

ENDOWMENT REPORT

2017

NKU NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

Our endowment allows donors to create a lasting impact by investing in our students and the resources that support their success: scholarships, academic programs that distinguish NKU from its peers, student research, faculty excellence and our outstanding facilities.

The endowment provides a firm foundation of assets that are held in perpetuity, providing long-term sustainable support that allows us to help our students achieve their educational goals, fueling a lifetime of continued development and achievement.



\$746,300

**AVAILABLE FOR
FACULTY SUPPORT**

FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

307

INDIVIDUAL FUNDS

MAKE UP THE NKU FOUNDATION
ENDOWMENT



DR. CAROL SWARTS

STRAWS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION // MEMBER, NKU FOUNDATION, 1998
EMERITUS MEMBER, NKU FOUNDATION, 2010

DONOR IMPACT

Dr. Carol Swarts is a proud member of our NKU family and, like so many of our students past and present, overcame significant challenges to realize her goals and dreams. But Carol persisted and achieved success, and now, because of her generous support, our students' efforts to realize their potential can be less of a struggle.

Born to a family of tenant farmers, Dr. Carol Swarts was one of only three women to graduate from the University of Nebraska Medical College in 1959. Carol's goal in life had always been to become a doctor—even when times dictated that “girls were nurses”—and the accomplishment was a result of her lifelong ambition. She went on to build a career working as an

oncologist in private practice, and for many years, residents of Alaska were fortunate to receive Carol's quality care as a radiation oncologist. Even with a busy and fulfilling career, she recognizes the value of an active life and makes time to travel the globe, checking items off her “bucket list.” Whether hiking in Romania, riding a zip line in Costa Rica or volunteering for various international medical projects, Dr. Carol Swarts passionately pursues a well-lived life.

Carol and her late husband, inventor and Renaissance man Frank Sinton Milburn, lived in Burlington, Kentucky, where Frank enjoyed creating his own inventions and fostering innovation in others. Over the course of two decades, he

helped hundreds of inventors perfect their designs. Recently, Carol donated the couple's Burlington property, the birthplace of countless ideas and achievements, to NKU. Proceeds from the property's sale established the Frank S. Milburn & Dr. Carol Swarts Award for Innovative Research and Creativity, funding a competitive award for College of Arts & Sciences faculty whose proposals demonstrate an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit.

This is just one of the many gifts Carol has given in support of faculty and students at NKU, including:

- Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor Award
- Karen Ruschman Endowed Nursing Award
- Straws Biology Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship
- Swarts and Milburn Undergraduate Research Award
- Carol Swarts Milburn Scholarship in World Languages and Literatures
- Support for the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project

Carol is currently finalizing a substantial planned gift that will benefit countless students and faculty in perpetuity. Her gift will support education abroad scholarships, undergraduate research and faculty research in biological sciences.

Carol's parents believed education enabled a better life and that helping others was a path to self-satisfaction



Through her personal gifts and those of the Straws Charitable Foundation—founded in 1998 by Carol and her family to provide support for education, research and the prevention of environmental degradation—Carol continues to have a tremendous impact on the success of NKU students and faculty. More than just a donor, Carol enjoys close friendships with many faculty, staff, students and alumni. We're proud to call Dr. Carol Swarts a member of the NKU family.

The newly established Schlotman Family Foundation has honored Boone County High School Principal, **Tim Schlotman**, with the establishment of the Timothy J. Schlotman Educator Scholarship at Northern Kentucky University.

For Tim Schlotman ('84), education is a family value. And when his brother Mike Schlotman, CFO/ Executive Vice President of the Kroger Co., decided to honor Tim with the establishment of the Schlotman Family Foundation, it was obvious that the benefactors should be future educators.

When Tim is asked about his educational philosophy, his response is one word: connecting. Recently named principal of Boone County High School—where he has worked for 33 years as a history teacher, track and cross country coach, guidance counselor and administrator—Tim sees connecting

as the most important tool for helping students succeed.

“Kids have changed over my time here, obviously,” he says, “but they haven't changed in the sense that, until they understand that you care about them as individuals, they don't want to listen too much. Kids like to be heard.”

“Tim has a great ability to interact and connect with people,” says Mike. “He just has a very engaging personality.”

One thing that enables Tim to connect with students is his own understanding of student hardships. After struggling academically his freshman year here at NKU, he left school to work full time—and immediately wanted to be back in the classroom. After a year away from campus, Tim returned to the university, following a love of history fostered by an influential high school teacher, to earn bachelor's degrees in history and secondary education; he also coached NKU's cross country team, a skill he's remained passionate about in the years since. Tim turned around his early troubles and eventually earned Outstanding Student in Secondary Education recognition from the Education department. This evident willingness to work hard has helped Tim excel in the field of education.

“There is no doubt in my mind he could have chosen the path of going into a business environment and working his way up the corporate ladder,” Mike says of his brother, “but fortunately for a lot of students at Boone County High School, he decided to become an educator. I've always been impressed that he chose a career path where the rewards were not financial but were more fulfilling.”

The Schlotman Family Foundation awards educator scholarships to students in the middle grades or secondary education fields of study, enabling future teachers to pursue degrees, no matter their financial situation.

\$2,027,000
PAID FOR STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

855
STUDENTS
RECEIVING
SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

NKU
ENDOWMENTS
PROVIDE
FUNDING FOR:

ACADEMIC
SUPPORT
INSTRUCTION

PUBLIC
SERVICE

RESEARCH
STUDENT
FINANCIAL
AID

UNIVERSITY
FACILITIES
AND
EQUIPMENT



"We established it last year with two goals in mind," says Mike. "Tim and I grew up in very humble beginnings, so to have the ability to give back with the establishment of the scholarship at NKU is very exciting. And the second is healthcare—my wife, Teri, is a cancer survivor, so the other focus of the foundation is providing research money for a cancer cure."

NKU education students, as well as those they'll eventually reach in the classroom, are fortunate to have the opportunity to receive the Timothy J. Schlotman Educator Scholarship to connect them with their dreams.

STUDENT IMPACT

"This is great. Now how am I going to pay for this?"

This was **Kayla Combs'** first thought when she opened her NKU acceptance letter. Combs is a first-generation college student from Beattyville, Kentucky, who watched her single mother struggle to support their family by working minimum-wage jobs. She knew college would open the door to a better future, but she also knew her mother wouldn't be able to help her pay for it.

With little room left in the family budget for extra expenses, Combs knew it was up to her. She applied for all the scholarships she could

find. Her hard work and involvement in high school extracurriculars paid off. Combs was awarded multiple scholarships, including the Boehne Family First-Generation Scholarship, a scholarship launched by Rich ('81) and Lisa Boehne ('81), both NKU alumni who were also first-generation college students. The scholarship was a game changer for Combs.

"I am so thankful to Rich and Lisa for their generosity. Just knowing there are people out there who believe in me and want me to succeed means the world to me, and I cannot thank them enough," says Combs, who has made the most of her college experience. She's polishing her leadership skills in the Norse Leadership Society and gaining real-world professional experience through the Marketing Club. Combs also works part-time as a student office assistant in the Haile/US Bank College of Business Advising Center.

Combs is also excited about the discoveries she's making about herself. "I'm in my first marketing class this semester and I really enjoy it. I enjoy designing, and I'm looking at going into advertising or communications. I like being creative! I plan to stay in the area and work for an advertising agency when I graduate."

Her options will be numerous because she's on track to graduate from NKU with no student debt,

thanks to the scholarships she's earned. "It's life changing," she says. "Because of donor support, students are able to get an education and a career they want. Donors are setting students up for a great life."

ENDOWMENT IMPACT

One of the primary goals of the NKU Foundation is to exercise effective and responsible stewardship of the gifts to the university. The NKUF investment committee, in consultation with its professional investment advisor, Fund Evaluation Group, LLC (FEG), proactively manages the foundation's portfolio. Staff and Investment Committee members offer diverse areas of expertise that bring a wealth of financial experience to the management of the foundation's investments.

With the input of FEG, the Investment Committee hires investment managers whose portfolios fit within the foundation's investment policy of long-term growth and minimizing risk versus reward.

Target allocations and investment managers are reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure objectives are being met and assets are rebalanced to keep them in line with the target ranges for each asset class.

\$100.3
MILLION
ENDOWMENT POOL
MARKET VALUE
AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

\$120,797,000
IN TOTAL ASSETS
AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

ABOUT THE NKU FOUNDATION

Our Mission

Our mission is to secure, invest, steward and distribute private resources in support of Northern Kentucky University; to advocate for the university's best interests; and to build lasting relationships with alumni and friends.

Our 2020 Vision

We will be recognized by the NKU community, donors and friends, peer organizations and regional leaders for excellence in fundraising, stewardship and advocacy that advances Northern Kentucky University.