education.

As part of the Alumni Association, I am excited to support current and future generations of North Idaho College students, and to encourage alumni

and community members to engage, connect, and learn through the many opportunities available at the college.

I know that many individuals cherish their experiences as an NIC student and have fond memories of their classmates, instructors, and friends. We encourage you to join the NIC Alumni Association today at nic.edu/alumni and stay connected.

Dennis Grant

North Idaho College Alumni Association President



North Idaho College Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1977 and is comprised of an all-volunteer board of directors representing a cross-section of industries, businesses, and services throughout northern Idaho. We are all donors and advocates of North Idaho College, and many of us are NIC alumni.

For 46 years, the foundation has been proud to engage with donors, alumni, and friends like you to provide student scholarships and enhance NIC programs and services. Contributions to the NIC

Foundation are managed and invested prudently to ensure we will continue to *Invest in Dreams* of students in perpetuity.

We encourage you, our friends and community members, to invest in and support students as they strive to reach their full potential. Your investment enhances the workforce throughout our region and beyond, further strengthening our community.

Within this *Year in Review*, you will find many avenues in which you may make a gift. Every dollar makes a difference and can forever benefit the life of a student.

Beti Becker North Idaho College Foundation President

Investing in Oreams -

Thank you for Investing in Oreams!

Donations through the NIC Foundation Scholarship Program help students in their pursuit of an education and bright future.



Naomi Bioloav

"I am so grateful to those who donated resources so that I may achieve my goals and dreams. I count every dollar as a blessing. Please, don't give up donating and don't give up on students. I just want to express how much it means to receive this scholarship. Being able to make ends meet and further my education is a dream come true. Thank you."



Nick

Business

"I was in a bad car accident about 15 years ago and received a brain injury. School is not the easiest for me, but I am determined to get my degree. I want to strongly thank you for this scholarship! This will REALLY help me. It is difficult to have to work and study at the same time. This award is very unexpected, but extremely useful. Thank you for helping me continue my goal with my education!"



Samantha

Education

"Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I greatly appreciate your help in easing my financial burden to get an education. Here at North Idaho College, I have discovered a newfound grit and tenacity for charting my course. I promise to strive for my greatest potential knowing that you all are cheering for me!"

To learn more about the positive impact of scholarship support in the lives of students, visit *nic.edu/foundation*. Make a contribution today in the enclosed envelope or contact the NIC Foundation Office at (208) 769-5978. Gifts can also be made securely online at *nic.edu/give*.

Message from the College President



NIC celebrated its 90th anniversary on August 10. It is inspiring to reflect on the decades of opportunities NIC has provided, and to realize the central role the college plays in our region's economic development.

We received news in July from our accrediting organization, NWCCU, that NIC's accreditation remains intact during the continuing work being done in the area of governance.

The college's academic and technical programs remain strong, receiving national program certifications and top state rankings this past year. NIC students continue to thrive and receive recognition and awards for their remarkable accomplishments.

We continue to innovate ways for students to complete their goals and objectives and we see a road ahead full of possibilities.

My gratitude goes out to you for wholeheartedly maintaining your commitment to NIC's excellence. I encourage you to spread the word that NIC continues to prepare students for a lifetime of success. Your efforts and support have a significant impact, and I thank you.

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 Jody Azevedo as Alumna of the Year and Lita Burns as Honorary Alumna. The awards were presented at the 2022 Scholarship Celebration.



Alumni Awards 2022

Pictured form left: Honorary Alumna Lita Burns and Alumna of the Year Jody Azevedo.

Jody Azevedo was selected as Alumna of the Year in recognition of her outstanding service to the community and her generous support of higher education.

Jody grew up in Sandpoint, where her parents had a dairy farm and a John Deere dealership. She said when she graduated from Sandpoint High School, she knew college was the path she needed to take, but she also needed to stay close to home and to the family's farm.

"NIC was my start," Jody said. "My advisor at NIC encouraged me to continue taking classes to finish my associate degree. She would say 'just go a little more, just one more degree.' She then pushed me more to seek a bachelor's degree."

Jody went on to earn a bachelor's in business and a master's in business administration. She has worked in the credit union industry for more than 20 years, starting as a teller at Numerica Credit Union and working her way up to her current position of vice president of retail business and member relationships.

Jody is actively involved in several non-profit organizations within the community. She has served on the NIC Foundation Board since 2009.

"All of these experiences have taught me how to be a better leader and allowed me to give back to my community," she said. "I want to help students attend NIC because this college gave me the inspiration to continue my education and build a career."

Lita Burns was selected as Honorary Alumna of the Year in recognition of her many years of service to NIC, her steadfast leadership, and her generous support.

Her career in higher education began in her home state of Wyoming.

"I started my education at a community college," Lita said. "I was the first in my family to earn a bachelor's degree."

Lita holds a master's in nursing and a doctorate in leadership studies. She served as the director of nursing and allied health at Central Wyoming College before coming to Idaho.

In 2001, she accepted the position of director of health professions and nursing at NIC, and she and her family moved from Wyoming to Coeur d'Alene. During her time at NIC, Lita also served as dean of health professions, vice president of instruction, and acting president. She retired from NIC in January 2022.

Through the years, Lita has served on multiple state-wide committees representing higher education and nursing. She has worked tirelessly and strategically to help ensure that NIC remains relevant, accredited, and progressive in meeting the needs of students, industry, and the greater community.

"It's about the amazing people I worked with at NIC," Lita said. "Students leave NIC confident and competent. It's not just because of the support they receive from faculty, staff, and administrators, but also from the support of this community. The students provide the inspiration to motivate NIC to offer them the best education."

Lita said deep in her heart she believes in NIC's mission — student success, educational excellence, lifelong learning, and community engagement.

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.

Alumni Association Celebrates 2023 Graduates

As part of the commencement ceremony in May, the president of the Alumni Association congratulated students as they received their diplomas and presented the graduates with an NIC Alumni pin.

To celebrate the occasion, the association hosted a reception for the graduates and their families to enjoy refreshments and learn more about the Alumni Association.

Each year, the Alumni Association encourages students to participate in Commencement and celebrate their accomplishments!



Make a contribution to the NIC Alumni Association Scholarship in honor of the education you received while attending NIC. Use the enclosed envelope or visit *nic.edu/give*.



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 any who have 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.

Retiree Spotlight – David Foster



Newly retired Biology Professor David Foster has devoted his career to the field of natural resource management.

Looking back on his career and 37 years of teaching at North Idaho College, David credits his experience in the Youth Conservation Corps for igniting this passion.

"I had a transformative experience when I was 16," he remembered. "About 40 young people went to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Park on the southern end of Lake Superior. We worked with the National Park Service to enhance the visitor experience at the lakeshore. From this experience I knew I wanted to work in a field of natural resource management."

It was the year of the United States Bicentennial. David spent the summer building interpretative projects in the national park, including a clay oven and a foot bridge over Chapel River. The entire experience sparked David's life-long interest in the natural world. Born and raised in Michigan, David attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids for two years. He ran cross country in the summer and indoor track in the winter. A coach contacted him about running for the University of Idaho. Although David did not receive a track scholarship, he moved to Moscow and attended the University of Idaho where he earned degrees in wildlife resources and range resources.

During and after college, David worked seasonally with the US Forest Service in forestry, range, recreation, and fire. His work near Glacier National Park strengthened his interest in plants, range management, and habitat management. He worked as a research intern, conducting songbird inventories in western Utah in the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area. He realized that research work would take him away from home for long periods, making it difficult for family life. David returned to the University of Idaho and earned a master's degree in education, with the goal of teaching natural resource management to future generations.

While looking for work in K-12 education, David happened upon a posting for a position at North Idaho College. David said finding a job in higher education was providential.

"My experiences and education brought me here to Coeur d'Alene and a career at North Idaho College."

David began at NIC in 1986 as biology lab preparator. Eventually, David began teaching courses such as Forestry Orientation, General Botany, Ecology, and Principles of Wildlife Biology. He found he loved to teach.

David is especially proud of the work he and his ecology students have done through the years in partnership with the local community. These special projects include working with a forest pathologist to improve the health of ponderosa pine trees, documenting the removal of mine tailings in local rivers, and developing plans to use treated effluent to irrigate community forest lands.

"Students benefit by working on real projects, and the community benefits from their efforts and the resources they provide," David explained.

David retired from North Idaho College in August 2023. His 37-year teaching career impacted thousands of students as he shared his knowledge and passion in the field of natural resource management.

In his retirement, David plans to focus on managing the timber and wildlife on his acreage, and continue to enjoy whitewater boating, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing.

To make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success at North Idaho College, 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 Celebrates 90 Years





Hundreds of students, community members, and NIC employees came to the Coeur d'Alene campus on a beautiful summer evening to celebrate the 90th anniversary of North Idaho College.

Founded in 1933, North Idaho College serves the five northern counties of Idaho. As a comprehensive community college, NIC offers a broad spectrum of career paths for students to choose from, with more than 80 academic degree and career and technical education certificate programs, as well as short-term training opportunities.

The community celebration on August 10 featured a resource fair for new and returning students, information about registration for fall semester, food, and prizes. Attendees enjoyed free equipment rental from NIC Sunspot at Yap-Keehn-Um Beach.

Alumni and retirees from NIC reminisced and shared stories with each other about their experiences through the years at North Idaho College.

"When I stepped into my first computer science class, my math grades were terrible," alumnus Dan Blanchette said. "NIC helped me improve my math skills and reach an important pinnacle in my life – receiving an associate of science degree."

NIC President Nick Swayne said, "It is a great opportunity for the community to come out and celebrate the success NIC has had through the years. The shared commitment between the college and the community helps honor our past while paving the way for a promising future."



Investing in Dreams

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 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 tax credit!

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, 2022 and June 30, 2023. If your name was omitted, misspelled, or listed incorrectly, please contact the NIC Foundation at (208) 769-5978.

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*Signifies three or more years of consecutive giving. If you've inadvertently missed a year in your consecutive giving, it's not too late to update your giving history. Make your contribution today at *nic.edu/give* and note the year to which you want the gift applied.

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Donor Spotlight – Jacobs-Booth Family



In June 2023, the NIC Foundation received a special contribution. Eight-year-old Apollo Booth and his mom, NIC alumna Molly Jacobs, hand delivered a donation with a note from Apollo.

"This money is for the people that are coming into the college, and I want to help them be successful," he wrote. "I got the money by raising it from my family. My mom and grampa went to NIC. I also want to go to NIC."

When Molly received the NIC Alumni and Friends Year in Review in fall 2022, Apollo was very interested in the students and their goals. He read that scholarships help students to stay in school and be successful.

"I told him that I applied for and received scholarships when I was in college," Molly explained. "That was one of the connections he made, that a lot of ordinary people need financial help in order to start their careers and meet their needs while in college."

Apollo wanted to help current students and he came up with a plan.

He wrote letters to his family explaining his generous idea. Instead of giving him Christmas presents, he asked them to help NIC students. He received many responses. In total, Apollo raised \$250 for student scholarships.

"I'm grateful to be able to help," Apollo said. "I'm glad the students will get the money right away."

Apollo will be starting the fourth grade soon. His favorite subjects are science, lunch, silent reading, and math. He also really likes to play basketball and video games.

When asked what he wants to study when he attends NIC, Apollo has lots of ideas. Right now, he wants to study computer programming and maybe play college basketball.

"I want to find bugs in computer programs and work as a computer engineer, designing and testing programs," he said.

"But I don't really know. I'm interested in lots of things."

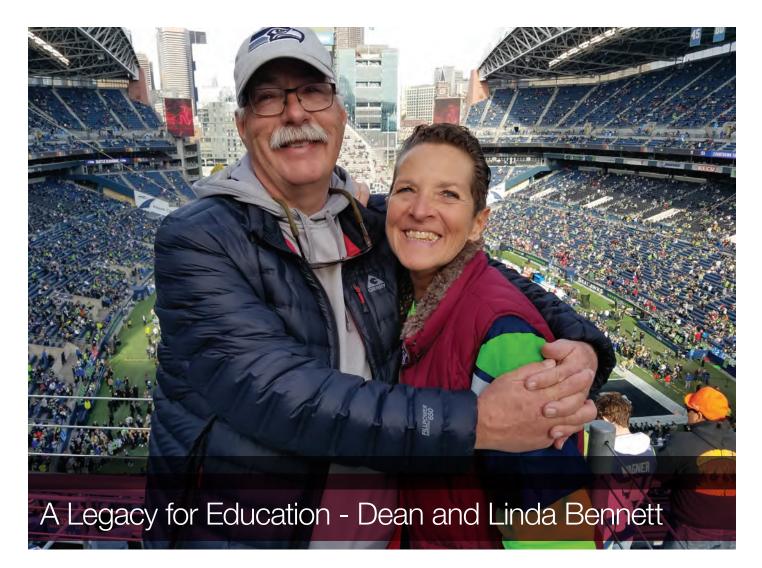
Molly agreed. "After starting as a dual credit high school student, I studied history at NIC. I took a break when Apollo was born. When I came back, I transitioned to elementary education."

Molly was able to transfer her previous credits towards an associate degree in elementary education and earn her bachelor's degree through the Pathways to Accelerated Certification and Endorsement (PACE) program with Lewis-Clark State College in Coeur d'Alene. Since then, Molly has been teaching third grade at Spirit Lake Elementary.

Jim Jacobs, Molly's father and Apollo's grandfather, is also an NIC alum. After earning two degrees at the University of Idaho in agricultural economics and natural resource development, Jim came to NIC in the early 1980's to study electronics. He earned an associate of applied science degree and launched a 35-year career with Hewlett Packard as a technician.

North Idaho College is important to the Jacobs-Booth family. Molly, who often visits the campus with Apollo, said, "The NIC campus is beautiful. It's my happy place."

To make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success at North Idaho College, 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*.



Dean and Linda Bennett believe strongly in education. "Learning allows people to adventure out on their own, try new things, and find what they are passionate about," they said. "It helps people grow."

Now retired, both Dean and Linda devoted their careers to education. Born and raised in Coeur d'Alene, Dean graduated from North Idaho College and went on to earn a master's degree in recreational management from the University of Idaho. Linda earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande. The two met while working as lifeguards on Coeur d'Alene City Beach and married in 1985.

While attending NIC, Dean was a work study student in the Edminster Student Union Building. He noticed the University of Idaho had a thriving outdoor program that included equipment rental for students. With funding from the Associated Students of NIC, Dean helped to create a rental shop in the basement of the student union.

After Dean completed his bachelor's degree, he accepted a position at North Idaho College. "NIC was opening its first position dealing solely with student life," Dean said. "I was tasked with creating a student life program with both educational and entertainment value. I was able to draw many areas together to provide a full four-year college experience at our community college."

During his 33-year career at NIC, Dean's work included teaching leadership development, overseeing student government and clubs, developing the student ambassador program, and expanding recreational sports, student events, and what is now called Outdoor Pursuits.

"I strongly believe that classroom learning is important. But things students experience while outside the classroom environment create a much stronger, more well-rounded individual." Dean said.

Linda's first experiences with NIC were through Dean and his love for his job. She attended NIC as a student in a compacted summer session to complete the credits required for a teaching certification in Idaho.

"I truly enjoyed my instructors," she said. "I had some amazing teachers throughout my life who taught me to think for myself, ask questions, and love learning. I wanted to do that for other kids. High quality education can open so many doors in a person's life."

Linda's career included teaching at elementary schools in Oregon and Idaho and the NIC Children's Center. Linda

Bennett Legacy continued retired after teaching in the Coeur d'Alene School District for 25 years.

Dean stays involved with North Idaho College by serving on the NIC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dean and Linda have chosen to continue their support of North Idaho College in future years through their estate plan. They have joined an honorable circle of supporters as members of the NIC Foundation's Legacy Society. Membership in the Legacy Society is as simple as designating the North Idaho College Foundation as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance, or retirement account.

For more information on how you can leave your legacy, please contact the NIC Foundation at (208) 769-5978. Explore our free planning resources at *nic.planmylegacy.org*.



Representatives from Windermere/Coeur d'Alene Realty present a check to the NIC Foundation. Since 2006, the Windermere Foundation has provided scholarship funding for dual credit high school students as well as former dual credit students who continue their education at NIC after high school.

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 the North Idaho College Foundation listed as a beneficiary in your estate plan, please notify the NIC Foundation so your commitment is properly honored.

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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*.

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Every Dollar Makes a Difference

Through contributions and prudent stewardship, the NIC Foundation is proud to invest in North Idaho College students, programs, services, and special projects.

Together, gifts of all sizes add up and make a significant impact.

This year, consider making a gift of \$90 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of North Idaho College!

Or perhaps you would like to make a gift in honor of the year you graduated from NIC – for example, a gift of \$19.75 if you were in the class of 1975 or \$20.13 from the class of 2013.

We invite you to join with other North Idaho College supporters in making a gift today to enhance educational excellence and student success. Below are two examples of the many ways that contributions have enhanced North Idaho College programs and made a difference in the lives of students.

Educational Excellence



The NIC Foundation Grant Program provides funding for creative projects and innovative teaching resources at North Idaho College. Awards are made annually to faculty, staff, and student groups through a competitive application process.

The NIC Music department received grant funding to support the fall Gathering of the Bands and spring JazzNIC. These annual events bring NIC music students and hundreds of local middle school and high school students together to learn from world class educators, musicians, and conductors. After daily workshops and rehearsals, students have the opportunity to perform for the community.

Your charitable contribution provides resources to fund experiential learning opportunities like this through the Foundation Grant Program.

Student Success



Donations to the NIC Foundation Scholarship Program expand opportunities for students as they prepare to enter the workforce. With the high cost of housing, transportation, childcare, health care, and household expenses, higher education is out of reach for many potential students.

Your gift will provide the extra measure of support that can open the door for students. Second year nursing student Madeline said, "Scholarships have a significant impact on my ability to pursue my education. Financial assistance has allowed me to focus on my studies without the added stress of worrying about how I will pay for my education. This has allowed me to take on a challenging course load. I am extremely grateful for this support."

To make a contribution in support of educational excellence and student success at North Idaho College, 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*.

Thank you for *Investing in Oreams!*



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North Idaho College Foundation's Really BIG Raffle fundraiser celebrated its 30th anniversary with the grand prize home going to Jamie Morgan. The winning ticket #3665 was drawn by an independent auditor on July 12, 2023. The event will be back again in 2024 with another chance to win a new home in Greenstone's Coeur d'Alene Place Community. Proceeds of the raffle support student success and educational excellence.

Visit *nic.edu/rbr* or call (208) 769-3271 for more information.



For a full listing of events at NIC, visit *nic.edu/events*.

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