

BROMMEL-HAHS-STEINBERG SCHOLARSHIP IN GLOBAL STUDIES

The entire field of higher education has been rapidly changing. Students now must take a larger view of the world and study how other places, cultures, and economic systems interact! Northeastern must now prepare more students to face a complicated and interwoven national and international government system. Both Dr. Sharon Hahs and her predecessor, Dr. Salme Steinberg, have led the way in expanding the mission of Northeastern to encompass global issues. In 2013 a major and minor in Global Studies was created and has now graduated many students.

This scholarship honors the leadership of these first two women presidents of Northeastern. “Dr. Steinberg encouraged and helped me start the 1846 Founders Society, an organization to solicit gifts and endowments to further projects, lecturers, scholarships and faculty research projects,” said Dr. Brommel. “Strangely Northeastern with roots going back to 1846 had little or no endowment. There were far too few scholarships. I had approached other presidents at NEIU to bolster support for this endeavor. I got nowhere. The earlier presidents dismissed me and said there was no need, for they got enough funds from the legislature in Springfield. I never trusted those politicians to consistently provide the necessary resources to maintain a first-rate university!”

Dr. Brommel continued, “Dr. Steinberg listened in a different way and acknowledged the needs that state funds do not meet. She became co-founder of the Founders Society, and hosted the first events. Today we know of some 60-70 people who have indicated an interest and commitment in their estate plans to give something to Northeastern. Dr. Steinberg throughout her 13 years as president encouraged the endowment fund to enrich the offerings of the university.”

From visit one Dr. Hahs enthusiastically supported the need for a larger endowment, especially the seeking of funds from donors for scholarships. Our students, more than those in many other more affluent universities, need scholarships. Our students often represent first generation minorities with parents who have less education or means of support for college expenses. This means that most of our students have to work part-time jobs to make ends meet.

From an endowment of less than \$50,000 when we started the Society, Northeastern had in 2012 an endowment of more than \$7 million. The staffing of a development office started under Steinberg’s tenure was greatly expanded under Hahs and annual gifts to and memberships in the university’s Alumni Association have greatly increased. We are creating a philosophy or culture of philanthropy that benefits Northeastern. To join the Founders Society all you need to do is make a gift for a scholarship, lecture series or some other project you want to happen at NEIU. This can be done while you are living, or in your will.

Dr. Hahs has continued to encourage the Founders members with annual receptions in her home. Her gracious hospitality and home provide a place for us to meet. In the fall of each year, there is an annual meeting and public program that presents the progress and development activities of the university. Key supporters have been recognized and honored for their gifts. In her years as president, her efforts continue to build the endowment. When I mention that the first \$10 million will be the hardest to raise, she just smiles. Our goal is a minimum of 10 scholarships in every department, in every college of Northeastern to adequately support our students and mission.

The Brommel-Hahs-Steinberg scholarship is part of that forwarding thrust the University is taking to stay abreast of academic developments in global studies. It indicates the vision of both of these women presidents to be a part of the changes happening in all universities. This is the first scholarship in global studies. Any student majoring in Global Studies at NEIU can apply. They must be a junior or senior with a grade point average of 3.0 enrolled full or part time with at least 6 hours. If granted, the funds can be used for the costs of tuition, books and fees.