

2025 Impact Report







Our first scholarship awards, back in the 1979-1980 academic year, were a modest \$9,500. With time, a focus on sustainable growth, excellent board leadership, and generous investments from donors like you, our Foundation continues to thrive.

It is with great pride that we announce that for the second year in a row, FVTC Foundation scholarship awards exceed \$1,000,000!

It is not possible to fully measure the life-long, positive impact of an education on an individual, their family, or our community, but we hope you enjoy this snapshot of the work of the FVTC Foundation this year. Work that was possible, because of you.

Thank you for making college possible!

Executive Director

Rebecca Boulanger

Board President

Michele Nevins

Our Mission

Partnering with FVTC to cultivate community relationships and philanthropic support that enhance the mission and vision of FVTC.

Our Vision

A community where lifelong learning is accessible to all.



Support to FVTC

\$3,050,292

\$3,054,660



Total Contributions



\$2,409,357

2025

\$1,784,421

Total Assets



388

2024

\$29,814,030

2025

\$26,163,514

Scholarship Funds



392

Scholarships Awarded

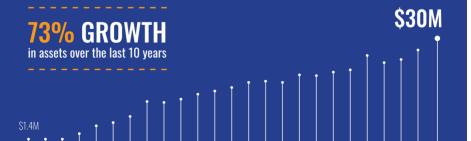
1,417

2024



1 257

1,357



An Echo of Success:

How One Generation Empowered the Next

Thomas Micke, an FVTC Business Management student, faced extreme hardship during his Spring 2025 semester. Juggling 16 credits and two jobs, he was navigating his father's major surgery when his mother was suddenly admitted to the ER floors away. Micke described himself as "sleep-deprived and overwhelmed" by the dual family medical emergencies.

Amid this stress, Micke received the Al Zierler Memorial Scholarship. He stated the award provided a vital "sense of relief and reassurance," offering financial stability that allowed him to be present for his loved ones and continue his education with "peace of mind."

The scholarship honors Al Zierler, a first-generation college student who graduated from FVTC in the 1970s. To afford his education, Zierler famously worked the night shift at a cheese factory and often had to sleep in his car on campus for brief rest before class. Zierler went on to become the President and CEO of Capital Credit Union.

In 2011, he was named FVTC's Alumni of the Year. The Al Zierler Memorial Scholarship was established by his family to support future FVTC business students, embodying his belief in the footing the college provided.

The Zierler Family (from left) Back: Kelly, Michelle and Kathy Front: Al and Judy



Age: 28

Hometown: Kimberly, WI

Program: Business Management, Associate Degree

For Micke—a military veteran and entrepreneur—the scholarship provided the crucial breathing room to "keep moving forward," a philosophy he lives by. This support carried him through one of the most difficult periods of his life without forcing him to abandon his goals. Micke is on track to graduate next fall, a testament to how the hard-won success of one generation can empower the next to persevere.





Support for High Flying Career Goals

Lauren Stettbacher has been fascinated by airplanes since attending EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and she is now pursuing her dream of becoming a professional pilot. She is currently a full-time student in the Aviation Management program at FVTC, balancing her studies with a part-time job at the Fond du Lac County Airport and private pilot training.

Stettbacher's pilot training dream came at a high cost, with her first-semester tuition being four times her financial aid offer.
Receiving the Sean Paul Gonia Aviation Scholarship from the FVTC Foundation provided her with much-needed relief and a boost of confidence.

Stettbacher said the support "encouraged me to know that others believe in my potential."

Lauren Stettbacher

Age: 19

Hometown: North Fond du Lac, WI

Program: Aviation Management,

Associate Degree

A Family's Legacy

The scholarship was established by Laur and Sylvia Gonia in memory of their son, Sean Paul Gonia, who worked hard to secure scholarships while pursuing his pilot training in the 1990s. For Laur Gonia, who also benefited from scholarships, establishing the fund is a way of "paying back" the help his family once received.

Stettbacher is on track to graduate next May. As a volunteer pilot for the EAA Young Eagles program, she has already given 17 young people their first flights, demonstrating that she is already a role model for future aviators.





Every gift to the FVTC Foundation helps turn aspirations into achievements. Thank you for your support of FVTC students!

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