

It was an honor to accept a board position on the University of North Dakota Alumni Foundation. Not because I'm an alumnus. Not because I graduated from this fine institution of higher learning. Not because I have children going to UND. I accepted this position because it gave me an opportunity to fulfill a promise.

When I started at UND, I was a typical freshman with little knowledge but a big dream to be part of the future. Most everywhere I went, fellow students were welcoming, and the faculty and staff provided much needed guidance to an 18-year-old freshman student.

Being involved in student activities and student leadership was invaluable. Having the opportunity to work with smart and caring campus leaders like Gordon Henry and President Tom Clifford was life changing. I will never forget President Clifford telling me "do the right things and the right things will happen". It is something I have tried to live by to this day.

This guidance and experience shaped and molded me. It was part of what led me to become who I am today. I want to fulfill a promise to enhance and grow our university, so students for generations can have these, if not greater, experiences.

I accepted the position, I pledged my resources and my time, and I encouraged students because I know how critical it is to have those fresh faces and energy on our campus. Please join me in supporting these students and consider a contribution to the UND Promise Scholarship. Until the end of 2017, your financial contribution will be matched, making your promise to UND reach further.