The Daniel D. Felder, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Daniel D. Felder, Jr. Endowed Scholarship was established in 2008 by family members and friends of the late Daniel Felder, a 1976 graduate of Norfolk State University. The endowment will assist NSU students who demonstrate perseverance and excellence in pursuit of their academic goals, and a commitment to assisting those in need.

The Daniel D. Felder, Jr. Endowed Scholarship will be utilized exclusively to provide scholarship assistance for full-time African American male, degree-seeking undergraduate students. The scholarship recipient(s) will be selected based on the following criteria:

- The recipient may be an entering freshman or upperclassman majoring in Education or Fine Arts with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. A candidate who does not meet the preferred grade point average criteria, will have an opportunity for consideration if the application is accompanied by a letter from a school counselor or teacher, attesting to the student’s resolve and potential to achieve in college.
- The recipient must embody the characteristics of a servant leader and have demonstrated commitment to others through volunteerism and/or volunteer leadership. A two-page essay describing the candidate’s commitment to these principals must accompany the application.
- The recipient must have a financial need and be a resident of Virginia, Maryland, or South Carolina.

If you or your spouse work for a matching gift company, please enclose a matching gift form to double or triple your gift.
Daniel was affectionately known by his many friends as D.D., Jr. or Dan. He attended public schools in South Carolina and Virginia. Dan exhibited artistic and business promise early in life when he and a junior high school friend created the Desk Comics Company in his parents’ garage. Described by his mother as having a good disposition, he spent his formative years participating in Boy Scouting, playing in the high school marching band, indulging his love of reading, and earning a spot on the varsity football team in his final year at Yorktown High.

While at Norfolk State University, Dan made many life-long friends who subsequently became “members” of his family. In 1976, he graduated from NSU with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts. As part of Dan’s degree requirements, he painted a 5-foot-by-30-foot mural titled “Jesus and the Children.” This highly touted mural is located on the wall of the multipurpose room at Norfolk United Methodist Church in Lamberts Point and was featured in The Norfolk Journal and Guide.

After graduation, Dan moved to Northern Virginia and began a career with the C&P Telephone Company (now Verizon) as a customer service representative. Through his diligence, competence, and wry wit, he quickly began to rise in the company. His career with Verizon spanned more than 30 years and included the positions of Sales Director of Verizon’s Federal Systems Civilian Team and Regional Vice President for Verizon Business to the Department of Justice, the Intelligence Community, and the Department of Energy. Dan was widely recognized as a thought leader and is best known for his ability to develop high performance teams.

Dan was an active member of The United Methodist Church of the Redeemer in Temple Hills, Maryland. He served as Chair of the Administrative Council and Church Treasurer. Dan was a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the United Methodist Men. He sang in the Men’s and The Praise 150 choirs. Dan also served as a trustee of the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Board where he served on the Scholarship and By-laws Committees.

His sense of humor was infectious; he was an optimist; and he was the perfect example of what a man, father, husband and friend should be. Dan embodied the qualities of leadership, possessed a strong work ethic, and reached out to help those in need. He was a mentor and a role model in corporate America and his community.

Daniel DeLeon Felder, Jr.—A true Servant Leader.