This past fiscal year, **1,318 donors** helped raise **$4.2 million** for the NIU College of Business. This generous support is vital to recruiting and retaining the best educators, providing scholarships to hard working students, addressing the strategic priorities of the college, offering experiential learning opportunities, and ensuring engaging and innovative programs. Simply put, you help us deliver on our mission.
Your investment in our students, faculty and programs is critical to our continued success. As we get ready for the 2017-18 academic year, I want to share with you many of our 2016-17 accomplishments that highlight how your commitment to the NIU College of Business impacts so many lives.

In 2017, you helped:

**Drive business innovation**
- 9 externally funded Experiential Learning Center projects impacted 63 students.
- 621 business professionals visited Barsema Hall to share their knowledge with faculty and students.
- 226 students enrolled in entrepreneurship programing supported by the Mike and Kristina McGrath Entrepreneurship Initiative.

**Change lives**
- 307 scholarships totaling $718,701 awarded in 2016-17.
- 56 female students participated in the Crocker Program for Emerging Business Leaders.
- 100 percent of Master of Accounting Science students used the Ernst & Young Professional Development Center services.
- 384 B.S. graduates in 2017 (64 percent) participated in an at least one internship.

**Make a difference**
- 1,051 student service assignments completed through the Business Passport Program.
- 20 students traveled to developing nations to study entrepreneurship and microfinancing in social enterprises.
- 21 funded chairs, professorships and fellowships who inspire, mentor and motivate students to impact the world around them.

Thank you again for your commitment and support. Your engagement helps transform students, faculty and programs. If you wish to discuss future opportunities for engagement or help drive change, please contact me or Noca Ervin at 815-753-6260 or email Noca at nervin1@niu.edu

Sincerely,

Balaji Rajagopalan, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Business

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College of Business Vision Statement
We create knowledge; transform business; and develop principled, adaptable global citizens through innovative active learning and personalized experiences.
Exceptional Students, Exceptional Futures

Megan O’Brien

Since graduating in May from Northern Illinois University, I’ve been reflecting upon my experiences and the person I have become. Choosing to be an accountancy major at NIU was one of the best decisions I made.

At NIU, I was able to attend the Crocker Emerging Business Leaders Reception, hear world-class speakers, learn in an incredible building, receive mentorship from top executives, attend numerous job fairs, intern at two top firms, participate in a job shadowing program, hone my interview skills, and perhaps most impactful: graduate debt-free. The common thread running through all of these events and opportunities is alumni involvement, and I am confident that the contributions from College of Business alumni are the reason for my academic success. It is because of these opportunities that I understand how to network, communicate effectively and have the inspiration to give back to a university that gave me so much.

In fact, I have set a goal to donate as much to the College of Business as was given to me. This is the greatest way to honor all of the scholarship support that I received. Getting through one of the top accounting programs in the country was not always easy. Scholarships gave me the confidence that I had the tools I needed to be successful and that I was in the right place doing the right thing. These scholarships were given to me at some of the most challenging points in my life. I viewed each one as an investment in my career and I will be forever thankful to the donors who helped give me the confidence to overcome the obstacles that I encountered. Without this generous support, I would have had to spend all of my extra time working to support myself and my education.

I would like to thank the generous alumni and friends for their gifts of time, talent and financial support. Without these gifts, students like me would not be able to unlock our full potential.

This summer, I am interning at one of the Big Four public accounting firms in Chicago. I will return to NIU in the fall of 2017 to pursue a Master of Accountancy Science degree and work on passing the CPA exams. I am incredibly grateful to be a student at one of the best business schools in the nation and I aspire to have a full-time job offer upon graduation in public accounting.

Thank you again. I truly would not be the person that I am without your contributions.
Outstanding Professors, Outstanding Philanthropy

Rebecca Shortridge

As the first female chair of the department, I am honored to be the Donald E. Kieso Endowed Chair in Accountancy. Since the start of my tenure, we have been busy implementing several initiatives, none of which would be possible without the support provided by our generous donors.

In the fall 2017, we will begin our new Master of Accountancy (MAC) degree program. The MAC is a 36-credit, evening program designed for working professionals who have an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than accounting. The MAC offers students the opportunity to enhance their accounting skills for career advancement and/or CPA-exam eligibility purposes.

In addition to offering a new program, we have enhanced our existing programs by incorporating data analytics into the curriculum. At the undergraduate level, students are now required to complete a data analytics in accounting course. At the graduate level, we have added data analytics to our existing judgment and decision making course, as well as added a data analytics area of focus to our Master of Accounting Science (MAS) program.

Thanks to donors, like those who contributed to the Donald E. Kieso Endowed Chair in Accountancy fund, the Department of Accountancy is able to continually innovate and ensure that our students are receiving the training that they need to succeed.

Introducing our new gift officer

Teri Gensler

We are pleased to welcome Teri Gensler as our new Senior Director of Advancement for the College of Business.

Teri has a proven track record of building strong relationships with alumni and friends to advance the university through philanthropic partnerships. Teri brings more than 15 years of development experience, working with the Rochelle Community Hospital and as a Director of Major Gifts for the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Most recently, Teri served as Northern's Regional Director of Advancement – Midwest.

Teri looks forward to creating new connections with you, our valued alumni and friends of the College of Business. She can be reached at 815-753-1301 or tgensler@niu.edu.