

What You Can Do Now

To make a charitable gift in any size and in any form, all you need is an interest in learning more:

1. Contact Patti Kramlinger at 507-389-6742 or patti.kramlinger@mnsu.edu to discuss the possibility of donating to the Minnesota State Mankato Foundation.
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor to make sure this gift fits your goals.
3. Plan your legacy at mnsu.planningyourlegacy.org.

Minnesota State University Mankato FOUNDATION

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Minnesota State University Mankato FOUNDATION



Legacy Society Newsletter

Leave a legacy that will impact generations of students at Minnesota State Mankato.

Winter 2016

Funding for the Future

A recent gift to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Minnesota State Mankato has Dr. Brian Martensen, dean of the College, thinking about what the most pressing environmental issues of the future might be.

The Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr Environmental and Earth Science Fund is forward-thinking, generous and flexible in terms of how it might be used.

"That's what is so unique about this gift," Martensen says. "The donors are leaving it up to the faculty to determine what would benefit students and the environment the most. It's exciting—and a lot to process."

Martensen said the fund, which will be gifted to the University as part of the Vonderharrs' estate, will allow faculty to generate an idea and then work with a team of students, who will receive hands-on experience. And the amount of the gift, which the donors prefer to not make public, is significant enough to have a tremendous impact.

"This isn't seed money, this is money that will help address some of the most critical environmental issues of the future and see them through," Martensen says.

Because the fund will allow undergraduate or graduate applications for research or fellowship across several departments, Martensen predicts this will not only provide timely research on current issues, but also allow for increased collaboration.

"To solve critical environmental issues of the future, we will need to work across disciplines," Martensen says. "This fund allows that."

Martensen is grateful for the practical experiences the fund will give students and the impact it will have on the region and world, all while educating students at Minnesota State Mankato to become global thinkers and citizens.

"The Vonderharrs' trust in us is a big responsibility," Martensen says. "We don't know what we'll be facing in the future, but their intent is clear and we have a great mechanism in place. We are honored to accept that."



Ensure that your wishes are carried out exactly as you want them to be with a planned gift to the University. Contact Patti Kramlinger at patti.kramlinger@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6742 to learn more.





From Development

Keeping Control



One of the things I've said most often in my role as a development officer is that planning how your estate should be used is one of the best things you can do. But I don't say it because those plans will benefit Minnesota State Mankato or another charitable organization. I say it because it gives you control over your legacy and the impact that it has on others.

In the case of Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr, a donor-advised fund allowed them to set the parameters for the use of their estate while leaving certain decisions up to the recipients. That kind of flexibility is remarkable. It gives the Vonderharrs confidence that their gift will be handled as they wish and gives the University the ability to make timely, impactful decisions about its use.

There are so many ways we can each plan for our legacy, and all of them are great options. I will say it just one more time: Planning how your estate should be used is one of the best things you can do, no matter how you do it.

Patti Kramlinger
Director of Development,
College of Science, Engineering and Technology



Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr: Investing in the Environment

Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr may be recently retired, but they find plenty of ways to keep busy. They've restored the prairie on their property near Mankato, for example, and both often volunteer. They've also spent time planning for the future by preparing their estate.

"Nobody's getting out of this life alive," Kathryn says. "We'd rather make plans now. You can't control your wealth from the grave."

With that in mind, the Vonderharrs set up a donor-advised fund through the Mankato Area Foundation, a community foundation that will disperse their funds in keeping with their wishes after they are gone.

Part of the Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr Fund will go to Minnesota State Mankato for the purpose of addressing future environmental issues.

"Ignoring the environment is one of our biggest threats," Jim says. "Ecology is important to us, and we'd like to see new research used to improve the planet."

The Vonderharrs hope that planning ahead will make things easier for those who manage their estate when the time comes. And although neither of them are graduates of Minnesota State Mankato, they are strong supporters of public education and giving back.

"Give where you live," Kathryn says. "We like knowing we make a difference, and we think this fund will."

"Doing this in advance feels so good! If you have something you'd like to see happen, get it addressed."
—Jim and Kathryn Vonderharr

The Convenience and Simplicity of Donor-Advised Funds

Your financial and charitable goals are a direct reflection of the people, places and organizations that matter most to you. While it can sometimes be difficult to keep track of everything you'd like to support, a donor-advised fund is often an easy way to for you to have "one-stop giving."

How It Works:

- You open a donor-advised fund through a written agreement at a community foundation or sponsoring organization. The Vonderharrs chose to go through the Mankato Area Foundation, which will work closely with Minnesota State Mankato to ensure their wishes are being carried out.
- You can make contributions and updates to your fund at any time. Your contributions are invested by the community foundation or sponsoring organization, which provides regular accounting for you.
- You make the recommendations of when to distribute and what amounts to distribute to which organizations.
- You receive a federal income tax charitable deduction for gifts to your donor-advised fund.

If you would like more information on setting up a donor-advised fund to support Minnesota State Mankato, please contact Patti Kramlinger at 507-389-6742 or patti.kramlinger@mnsu.edu for more information.

