

WESTERN FOUNDATION

2022-23 REPORT

Changing Lives

Investing in myself

By Eric Jacobson
Public Affairs Specialist

Overcoming the odds is nothing new to Western students. Whether it be financial constraints, childcare responsibilities, or work conflicts, Western students always find a way to make the impossible possible.

La Crosse native Moua Torgerson is the third child of ten in her family. As the oldest daughter of a traditional Hmong family, Torgerson did what she could to help her family, taking care of her siblings and working at McDonalds throughout high school. She would often help her parents pay bills or take care of children. When her father died of liver cancer seven years ago,



Moua as a child with younger sibling Vue.



Moua and her husband, Mike, with their dogs, Mimi and Shylo.

Submitted photos

she helped become a primary caregiver with her mother, forgoing higher education.

"I didn't go to school right away. I just wanted to make sure my parents were OK," she said. "I always wanted to invest in them and my family."

Later in her career, Torgerson moved to the Mayo Clinic Health System, where she worked in various roles. At Mayo, Torgerson quickly rose through the ranks, helping manage the La Crosse location's COVID clinic for testing and later, vaccination. She helped develop the mechanism by which patients checked in, earning accolades across the Mayo Clinic Health System. Now, she works as an Associated Clinical Research Coordinator, helping cancer patients enroll in nationwide Oncology studies and assisting in the collection of data. All these

achievements were done without a formal college degree.

But Torgerson wanted more. After being turned down for numerous promotions, her husband, Mike, encouraged her to pursue higher education. She enrolled in Western's Medical Administrative Professional online program, with hopes of transferring to Winona State to complete her bachelor degree. Thanks to Western's transfer agreement with Winona State University, every credit she'll earn at Western will transfer seamlessly to her future studies. For the last several years, Torgerson has been doing it all; helping care for her siblings, maintaining a job, and going back to school full time. She does it all with determination and grace.

MOUA

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"We should never stop learning."

MOUA

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Like nearly every student at Western, Torgerson was encouraged to apply for scholarships to help pay for her education through Western's Foundation. This past spring, she was named the recipient of the President's Scholarship, which helped her financial situation significantly. After years of taking care of her family, it was time to give back to herself.

"When I received that scholarship, I felt like this was the very first time that someone wanted to invest in me," she said proudly.

Torgerson graduated from Western last spring, and she will transfer to Winona State for her bachelor's degree in healthcare leadership following the completion of additional general education courses. Through it all, however, it was that little extra push in the form of scholarships that made it all possible. Moua's spirit, determination, and drive are all attributes unique to her story, but they are the qualities that make all Western students so special.



Moua and brother Kue at the YWCA Tribute where Moua received the Outstanding College Student award.

THANK YOU



Western Technical College's resources, such as Access Services, have helped me understand my academic potential and aided in my success with the school. **Thank you for providing me with this scholarship opportunity!** I am so grateful.

Best Regards,
Megan Cole

Thank you so much for this scholarship. This money will not only help allow me to follow my dreams of being a social worker so I can help people the same way so many others have helped me, but it will also give me the finances and flexibility to focus on school AND spend extra time each week with my children. Your generosity and support are a blessing to me and my family and we will be forever grateful. The world needs more people like you who want to help and see people succeed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Human Services student



Thank you for selecting me to receive a scholarship. I absolutely love the Interior Design program at Western Technical College; it has provided me with the best experiences I could have ever asked for! This program and scholarship will help my dreams become reality, and I'm so excited to graduate in April! Thank you.

Interior Design student

I am honored to have been selected for your scholarship. As I head into my clinical rotations, financial stability is more important than ever, and your scholarship gives me the privilege to focus on becoming the best MLT I can be. Thank you very much for your generosity and kindness.

Medical Lab Technician student

George and Betty Kruck: A Quiet Powerhouse of Philanthropy and Support for Education

By Julie Lemon
Director of Marketing, Communications, and Legislative Advocacy

In a world often dazzled by high-profile figures, there exist hidden gems whose impact is felt far and wide, even though they prefer to remain in the background. George and Betty Kruck are the embodiment of such understated yet monumental contributors to the community. Over the past two decades, they have profoundly influenced the Coulee Region through their unwavering support for education and philanthropy.

Humble Beginnings and the Power of Education

George and Betty Kruck's life stories are steeped in humble beginnings and a profound appreciation for education. George's early years were marked by his upbringing in an orphanage in the Racine area where the director instilled in him an expectation that he would receive an education and attend college.

Betty, on the other hand, grew up in southeastern Missouri in a rural area that was one of the last in the country to get connected to electricity. However, her parents, both college graduates, ingrained in her the importance of completing her own college education. George and Betty both firmly believed in the transformational power of education and set out on their individual journeys to achieve it.

George's pursuit of higher education was supported by the Korean GI Bill after serving in the Air Force and going through their electronics school. Despite his background in electronics, he chose a different path, becoming a social worker in Racine upon graduating from college in 1961. He was later hired as an estimator at a company specializing in industrial roofing and mechanical insulation. He rose to the position as president and owner of

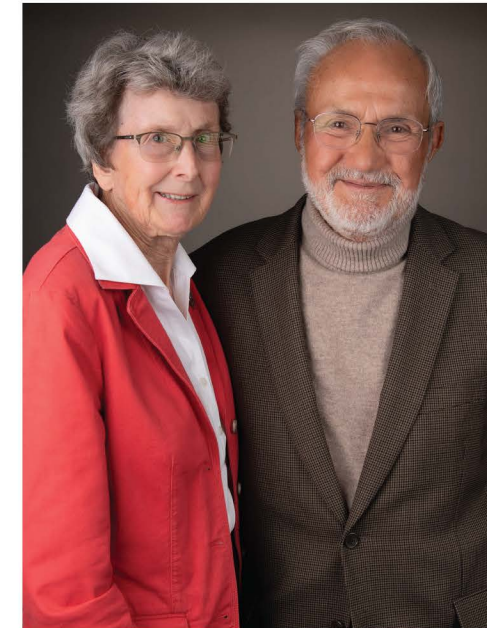


Photo by Jayme Hansen '98

They share a passion for community involvement, primarily through education and volunteerism. It is their strong belief that the opportunities they had, and continue to have, are rooted in education. Their dedication has not only inspired others to support Western but has also contributed to a culture of philanthropy within the community.

The Krucks' contributions to Western Technical College are substantial, taking particular interest in scholarships and campus initiatives. They are dedicated to assisting students who demonstrate significant potential and drive. Their philanthropy aims to provide that extra boost to students who need it most, enabling them to pursue their educational dreams.

A Message to Fellow Donors

For those considering donating to Western, George and Betty offer a resounding message: Do it! They passionately believe that such contributions benefit not only individual students but the entire community. The results, they emphasize, are evident when graduates secure well-paying jobs and become active and engaged members of the community. Their experiences have demonstrated that learning begets more learning, and the couple firmly believes in the enduring value of education, often quoting that we should never stop learning.

George and Betty Kruck's humble influence on education and philanthropy is nothing short of remarkable. Their dedication to Western and the Coulee Region serves as an inspiration to all, showcasing the transformative power of education and the immense potential of philanthropy in changing lives and communities. The legacy they are building will continue to inspire future generations, illuminating the path to success for countless students.

the company. Meanwhile, Betty embarked on her career in education, teaching at the Racine Unified School District for an impressive 34 years.

Connecting with Western and the Coulee Region

The Krucks' connection with the college came through a friend and Western advocate. Deb Johnson Towner, their CPA and the current treasurer of the Western Foundation Board, encouraged George to join the board. Notably, George has recently assumed the role of Board President, making their impact even more substantial. Their involvement with the college has allowed them to witness firsthand the remarkable transformations that higher education can bring to students' lives.

A Commitment to Community Involvement

George and Betty's involvement in the community extends beyond their generous financial contributions. Both believe that one doesn't make it alone, and their own stories exemplify the power of mentorship and support in achieving success.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2022-2023
Current Assets	\$841,386
Investments	\$7,739,862
Other	\$7,047
Total Assets	\$8,588,295

LIABILITIES	2022-2023
Liabilities	\$161,402
Net Assets	\$8,426,893
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$8,588,295

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2022-2023
Contributions	\$901,568
Investment Income	\$677,519
College in-kind, Rental, Other	\$422,975
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,002,062

EXPENSES	2022-2023
Awards	\$587,209
Program Support	\$386,881
Contracted Services, Other	\$428,193
Total Expenses	\$1,402,283

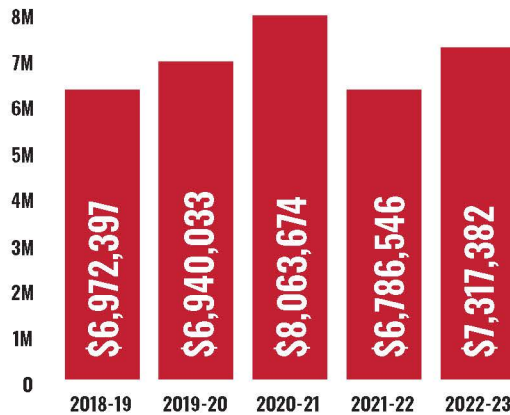
FUND BALANCE	2022-2023
Beginning	\$6,786,392
Ending	\$7,317,382

96% GRADUATES EMPLOYED



\$585,127 given to students!

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE



1,117 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



\$50,814

awarded in student emergency funding

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

 George Kruck President	 Ray Slattery Vice President	 Jackie Gerke-Edwards Secretary	 Debra Johnson Towner '77 Treasurer	 Raghad Alkhazraji MBA, MASL	 Paul Bagniefski '94	 Jerry Bisinger	 Gail Cleary
 Monica Dejno '99	 Scott Iverson	 Angie Lawrence	 Ken Peterson	 Brandon Prinsen	 Joan Sonsalla Ph.D.	 Nick Von Haden '03	 Jeff Wieser '83

STUDENT & COLLEGE SUPPORT



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Jaime Fortier '98, Donor Relations and Scholarship Coordinator