

# HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

## Gifts by Beneficiary Designation



### A Legacy Made Simple

Would you like to help continue the extraordinary legacy of generous support to Humboldt's commitment to hands-on learning with professors engaged in research and community service? You can do this by designating Humboldt State University as a beneficiary of certain assets or accounts you own. You arrange your gift now and at your passing your gift becomes available to Humboldt State University to use as you have directed.

You can name Humboldt State University as the sole beneficiary of your assets or as one of several beneficiaries. For example, you can use some of your assets to make a donation and the rest to provide for family members or other loved ones.

## Assets to consider designating for Humboldt:

- Retirement plan assets
- Life insurance policies
- Commercial annuity contracts
- Bank and investment accounts

## Benefits of a gift by beneficiary designation:

- **Flexible** - assets remain in your control should you need them.
- **Easy to arrange** - doesn't require a change to your will.
- **Revocable** - you can change your gift designation at any time.
- **Tax-wise** - funds passing by beneficiary designation to Humboldt State University are not subject to income or estate tax. This means 100% of your gift is available for use by Humboldt, as you direct.
- **Family-friendly** - you can name family or other loved ones to benefit from some of the asset, with the Humboldt receiving the remaining portion.
- **Support your cause** - your gift helps ensure Humboldt has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission and serve future generations.

**“When I look at what’s happening on campus, Humboldt is still at the forefront of issues. We wanted to help new and future students to keep moving forward. That’s why it’s so important to us to give back to that gift. And the Planned Giving staff made it so simple.”**

— Brian ('82, Wildlife) and Melinda Barton ('83, Wildlife)

**Retirement assets.** These include IRAs (regardless of the type of IRA) and most qualified retirement plans, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Request a Beneficiary Designation Form from your plan administrator and designate Humboldt as a beneficiary of either a percentage of your plan balance or of a specific dollar amount.

Retirement assets can be taxed at rates as high as 50% to 70% if you leave them to someone other than a surviving spouse. This is because most distributions\* to an individual from an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified retirement plan are subject to both income tax and estate tax.

In contrast, retirement funds that pass to Humboldt State University by beneficiary designation are not subject to either of these taxes\*. From a tax standpoint, a transfer of assets remaining in an IRA or other retirement account is the very best charitable gift.

**Life insurance policies.** Simply complete and return to your insurance company a form designating that Humboldt receive all or a portion of the death benefit associated with your life insurance policy.

**Commercial annuity contracts.** A commercial annuity will sometimes have a remaining value at the end of the annuitant's lifetime. You can name Humboldt to receive all or part of this amount by designating it as a beneficiary (sole or partial) on the appropriate form from the insurance company.

**Bank account.** You can instruct your bank to pay to Humboldt all or a portion of what remains in your checking or savings account. Your bank can provide you with the appropriate beneficiary designation form.

**Investment account.** You can instruct your investment company to transfer to Humboldt some or all investments held in your account at the time of your passing. . Your broker or agent can let you know the process for doing this – it may be as simple as adding “T.O.D. to Humboldt State University” after your name on the account.

## NEXT STEPS:

To receive further information and assistance on beneficiary designation, or to learn more about how your gift can help Humboldt State University, please contact our Office of Philanthropy.

- call (707) 826-5200
- email [giving@humboldt.edu](mailto:giving@humboldt.edu)

\* The only exceptions to the possible double-taxation are distributions from a Roth IRA or distributions attributable to contributions of after-tax dollars to other types of IRA. Because everyone's situation is different, we encourage you to seek professional legal, estate planning, and financial advice before deciding on a course of action. This information does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice.