



John M Belk
Endowment
ELEVATE THROUGH EDUCATION

VISION

A stronger North Carolina where all residents have access to educational pathways that help them realize their career goals aligned with our state's workforce needs.

MISSION

Transforming postsecondary educational opportunities to meet North Carolina's evolving workforce needs.

STRATEGIES

- **ACCESS** – Improving access to postsecondary education by supporting organizations that remove barriers and provide opportunities for all students.
- **COMPLETION** – Increasing the number of underrepresented students who complete postsecondary education with credentials relevant to market demands.
- **WORKFORCE RELEVANCE** – Building collaboration between all stakeholders to open pathways that align with workforce needs and lead students to living-wage employment.

ENDOWMENT HISTORY

The John M. Belk Endowment was founded in 1995, initially to fund a scholarship program at Davidson College, John's beloved alma mater. His vision for the scholarship was to bring the most talented students to this highly acclaimed educational institution, regardless of their individual means, and subsequently improve the state's credentials and workforce.

John inherently believed that a quality education and leadership training are key prerequisites to leading a productive and fulfilling life in this complex and ever-changing world. Today the John Montgomery Belk Scholarship program provides one of the nation's most prestigious and generous undergraduate scholarship opportunities, and the Endowment's Board continues to work with Davidson to ensure its ongoing success.

The overall endowment's purpose, however, has grown and evolved over the years. The central focus is still on education, but with intentional latitude to address the changing landscape, and current needs as determined by the Board of Directors, led by John's daughter, Mary Claudia (MC Belk Pilon).

In accordance with his legacy, we believe in the value of education as a means to personal fulfillment and community vitality. A strong work ethic, integrity, faith and family inspire us, as does the optimism and wit of John M. Belk.