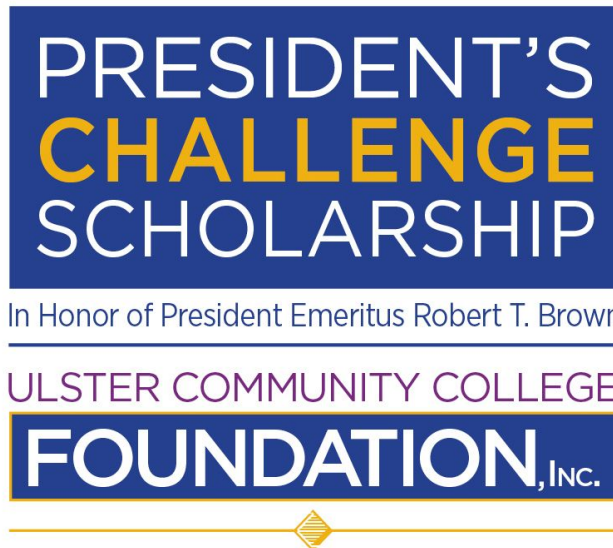


Take the Challenge



An Introduction to our Scholarship
Frequently Asked Questions
FAQs

What is the President's Challenge Scholarship?

The purpose of the **President's Challenge Scholarship in Honor of President Emeritus Robert T. Brown**, referred to as **PCS**, is to assist Ulster County students with overcoming financial barriers associated with attending college. Students are identified in eighth grade by their sponsoring school districts and receive guidance counseling and mentoring through the completion of high school.

PCS is an award-winning, community program, a scholarship to attend SUNY Ulster, launched by the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. in 2016 and supported by community donors and sponsors. As we grow this program, our goal is to reach as many students as possible, to remind them that we believe in them and to encourage them to find that most special place inside of themselves, that place where they believe in themselves. We began with six (6) students from Rondout Valley Central School District and we endeavor to grow to at least five (5) students in each central school district and ten (10) students in the City of Kingston district. At the end of four years we expect to have 50 students, annually, participating in this scholarship.

We believe that the good that will be born of this outreach cannot be measured. But, we will try. We hope you will join us.

How was the PCS founded?

SUNY Ulster President Alan P. Roberts established the PCS in May of 2016 to assist at risk college bound high school students with a two-year tuition-free community college education upon their graduation from high school and enrollment at SUNY Ulster.

In Honor of SUNY Ulster President Emeritus Robert T. Brown

In May of 2017, the President's Challenge Scholarship was dedicated in *Honor of President Emeritus Robert T. Brown.*

Bob held the position of President of Ulster County Community College for twenty-four years and served on the Board of the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. from 1982 to 2005, at which time was appointed Director Emeritus for his many years of service and leadership. Bob returned to the Foundation Board for three consecutive 3-year terms before resigning from the board in 2016.

The Foundation Board of Directors acknowledges Bob Brown's extraordinary leadership, service, and advocacy on behalf of accessible higher education and, in particular, community college education having served as SUNY's first Vice Chancellor for community colleges and having helped to create a strategic plan for community colleges.

In 2016, Bob generously contributed to this scholarship's administration fund to help launch the PCS initiative.

Are there current President's Challenge Scholarship Recipients?

2016-2017 Pilot Year - Rondout Valley Central School District

The inaugural President's Challenge Scholarship in Honor of President Emeritus Robert T. Brown, known as PCS, has been offered to Rondout Valley Central High School 8th graders who fit the following requirements:

- First generation college bound students
- 80% cumulative GPA in grade 8
- 75% cumulative GPA in four core classes (English, Math, Science and Social Studies) through mid-April
- 85% or higher attendance in school
- Minimal disciplinary infractions
- Preference given to students with economic need

Six Rondout Valley Central School District (RVCSD) students were selected through the completion of an application, an essay, an interview process, and selection by a committee. Sponsoring school mentoring services will be provided by RVCSD (the sponsoring school) through the completion of high school to better prepare the student for a two-year college education and entrance to SUNY Ulster.

What are the Ulster Community College Foundation's next steps to reach all Ulster County school districts?

School District Process

Timeframe

In general, the timeframe will be driven by the eighth grade graduation if possible. Note that for the 2017-2018 school year, we hope to launch the program, after summer fundraising, to Ellenville and Kingston students who graduate from the 8th grade in 2017 and attend as 9th graders in the Fall 2017. To the extent possible, our Foundation will do the same for any other school district in which 5 donors become available by the Fall of 2017 permitting us to support an inaugural class of PCS scholarship recipients (5).

We hope to launch in the remaining school districts over the next 12 to 36 months.

What is the potential process at each school district?

School District Process:

1. School Superintendent and team participate in a kick-off meeting with SUNY Ulster President Alan P. Roberts and Lorraine Salmon, Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc.
2. The parties agree to the School District's specific process using the Rondout Valley Central School District Pilot as a template.

3. The District engages administrators, faculty, parents, and students

Information Session – Students and Parents

1. The District holds an informational meeting for interested students & parents
2. Representatives from SUNY Ulster will attend to discuss the merits of PCS as well as to discuss the opportunities surrounding scholarships available for all participating students.
3. Any student participating in the PCS process who submits the PCS essay will be identified as “Having Taken the Challenge” and will be noted as such in the scholarship process at SUNY Ulster, maintaining a priority position for future scholarships for any President’s Challenge Students.

Applicant Process and Selection

- **Round 1: Application and Essay**

Written application and essay submitted to the Junior High School principal.

- **Round 2: Top 15 Selection**

The *Faculty Committee* will rate the essays and identify top students to move on to the next round.

- **Round 3: Top 10 Selection**

The District Scholarship Committee reviews top **[15]** candidates and select **[10]** students.

- **Round 4: Interviews**

- The top [10] students are selected to participate in the interview process.
- Each student participates in one or two ten-minute interviews.
- Students will be asked two questions in each interview session

- **Round 5: Eighth Grade Graduation**

- SUNY Ulster representative presents Scholarship Recipients with Scholarship.
- SUNY Ulster representative presents Scholarship Participants with certificates.

- **Round 6: SUNY Ulster Fall Scholarship Ceremony**

- SUNY Ulster Fall Scholarship Ceremony [**Sept 13th, 2017 and TBD**]
- Recipients are invited to the ceremony and receive the awards at SUNY Ulster beginning their association and belief in their own attendance.

How will the Excelsior program and other state or federal funding sources for college education effect this scholarship?

Students who win PCS scholarships might qualify for other scholarships or programs which may become available in the future. PCS scholarship is for tuition at SUNY Ulster. In the event the student qualifies for other scholarship or award, the Board of Directors of the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. has the authority to redirect the scholarship funding to books, fees, transportation or other costs of the student's associated with their education. In the event funds remain available after these fees are paid, then the remaining funds can be made available to other PCS students, in the same school district, who have "Taken the Challenge."

How much does it cost to sponsor a student?

The cost to sponsor a student's two-year tuition at SUNY Ulster within this scholarship program is \$7,200. Donors make a one-time payment or may fund their scholarship in four (4) annual payments of \$1,800. Groups of donors may co-sponsor a student. Any scholarship proceeds remaining after the student receives federal and state non-loan funding and Foundation/Donor scholarship will be allocated, as needed and upon approval of the Foundation Board of Directors, to President's Challenge Students from the same School District.

How can I get more information?

For more information please go to:

www.sunyulster.edu/foundation/presidentschallenge.php

Or call Lorraine Salmon, Executive Director, at Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. 845-687-5093 | salmonl@sunyulster.edu.