

## Kendra Barnes: 'Why I Give'



*Kendra Barnes*

From the first time Kendra Barnes attended Northeast Community College, she knew she had a desire to help Northeast students succeed and establish a future. Planned giving gave her an opportunity to do so.

Barnes started her journey at Northeast in 1999 as a non-traditional student through distance learning.

"Northeast was one of the only community colleges around that offered distance learning at the time, so this allowed me to be able to care for my daughter, work full time, and get a quality education all at once," Barnes stated. After a while, she decided to move to Norfolk and finish her degree in person.

Three years later Barnes graduated with an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration.

Since then, she has been involved with Northeast and the Norfolk community by being an active voice in local legislation meetings and serving as a current board member for the Northeast Community College Foundation.

Being involved again with Northeast made her wonder how she could do more to help students like her.

"As a non-traditional student, I had a lot of help through programs, scholarships, and grants. I understand the struggle that a lot of students are facing and what they are having to go through," Barnes stated. "So when I was presented with the opportunity of planned giving I was all for it."

Dr. Tracy Kruse, vice president of development and external affairs, explained there are many different options for someone who is wanting to become a planned giving member. "Between donations, endowed scholarships, and a designation in your will," Kruse said, "there are plenty of ways to show your support for the future of Northeast."

Barnes decided to designate a portion of her estate to be donated to the Northeast Community College Foundation, where it will help provide students with the resources they need to succeed.

"I would like to see my gift be given to students who need a little extra to get through," Barnes said. "Dr. Tracy Kruse, had mentioned to me previously that there is a Student Emergency Assistance Fund created for students who find themselves in hard times and I really gravitated towards that because I once was in their shoes."

Her advice to anyone thinking about becoming a planned giving member is to start by designating a certain amount in your will to Northeast. "It is easy and most importantly, it is an affordable way to give."

"Financially, I don't have a lot to give to the Foundation," Barnes explained. "Sometimes the students just need a spokesperson, and I can be that for them throughout the community," she said.

Northeast alum, faculty and staff, Board of Governors, Foundation Board of Directors and their families have proven to be our greatest supporters," Kruse said. "If you have not already done so, please consider remembering Northeast in your will."

Kruse continued, "Your gift can have a lasting impact on students for generations to come. If you have already included Northeast in your will, please let us know. That will allow us to have the documentation in place to ensure the intentions for your generous gift are carried out according to your wishes."

For more information please visit [northeast.edu/giving/planned-giving](http://northeast.edu/giving/planned-giving) or email the Foundation Office at [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu). ■

### Did You Know

More than half of the people in the U.S. don't have a will? A goal without a plan is just a wish. Don't wish your assets away. Everyone who owns anything has an estate and needs an estate plan.

If you don't have a will, the state will step in at your death and make decisions for you based on the current laws.



Scan the code to learn more!

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## Planned Gifts Don't Have To Be Complicated

Here are two easy ways to become a planned giving member:

**Charitable Bequest:** A bequest contains provisions that can be made in a donor's will to transfer cash or other assets to the Northeast Community College Foundation at the time of the donor's death. Distributions can be made either as a specific dollar amount or as a percentage of the estate.

If you wish to name Northeast Community College Foundation in your will or estate plan, we should be named as:

*I give Northeast Community College Foundation (\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate) or (the sum of \$\_\_\_\_) for the benefit of the College. This shall be handled according to instructions that may be on record with the Northeast Community College Foundation. If there are no instructions on file, then the gift shall be used for endowment.*

**Tax ID number: 51-0145185. Date of Incorporation: June 1976**

**Life Insurance:** Life insurance gifts may be accomplished in several ways:

- Donor may name the Foundation as an irrevocable beneficiary.
- Proceeds may be part of a gross estate, with the gift qualifying as a charitable deduction.
- Donor may purchase a policy naming the Foundation as beneficiary, then contribute annually to the Foundation for the annual premium on the policy. This annual donation is a charitable contribution.
- Donor may gift a paid-up policy receiving the charitable deduction equal to the replacement costs of the policy.



For more information on how you can become a planned giving member through a charitable bequest or through your life insurance policy, please visit with a member of our Advisory Council. A list of members can be found at [northeast.edu/giving/planned-giving/advisory-council](http://northeast.edu/giving/planned-giving/advisory-council).

