

## **Pathway to Obtaining the Dream: Scholarship Funding Opportunities**

With a firm belief in the power of education to change lives and communities, the Westchester Community College Foundation has directly helped over 16,000 students advance their education through more than \$20 million in scholarships awarded since its founding in 1969.

WCC's tuition remains among SUNY's lowest, at \$4,300 per academic year – yet the total cost of education, including textbooks, transportation, fees, and living expenses exceeds \$14,000 per student per year. For families with few or no resources these costs are almost impossible to cover, and can directly undermine success: students without money to buy books or get to campus have little hope of passing their classes; those struggling to eat, care for their children, or keep a roof over their head will find it hard to concentrate on their studies.

WCC Scholarships recognize academic excellence, persistence and determination, bestowing a valuable sense of recognition and accomplishment on deserving students in need. They provide a flexible source of funding to cover costs of tuition, fees, and other educational expenses associated with college attendance. Awards are made to incoming students, continuing students, and graduating students. Students may submit applications for scholarships in the fall and spring. Applications are screened by our independent Scholarship Committee, which also makes the final selections.

### **#1. Named Scholarship Funds**

These awards can be established in your name or to honor or recognize a loved one with criteria that reflect their interests. These significant scholarships have a tremendous effect on the lives of students, most often making the crucial difference in a young person's future.

- An **Annual Named Scholarship** provides direct funding which is renewable from year to year. To name a fund with specific criteria we ask for a minimum of **\$5,000** with a commitment of funding for two or more years. These scholarships are renewed annually, and awarded in full in the year they are donated. A minimal fee is assessed for scholarship administration.
- An **Endowed Named Scholarship** can establish a fund that will provide on-going support. A minimum donation of **\$45,000** will provide approximately \$2,000 in scholarship support each year after an initial first year of maturity. Gifts at this level and higher will establish a named fund in perpetuity with specific criteria.

Donors of named scholarship funds receive letters from the recipients of their generosity, and are welcome to follow their progress. In October, scholarship recipients and donors are invited to participate in our annual Scholarship Recognition Ceremony. Donor profiles are also featured on our scholarship web site.

Our Scholarship Office aims to have the most flexibility to meet the needs of current students and the applicant pool. We encourage potential donors to think about how their gift might have the greatest impact. Your gift toward scholarships are completely tax-deductible.

## **#2. Student Success Initiative Scholarship funds**

Even with financial aid, students with academic potential struggle to pay for their education; many hold full or part-time jobs which deplete the amount of time they are able to devote to their studies. We seek to increase the amount of scholarships we award annually from \$1 million to \$2 million. ***Pathways Scholarships*** will double the number of students who will be assisted, and provide special incentives at different stages in their education to encourage recruitment, retention, and completion.

- ***Promise Scholarships*** will support incoming students who agree to take a full credit load each semester and graduate in two years. Significant awards will be provided for two years plus a small graduating/transfer award.
- ***Completion Scholarships*** will specifically target students who need one more class to complete their degrees and participate in graduation. Assistance will be provided to cover the expenses of up to three credits.
- ***Honors Scholarships*** will be awarded to incoming students of exceptional academic potential who participate in the College's Honors Program.
- ***Equal Opportunity Scholarships*** will be provided to students who graduate from adult education programs providing underserved areas with academic/vocational training, and who register as matriculated students at WCC, thus encouraging them to pursue degrees.
- ***Removing Financial Impediments to Completion*** will enable students to complete their degrees in a timely manner. A recent \$1 million grant from the Arnold Foundation is enabling WCC to replicate CUNY's successful "ASAP" program. Financial supports help cover tuition gaps, transportation, and cost of books.
- ***Emergency Aid Grants*** come to the aid of students with unforeseen financial hardships that occur during the academic year and endanger continued enrollment.

**Please call Jessica Denaro, Director of DAnnual Giving, WCC Foundation,  
at (914) 606-8571 for more information.**