



NDSA-05-1819

A Resolution in Support of the North Dakota Challenge Fund Grant Program

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Challenge Fund Grant program was created in 2013 to stimulate philanthropic donations to institutions under the authority of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Challenge Fund encourages higher education foundations to seek financial contributions from private donors through a two-for-one match program, so that a donor's \$2 contribution made to an institution's foundation will be matched by a \$1 contribution from the state of North Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, Challenge Funds have sparked a swelling of support from private donors since their inception, netting higher education \$160 million in direct funding for student scholarships, educational infrastructure, research, and technology; and,

WHEREAS, funding for the Challenge Fund Grant program was severely slashed by 90% due to tax revenue shortfalls experienced during the 2016-2017 biennium; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NDSA supports the extension of the Challenge Fund Grant program and encourages the North Dakota State Legislature to extend it through the 2020-2021 biennium; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the legislature reinstates the policy of appropriating a minimum of \$2 million dollars from this fund to student scholarships; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA urges the legislature to return the appropriation for Challenge Fund Grants to levels equal to or exceeding those passed in the 2013 legislative session; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA shall adopt the Challenge Fund Grant program as one of its 2019 legislative priorities.