

# ECC

# 2024 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER CONNECT

## ELLSWORTH COLLEGE FOUNDATION

### ELLSWORTH GRADUATION

Save the Date! Ellsworth graduation is just around the corner on May 10, 2024. Join us as we celebrate achievements, friendships, and the bright future ahead. Your presence would mean the world to our graduates!

### E-CLUB 4TH OF JULY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Get ready to swing into action! The E-Club's 4th of July Golf Tournament is just around the bend. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time player, join us for a day of fun on the greens! Check our Facebook page for more information!

### FIRECRACKER 5K

Lace up your running shoes and join us on Saturday, July 6, 2024 for our annual 5K walk or run. It's not a race, it's a journey of fitness and community. So save the date, invite your friends, and let's make strides together!



## BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER OF THE FOUNDATION

We have a special opportunity for you to make a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

We are excited to announce our Sustaining Membership Program, a unique initiative designed to provide ongoing support and create emergency scholarship opportunities for deserving students at Ellsworth Community College. By becoming a sustaining member, you contribute directly to the educational journey of those facing unexpected challenges.

A donation made to this program will go towards emergency scholarships that bridge financial gaps for students. These scholarships aim to ensure that no student's educational pursuits are hindered due to unforeseen circumstances. Your commitment to our sustaining membership scholarships will make a tangible difference in the lives of our students.

#### Here's how you can get involved:

- Sustaining Membership Levels: Choose a membership tier that aligns with your commitment, ranging from \$25.00 to \$1,500.
- Spread the Word: Share our mission with your network, encouraging others to join this impactful initiative.

To make your tax-deductible donation and become a sustaining member, please visit our website at [www.ellsworthalum.org](http://www.ellsworthalum.org) or contact us at 641-648-8575.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support the educational dreams of our students. Together, we can make a difference that lasts a lifetime.

## GIFTS THAT LEAVE A LEGACY

Establishing a scholarship through the Ellsworth College Foundation is one way you can assist students and leave a legacy to the College. It's also a very meaningful way to honor family and friends. As a donor, you choose the name of the scholarship as well as the criteria for awarding it.

**To learn more about how you can establish a scholarship, visit**

[www.ellsworthalum.org](http://www.ellsworthalum.org)

## GIFTS TO PROGRAMS/CLUBS/ATHLETIC TEAMS

Did you know that you can donate to our many programs, athletic teams, or student clubs that we have here on campus? As always, your donation would be tax-deductible and would foster student success and create a positive impact on our community. Check out the different opportunities on our website.

[www.ellsworthalum.org](http://www.ellsworthalum.org)



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

GWEN GROEN, DIRECTOR  
ELLSWORTH COLLEGE FOUNDATION

In a world where education plays an increasingly pivotal role in shaping individuals' futures, the importance of access to quality education cannot be overstated. Yet, for many bright minds, financial constraints can become insurmountable barriers on their journey toward academic success.

This is where the establishment of a scholarship emerges as a beacon of hope, offering tangible opportunities for deserving students to pursue their educational aspirations.

At the heart of every scholarship lies the noble intention to empower individuals and communities by investing in education. Here are compelling reasons why starting a scholarship is not just a philanthropic gesture but a strategic investment in a brighter future:

- **Breaking Financial Barriers:** Financial constraints often deter talented students from pursuing higher education. By initiating a scholarship, you break down these barriers, enabling deserving individuals to access educational opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.
- **Fostering Talent:** Talent is universal, but opportunities are not. Scholarships provide a platform for nurturing and showcasing talent regardless of socio-economic backgrounds. By supporting students through scholarships, you unlock their potential, paving the way for future leaders, innovators, and change-makers.
- **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:** Scholarships promote diversity and inclusion by providing opportunities to students from underrepresented communities or marginalized backgrounds. Embracing diversity enriches educational environments, fosters cross-cultural understanding, and prepares students for a globally interconnected world.
- **Addressing Skills Gap:** In today's rapidly evolving job market, there's a growing demand for skilled professionals. Scholarships targeted towards fields facing skill shortages, such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), encourage students to pursue careers in these areas, thereby bridging the skills gap and driving economic growth.
- **Building Stronger Communities:** Education is a catalyst for community development. By investing in scholarships, you invest in the future of your community. Scholarships create a ripple effect, empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to society, uplift their families, and inspire others in their communities to pursue education.
- **Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** For businesses and organizations, establishing scholarships is an impactful way to fulfill corporate social responsibility (CSR) mandates. By aligning CSR initiatives with education, companies demonstrate their commitment to societal welfare and sustainable development, fostering goodwill and a positive brand reputation.
- **Long-Term Returns:** Scholarships yield long-term returns that extend beyond individual beneficiaries. As scholarship recipients graduate, enter the workforce, and contribute to society, they become ambassadors for the program, inspiring future generations and perpetuating the cycle of giving back.

In conclusion, starting a scholarship is not merely an act of charity; it is an investment in the potential, aspirations, and future of individuals and communities. By providing the gift of education, you sow the seeds for a brighter, more equitable tomorrow. Together, let's pave the way for a world where every deserving student has the opportunity to thrive.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

DR. BARB KLEIN  
PROVOST  
ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I never thought when I started out at my local community college right out of high school (nearly 40 years ago–wow!) that those experiences would have such an impact on the work I do today. My folks worked hard but didn't have the money to send me to college so the community

college was the best fit for me. It's funny when I look back at how lucky I was to get hired in the Admissions Office as a student worker. Those ladies took care of me and made sure I got registered when I needed to, got my financial aid paperwork completed, and steered me successfully to being a college graduate. It was a great experience and it serves as a reminder of the impact we can have on students every day.

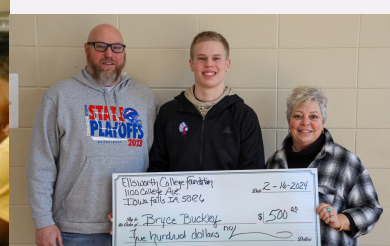
This week leads us into spring break and a time for our students to recharge before they return for the second half of the semester. We recently took our Student Senate to Des Moines for two days to participate in a legislative seminar and then Community College Day on the Hill. It was a great experience for them to learn about the political process and to meet with our legislators. All fifteen community college districts spotlighted a program and Iowa Valley chose our conservation technology program. Professor EmiLee Novak shared information about the many careers in conservation technology and discussed issues like environmental quality with our legislators. We rounded out our two days in Des Moines with the Phi Theta Kappa awards banquet where we honored Jenna Hill from Zearing, Iowa, and Xavian Andrews from Gaithersburg, Texas, for their outstanding achievements.

Our winter athletic teams are winding up their seasons. Wrestling sent seven men and ten women to the NJCAA national tournament. The Panthers saw Brent Greenfield earn All-American honors again this year with 6th place on the podium. Women's basketball has seen success this year and has wrapped up their season. The men's basketball team defeated Iowa Lakes Community College to become 1st in Region IV NJCAA and advanced to nationals where they placed 4th! Baseball and softball have been on the road for the last few weeks with home openers right after spring break. ECC saw six of eight of our fall sports have a team grade point average above 3.00 or B. That is a testament to the student's and coaches' commitment to the classroom as well as success on the field.

Graduation is Friday, May 10 at 2:00 pm in Martin Dittmer Gymnasium. For me, it's the best day of the year with students, their families, and our faculty and staff all together to celebrate our students' achievements. So many of our graduates receive scholarships to assist them in making a college education affordable. I am grateful for the generosity of donors that, like my own experience many years ago, help to make a degree at Ellsworth within reach. We appreciate all you do to contribute to student success on our campus and hope you will join us at graduation as we celebrate another class of Ellsworth alumni!

**"Your scholarship is deeply appreciated and will help lessen my financial burden."**

**---Strube Endowed Scholarship Recipient**





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ADAM NEDERHOFF ALUMNI 2005



Ellsworth Community College holds a special place in my heart. I attended ECC from 2003-2005 and then continued my education at BVU's satellite campus at ECC, graduating with a degree that laid the foundation for my career. ECC was the perfect choice for me, close to home, and offered an excellent start on my 4-year degree.

Now, as a proud supporter and advocate for ECC, I'm honored to be involved with the Ellsworth College Foundation. Living in the area again, I see firsthand the impact ECC has on students' lives, providing them with valuable opportunities and a strong start toward their goals.

I'm grateful for the education and experiences ECC provided me, shaping me into who I am today. As a Financial Advisor, I understand the importance of supporting organizations like the Ellsworth College Foundation. ECC offers great opportunities for students, whether they're starting right out of high school or taking a non-traditional route. These students are future leaders in our communities, and the Ellsworth College Foundation ensures they have the resources to succeed.

My family—wife Michelle, daughter Cambry—and I are deeply rooted in this community. I serve on the Hansen Family Hospital Board of Trustees, am a member of the Iowa Falls Rotary, and am involved with the Hotel/Motel Board. Supporting ECC is a way for us to invest in the future of our community and the next generation of leaders. Join me in supporting ECC and its mission!  
#EllsworthCollege #CommunityLeaders #SupportEducation



## ELLSWORTH COLLEGE FOUNDATION TURNS 65!



This past year the Ellsworth College Foundation celebrated 65 years of dedicated service to Ellsworth Community College and it has been a remarkable journey. On November 5, 2023 we marked this significant milestone with our annual gala, a joyous occasion filled with reflection and gratitude. Through the years, our commitment to education, community development, and empowerment has remained unwavering. This celebration not only commemorated our rich history but also laid the foundation for a future filled with continued growth and impact. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our story, contributing 65 years of making a difference in the lives of students and the community at large. Here's to many more year's of postive change and shared success!

# ENTITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

The Pat Clark Art Collection stands as a testament to the transformative power of art within our community. This remarkable collection, curated with care and passion, has become a focal point for inspiration, creativity, and cultural enrichment. Pat Clark's vision in assembling this art collection transcends mere aesthetics; it catalyzes fostering a deep appreciation for the arts among community members. From vibrant paintings to thought-provoking sculptures, each piece contributes to a vibrant tapestry that reflects the diverse voices and perspectives within our community. The impact of the Pat Clark Art Collection extends beyond gallery walls, reaching into the hearts and minds of individuals, sparking dialogue, and creating a shared sense of cultural identity. It stands as a beacon, reminding us of the profound and lasting influence that art can have on shaping a vibrant and connected community.



## Upcoming Events:

May 2024 Spring Opening Reception

August 21, 2024-Art/Music Gala

September 2024-Fall Opening Reception



The Calkins Nature Center not only enriches the educational journey of Ellsworth students but also plays a pivotal role in shaping a community in Iowa Falls that values and preserves the beauty of its natural surroundings. Former Conservation Tech instructor Nancy Slife was pivotal in bringing an outdoor classroom to her Ellsworth students at Calkins Nature Center. She passed away in 2023 and a group of her students and staff want to honor her with a scholarship. If you would like to donate to this scholarship go to our website at [www.ellsworthalum.org](http://www.ellsworthalum.org).

The E-Club plays a pivotal role in bolstering the aspirations of student-athletes by providing scholarships that extend far beyond the playing field. This dynamic organization not only fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among athletes but also recognizes the dedication and hard work they invest in both academics and sports. The scholarships offered by the E-Club serve as a powerful incentive, alleviating financial burdens and enabling student-athletes to pursue their educational goals without compromise. Beyond the tangible support, E-Club scholarships affirm the value of a well-rounded education, acknowledging the discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills honed through athletic endeavors.

## Upcoming Events:

4th of July Golf Tournament

2024-2025 Membership Drive



# ELLSWORTH MEN'S BASKETBALL FINISHES 4TH IN NJCAA DII CHAMPIONSHIP



**PHD  
PASSION \* HUMILITY \* DISCIPLINE**

What a great season for our men's basketball program! We placed 1st in Region IV Championships and 4th in NJCAA Division II. The Ellsworth College Foundation proudly hosted watch parties for each of the games for community members, students, staff/faculty. We handed out t-shirts had refreshments and cheered loudly for our Panthers.

We are so proud of our Panthers for their great year and we will miss the sophomores who will graduate in May!

#GOPANTHERS #EllsworthAlumni



**Ellsworth College Foundation  
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