
FOUNDATION //////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////// 2023-2024 Impact Report



Thank You!

Dear Friends,

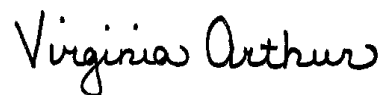
On behalf of Metro State University, we thank you for your gifts to the Metro State Foundation. Your generosity directly impacts our students and plays a pivotal role in advancing the mission, vision, and values of Metro State. With your help, Metro State continues to provide exceptional opportunities and experiences for our students.

Your gifts made a difference in the lives of 540 students who received scholarships. Your support will help them become leaders in healthcare, education, and business. Additionally, your gifts raised more than \$450,000 to support programs that enrich the student experience on campus.

Gifts to Metro State fuel the meaningful community-centric work our students accomplish. This report highlights the persistence of students like Stevie Middlebrook, who values representation for Black Deaf teachers. A recipient of the Bruce F. Vento Science in Education Scholarship, Middlebrook's intersecting identities offer representation to her students, proving that roadblocks can be overcome to achieve career ambitions and lifelong goals.

To further support our students, the university maintains strong corporate partnerships. For example, our friends at Xcel Energy continue to invest in our students' career development through financial support, leadership opportunities, and connection to mentors.

With sincere appreciation,



Virginia "Ginny" Arthur, JD
President



Joseph Ellis II
Board Chair, Metro State University Foundation



For over 25 years, Xcel's commitment has enriched the student experience and made degree completion a possibility for its scholarship recipients.

Your gift is an investment in the future of Metro State, and not only enriches the lives of our current community members, but creates opportunities for future successes in the years to come. Your gift ignites the transformative power of education with your generosity. We are honored to have you as a valued member of the Metro State community.

Cover photo: Shreya, recipient of the John Watson Milton Scholarship; David, recipient of the Xcel Energy Scholarship; Letty, recipient of the Joseph E. Commers Scholarship.

Metro State University Foundation Mission Statement and Impact

Foundation Mission Statement

Metro State University Foundation works to secure a vibrant future for our university and the students who come through our doors. Generating public awareness, along with private support, the Foundation seeks to increase endowments and other support from alumni, corporations, foundations, and friends to support scholarships and other forms of support for Metro State University and their students.

Who We Serve

Metro State Foundation, based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, serves the university and enrolled students across four campuses in Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Impact

All gifts to the foundation are an investment in the students and university. Support was distributed in the following areas:

Metro Fund	\$124,208
Programs	\$463,093
Scholarships	\$712,205
<hr/>	
Total	\$1,299,506

The Foundation provided support for 122 emergency awards to students through the SAFE Fund and the Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

The Foundation supported students through scholarships by funding and managing the scholarship award process, and awarding 540 scholarships.



Metro State University, Saint Paul Campus

Spotlight on the Bruce F. Vento Science Education Scholarship



Stevie Middlebrook with her son at graduation

Stevie Middlebrook
“I was already working at a school as a paraprofessional when I was thinking of returning to school, and then after I had my son in 2016, it just clicked that I wanted to become a teacher, especially after being able to teach him myself,” said Stevie Middlebrook '24. In addition to having her son be a catalyst

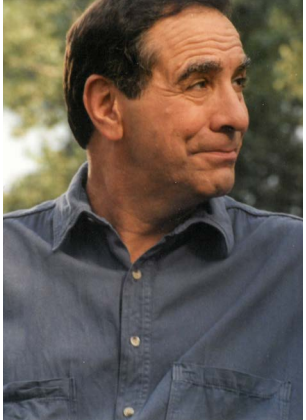
to becoming a teacher, Middlebrook is quick to note that her own experiences with the education system also fueled her newfound path. **“I did not have a Black teacher until I got into college,”** she said. **“I also know there is a need for Black Deaf teachers, and I wanted students to have someone who looked like them growing up.”**

In the fall of 2023, Middlebrook received the prestigious President’s Outstanding Student Award, a recognition that filled her with joy. **“It felt amazing to receive the award because it was a long journey to get to where I am today,”** she said. **“Throughout my college journey, I had to take time off several times because I needed time off to take care of my son’s and my needs, to find stability in my life, find a safe home, and to heal from the hardship I was experiencing at that time. But receiving this award showed me**

that no matter what, if you persevere, you can still accomplish so many things. It is just a reminder that no matter how many people try to block your path and don’t believe in you, it is up to you to pave through it and overcome all of the obstacles.”

As the first Deaf student to receive this award, Middlebrook encourages students with disabilities to be proud of their identity. After graduating from Metro State, Middlebrook is now working as a first-year 2nd grade teacher at Metro Deaf School, which she loves. She also is happy to have more time for her hobbies, such as salsa dancing. Middlebrook is thinking about graduate school, and her future is bright.

[Middlebrook’s story excerpted from Metro State University *buzz* alumni magazine, *The Next Generation of Teachers for the Deaf*, by Belo Miguel Cipriani. Cipriani is a blind award-winning author and prize-winning journalist. His writing has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *HuffPost*, and *Business Insider*. When he is not writing or editing, he can be found playing with his guide dog, Limo.]



Congressman Bruce Vento

During her time at Metro, Middlebrook was the recipient of the Bruce F. Vento Science Education Scholarship, named after Minnesota Congressman Bruce F. Vento. Congressman Vento represented Minnesota’s 4th Congressional District, including the city of Saint Paul, for 24 years. Prior to running for Congress, he served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Congressman Bruce Vento

Congressman Bruce Vento

Congressman Vento was a lifelong resident of Saint Paul. His parents raised eight children on the East Side, instilling in them the values of hard work and community. Congressman Vento graduated from Johnson High School and the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, where he earned a biology degree. Like many Metro State students, Congressman Vento was married with two small children and worked while in college. Before embarking on his political career, Congressman Vento taught junior high

science and social studies in Minneapolis. Congressman Vento was a huge supporter of education. While in office, if he were invited to visit a school, he would clear his calendar to make it happen.

After Congressman Vento was diagnosed with mesothelioma (a form of lung cancer attributed to exposure to asbestos), a group of colleagues and friends in Minnesota and Washington D.C. wanted to do something to honor him. They planned a bipartisan tribute dinner and raised more than \$500,000 for scholarships. At that event, President Bill Clinton said, **“Bruce never stopped being a teacher, and those of us who were privileged to know him have all been, at one time or another, his students.”****

Congressman Vento’s final public appearance was at the renaming of the East Consolidated Elementary School in Saint Paul’s East Side to the Bruce F. Vento Elementary School. In his brief remarks, he focused on the students rather than himself. **“Going to school is an everyday process; it isn’t something we accomplish and are all done with,”** Vento told the children.

*MPR: Bruce Vento, 1940–2000 (publicradio.org)

“We have to put in our time every day to try and achieve and learn so that we can develop our talents and each of you, thank goodness, have special talents; each of you are special persons.”

The Bruce F. Vento scholarship was designed to provide support to students planning to teach science. It was intended to reach students across the community and encourage underrepresented students to teach. Students must come from a high school located in the 4th Congressional District or go to a college or university located in the 4th District, specifically Metro State. In addition to Metro State, the scholarships are administered at two other colleges—University of Wisconsin–River Falls and the College of St. Benedict, which has an environmental sustainability program. Congressman Vento was a champion of environmental causes as well as education.

Since it was established in 2015, the Bruce F. Vento Science Educator Scholarship has supported 67 students with \$92,000.



Bruce Vento in a classroom with children

Xcel Energy

For more than 25 years, Xcel Energy’s partnership with Metro State University has helped ensure a shared community that is strong, vibrant, and inclusive, creating a highly desirable place for everyone to live, work, and learn.

During this time, Xcel Energy has significantly supported Metro State through various impactful initiatives. It has made important financial contributions to the Metro State Library and Learning Center, encouraged its employees to volunteer their time and expertise as mentors, and provided leadership and direction through service on the Alumni Association and Foundation Boards. Additionally, Xcel Energy matches donations made by its employees, which helps fund programs, operations, and student success initiatives. Moreover, it has provided significant grant awards, which are instrumental in funding scholarships for STEM students, aiding in their retention and success.

“ Xcel Energy is proud to partner with Metro State University to create a strong and diverse workforce that promotes energy efficiency and equity, together. Xcel Energy is committed to uplifting STEM Career Pathways in post-secondary education and providing opportunities to underrepresented communities to explore their futures in STEM and energy efficiency.”

—Ashley Perala
Social Investments Representative
Xcel Energy



Metro State’s New Main building



Abdishakur Mohamed
2024 Metro State University
Cybersecurity Major

Abdishakur Mohamed

The support offered has a profound and transformative impact, acting as a crucial catalyst for the bright futures of both the students and their communities.

Scholars themselves best express this sentiment, including Abdishakur Mohamed, who is currently enrolled in the cybersecurity program at Metro State and nearing the conclusion of his studies in December 2024.

“I want to express my profound thanks for the Xcel Energy Scholarship. Beyond mere financial assistance, this scholarship serves as a beacon of hope, profoundly impacting my life, educational pursuits, and career aspirations.”

Mohamed continued, **“The Xcel Energy Scholarship has relieved my family of financial strain, enabling me to devote myself entirely to my cybersecurity studies at Metro State University. It empowers me to pursue my academic ambitions with renewed vigor and dedication. As I advance in my cybersecurity education, I am confident that this scholarship will pave the way for a successful and rewarding career safeguarding digital environments from emerging threats.”**

Mohamed concluded, **“Equipped with the knowledge and skills acquired through my cybersecurity degree, I aim to contribute to the community by enhancing digital security protocols and fostering cyber awareness. The Xcel Energy Scholarship plays a pivotal role in facilitating this journey, and I am committed to leveraging my education for the betterment of the community.”**

David Osbon

Fellow scholarship recipient, David Osbon, shared a similar sense of gratitude, focus, and purpose, as he pursues a dual undergraduate and graduate degree in Cyber Operations, also with an expected graduation date in December 2024.

For Osbon, the scholarship has been instrumental in helping him to achieve his goals.

“This scholarship significantly impacts my life by alleviating the financial burden of my education. It will undoubtedly relieve some of the anxiety associated with paying for the many classes I need to take, allowing me to focus more on my studies and academic goals,” Osbon said. **“With this financial support, I can dedicate more time to my coursework and research, which are crucial for my development in the field of cyber operations. The scholarship also provides me with the peace of mind to pursue internships and other practical experiences without the constant worry of financial strain.”**



David Osbon
2024 Metro State University
Cyber Operations Graduate Degree

Elias Gbenou

Environmental Science major Elias Gbenou summarized with these thoughts on the impact of receiving this scholarship: **“Looking ahead, I am driven by the desire to utilize my education to create change within my community. As a professional in this field, I am committed to addressing societal issues through my work. Through engaging in community programs, volunteering or initiating projects, my desire is to give and uplift those in my surroundings. This scholarship serves as a testament to my dedication to serving others and fostering community growth.”**

In addition, he is especially grateful that Xcel Energy supports and understands the importance of Metro State nurturing a diverse student body. **“Our backgrounds, cultures, and life journeys vary greatly,”** Gbenou said.

“Despite these differences, we all strive for the objective to learn, develop, and make contributions to society. The assistance provided by scholarships such as this one bolsters our shared path towards achievement.”

Metro State also appreciates the time and talent that Xcel Energy employees give through volunteerism at Career Center and Alumni Relations events, mentoring students, and serving on the Metro State University Foundation Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board.

Xcel Energy and Xcel Energy Foundation’s generous support and partnership have substantially impacted our collective community, for which Metro State University and Foundation are tremendously grateful.



Elias Gbenou
2024 Metro State University
Environmental Science Degree



Metro State University, Saint Paul Campus

Rise to Shine

Inaugural Rise to Shine breakfast

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, the Metro State Foundation welcomed board members, their guests, and other community partners to our Rise to Shine (RTS) breakfast event to raise funds for student scholarships. Alumni, faculty, students, and President Arthur all highlighted the critical need to support students financially in their educational journey. In addition to President Arthur, special thanks go to Metro State alumni Mohammad Zafar '08 and Sam Farrand '17, as well as to Derrick Crim '97 and Vice President of Student Success Bobbie Anderson '16. Generous sponsorships from local companies and individuals underwrote the program, making sure that every dollar raised would go to student scholarships.

A total of 39 Rise to Shine scholarships, totaling \$39,000, were awarded in the Foundation's Fall Award Cycle.



“This scholarship impacts both my life and my academic goals in many ways. I am an adult learner who returned to school later in life. It is with the help of this scholarship that I am able to remain in school and focus all of my energies on my academic career.”

—Tanya Hausladen,
RTS Scholarship Recipient



“The sense of belonging within the intimate and inclusive Metro State University community has been nothing short of transformative for me. Your investment in my future will not be forgotten and I appreciate your support. Thank you for making a difference in my life.”

—Nouchee Moua,
RTS Scholarship Recipient

Rise to Shine

Thank you

Metro State University Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the 2023 Rise to Shine event. We are grateful for the positive impact you have helped to make in supporting student success!

Silver Sponsors

Mairs & Power and Winslow Capital Management, LLC

Bronze Sponsors

Boyum Barenscheer, Charlie and Joy Shepard, Chris Boese and Jen Sell, Laura Hawkins, Laughlin Company Services, Orgel Wealth Management, Regions Hospital, Ryan Companies, and TurnSignl



Rise to Shine breakfast in the Great Hall, Saint Paul Campus



John Schwingler and Sam Verdeja '09 at the Rise to Shine event



Rochelle Johnson of Regions Hospital at the Rise to Shine event

Staff Feature

Rachel Hanson

Faculty and staff giving is critical in supporting our students. By giving, faculty and staff demonstrate commitment to our mission, vision, and values. Rachel Hanson '12 finds meaning in supporting students through giving, which she has been doing for more than a decade.

Thank you to Rachel and many faculty and staff donors who contribute to student success!



“ When I first came to work at Metro State in 2014, I wasn’t just someone looking for a job at a time when it was really hard to get a job. I was also joining our employee community as a 2012 alumna. The choice to sign up for the Foundation payroll deduction was, to me, a no-brainer. Although I had never received a Foundation scholarship, I knew the difference they had made in the lives of my peers. I signed up to have \$5 deducted from each paycheck.

I share the amount I am giving out of each check because I know that money can have a lot of feelings, especially shame, associated with it but if we all give just a little it can ultimately make a big difference to our students without taking away from our ability to care for our families. ”

—Rachel Hanson '12
Associate Director
Gateway Student Services

Volunteer Week

Greetings from the Alumni Board!

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the spirit of volunteerism demonstrated by our alumni and community partners. Your commitment to giving back has strengthened Metro State University, allowing us to continue fulfilling our mission both on campus and beyond.

This year, our alumni contributed hundreds of hours to support students and strengthen our community. From mentoring and tutoring, to providing support at career workshops and panel discussions, to sharing your expertise in our classrooms, and serving as leaders on our board and various committees, your dedication to our community has been inspiring.

Earlier this year, we also kicked off the Week of Service event, during which alumni donated blood in partnership with the Nursing Student Association and the American Red Cross. Additionally, alumni provided essential items to support our Student Parent Center and Food Pantry. These volunteer opportunities have provided invaluable resources and support to our students and the broader community.

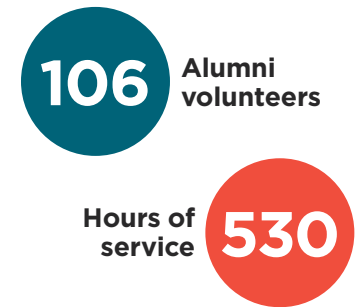
As we move forward, we are excited to build on this momentum. We encourage all alumni to continue their engagement and explore new ways to contribute. Thank you for your dedication, generosity, and the time you have given to our alumni community. We look forward to another year of impactful volunteerism!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Amanda Wong '17
Alumni Board President



Employee volunteer, Metro State blood drive



Fiscal Year 2024



Alumni volunteers, Fall Fest

Metro State Foundation By the Numbers

Metro State University Foundation

Statement of Financial Position (June 30, 2024) //////////////////////////////////////

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	74,179
Investments	1,861,789
Contributions receivable, net of allowance	265,100
Prepaid expenses	67,492
Total current assets	2,268,560
OTHER ASSETS	
Contributions receivable, net of current portion	15,346
Endowment contributions receivable	53,609
Investments held for endowment	9,681,677
Total other assets	9,750,632
TOTAL ASSETS	12,019,192

LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	30,391
Scholarships payable	0
Unearned revenue	0
Total liabilities	30,391
NET ASSETS	
Net assets without donor restrictions	
Board designated for alumni association	36,254
Board designated for endowment	556,934
Undesignated	803,973
Total net assets without donor restrictions	1,397,161
Net assets with donor restrictions	
Perpetual in nature	6,493,010
Purpose restrictions	4,098,630
Total net assets with donor restrictions	10,591,640
Total net assets	11,988,801
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	12,019,192

Our Commitment

The Metro State University Foundation exists to support Metro State University’s mission by raising private voluntary support from alumni, parents, friends, corporations, foundations, and others. In addition to providing ongoing support, the Foundation is dedicated to helping the university build an endowment that supports the long-term priorities of the university. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 governed by a volunteer board of trustees who share their time and talents for the good of the Foundation and Metro State University.

2023-2024 Metro State University

Foundation Board of Trustees

Harpreet Anand, *Treasurer*
Vice President, Corporate Tax
Travelers

Jeanette Augustson, *Vice Chair*
Vice President
Health Partners Institute

Zeeshan Baig '05
Finance Manager
Entegris, Inc.

Wendy Brekken
Chief Wealth Planning Officer
Private Wealth Asset Management

Robert Carter
Founder
Summit Mortgage Corporation

Joseph Ellis '19 (Honorary), *Chair*
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SD Group

Tony Gagliardo
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Nuclear and Technical Learning
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Laura Hawkins
Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer
Winslow Capital Management, LLC

Suhanthi Kamesh '01
Vice President, Compliance Executive
FIS Global

Ochen Kaylan '08, *Secretary*
Attorney
Ochen K

Jay Laughlin
Vice President, Engineering and Technical Services
Xcel Energy

Matt Moe '12, Alumni Board Representative
Vice President of Operations
Homeward Health

Colin Partridge '00
Senior HR Professional
Carlson Travel (Retired)

Beth Russell
Adjunct Faculty
University of St. Thomas (Retired)

Alumni Board

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Police Chief
MSP Airport Police Department

Jim Houston '16
DEI Director
McGough

Deidra Isaac '16
Owner
Ashes 2 Beauty Salon and Beauty Supply, LLC

Matt Moe '12
Vice President of Operations
Homeward Health

Bryan Newman '15
Inventory Control Manager
International Trucking

Scott Pilgram '10
Accounting Manager
CBRE

Ryan Ringwelski '21
Military Personnel Management Assistant
Minnesota Air National Guard

Eric Rios '15
Business Development Manager
Hanger Clinics

Shahbaz Shah '15
Business Development Manager
BizzyWeb

Shanasha Whitson '00
Executive Director
Community Partnership Collaborative 2.0

Amanda Wong '17
Communications Manager
McGough

Darrell Young '20
Director of Community Education
Bloomington Public Schools

Making a Gift

There are many ways to make a gift to the Metro State University Foundation. Choose what works best for you.

Online: Make a gift online with your credit card at metrostate.edu/give or metrostate.edu/give/give-now. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a monthly gift.

Check or EFT: Send a check for a one-time gift or a voided check to set up a monthly gift via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

Donor-Advised Funds: Make a gift through a grant from your donor-advised fund.

Tribute Gifts: Pay tribute to a loved one with an honorary or memorial gift in their name online or via check.

Corporate Matching Gifts: Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program to double the impact of your contribution!

Stock: Your gift of appreciated stock could be a tax-wise way to support Metro State University. Visit metrostate.edu/give/ways-to-give for more information.

Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA: If you are 70½ or older, you can make a rollover gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Metro State University Foundation—known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). You may use your QCD from your IRA to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD), which could provide tax savings. To be considered a QCD, the check must come directly from your financial institution to Metro State University Foundation, Founders Hall 142, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106.

Legacy Giving: You can make sure your family is taken care of while also making the best gift of your lifetime to Metro State University Foundation. To learn more about leaving a legacy, visit metrostate.giftlegacy.com.



FOUNDATION

700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106-5000
Phone: 651.793.1801
foundation@metrostate.edu



*Metropolitan State University,
A member of Minnesota State*

Metro State University is a comprehensive, urban, public university. The university is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. This information is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Center for Accessibility Resources, accessibility.resources@metrostate.edu or 651.793.1549. An equal opportunity educator and employer. We are proud to be a military-friendly university, nationally recognized for providing a high standard of programming and assistance to those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. 10/24