

ULSTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**FOUNDATION, Inc.**

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2022

# Gala

A LEGACY OF  
INSPIRATION

DIAMOND EVENT SPONSOR  
**THE FAMILY OF HOWARD C. ST. JOHN**

DIAMOND AUCTION SPONSOR  
**DARLENE L. PFEIFFER**

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THURSDAY • OCTOBER 6 • 2022

## SPONSORS

### DIAMOND EVENT

## THE FAMILY OF HOWARD C. ST. JOHN

The St. John family legacy of business, community, and philanthropy is known throughout the Hudson Valley and at SUNY Ulster. Howard C. St. John served as Ulster County District Attorney, as a partner in the law firm that bore his name and as Chairman of the Board of Ulster Savings Bank. The St. John family's advocacy for SUNY Ulster continues with Victoria St. John-Gilligan, who is Secretary to the SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees, a Director of the Foundation Board, 2022 Gala Co-Chair and also with Lisa St. John, a member of the Gala Committee, recognized with their families as a top donor to our Foundation.



### DIAMOND AUCTION

## DARLENE L. PFEIFFER

Darlene Pfeiffer is an incredible champion of SUNY Ulster students. In 2005, Darlene established a scholarship fund for students who demonstrate self-motivation and an entrepreneurial spirit, now known as The Darlene Pfeiffer Scholarship. She also sponsored the development of the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and the highly successful SUNY Ulster Own It! Entrepreneurial Women's Conference. In the fall of 2017, SUNY Ulster opened the Pfeiffer Technology and Innovation Lab, made possible by an originating donation from Darlene, which has generated over \$1M in grant funding for our campus. In 2019, she established yet another life-changing program through her visionary philanthropy. The New Start for Women program, having been granted \$1.5M of support from the NoVo Foundation welcomed the first cohort to SUNY Ulster in 2019 and additional students in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Darlene's visionary program attracted an additional \$1.5M in funding from the NoVo Foundation. As a Foundation Board Director, she is a tireless advocate and key donor in support of SUNY Ulster, our Foundation, and our students. Darlene is our Foundation's principal individual donor, and in June 2021, she pledged \$1M to form the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Student Experience Endowment to support the President's Challenge Scholarship program.

### SAPPHIRE MEDIA

## BASCH & KEEGAN LLP

Basch & Keegan LLP is a Kingston law firm with a generous history of giving back and community service. Partners include Eli B. Basch, Maureen A. Keegan, Derek J. Spada, and Foundation Board Director and Vice Chair, John A. DeGasperis. John DeGasperis was recently inducted into the SUNY Ulster Alumni Hall of Fame. Eli and the late Susan Basch are Life in Legacy donors who have created the Susan Raymond Basch and Eli Basch Scholarship endowment. John and Emily DeGasperis recently completed their second sponsorship of the President's Challenge Scholarship with both sponsorships in Kingston City School District and Derek and Rana Spada are President's Challenge Scholarship sponsors in the Onteora School District. Maureen Keegan, Eli Basch, John DeGasperis and Derek Spada have all been benefactors to our Foundation through their substantial corporate sponsorships of our annual Gala as well as multiple party sponsorships of our President's Challenge Scholarship. Additionally, Basch & Keegan are sponsors of the Kingston Farmers Market, YMCA, Kingston Rotary, Dietz Stadium and supports the HealthAlliance Hospital, the Jewish Federation's Fall for Art, the Junior League, People's Place, Shamrock Run, Snowflake Festival, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ulster County among the many other causes in the community.



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# ULSTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to our 2022 Honoree & Awardees!

Thank you to all of our Gala sponsors, advertisers, and attendees for supporting education as recovery from the pandemic continues. It is in no small part due to the generosity of our entire donor community that SUNY Ulster was named the #1 Community College in New York State by BestColleges.com for two years in a row. We offer special thanks to the members of our Life in Legacy Society on pages 10-12, which honors our Top Donors and those who support our Endowed and Honorary & Memorial Scholarships.

We are grateful for all of our new and returning President's Challenge Scholarship leaders and sponsors, as outlined on pages 13-14, who have allowed us to reach nearly 250 first-generation college students starting in the eighth-grade.

Please call me at (845) 687-5093 or email me at salmonl@sunyulster.edu.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you, share our stories, and create something positive, together.

Thank you for sharing your time this evening to celebrate our 2022 Honoree and Special Recognition Award Recipients.

Very truly yours,

Lorraine Salmon

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement & External Relations



Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. Staff

### Our Mission

is to raise funds to collaborate with SUNY Ulster to promote academic excellence, accessibility to higher education and economic vitality in Ulster County.

### Our Vision

is to promote and manage philanthropic giving for student success through developing scholarships and student support funding, assisting in capital and technological advancements for the college, forging partnerships with businesses and local school districts; and by fostering strong community awareness and engagement.

Your donations support SUNY Ulster students and the Foundation's mission:

- Student Scholarships | Business & Entrepreneurial Studies
- Professional & Continuing Education
- STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics | Criminal Justice, Human Services & Police Academy
- Nursing | Biological Sciences & Veterinary Technology | English, Foreign Languages & Philosophy
- SUNY Ulster Arts | Social Sciences, History, & Education

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# ULSTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to this year's Honoree & Special Recognition Award Winners, and a huge welcome to our new president, Dr. Alison Buckley! Our Foundation is excited to share the many accomplishments of our historic work with you - and even more excited to work together to bring forward the best possible support for our students.

The Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. is a vital part of the SUNY Ulster Family. **Thank you all for your generous support of the work of the Foundation, which this year has permitted us to budget a record-breaking \$1,000,000 in scholarship awards!** I am proud to announce that 2022 was a landmark year in fundraising for the President's Challenge Scholarship, as all 50 student sponsorships were once again secured through private donors and foundation grants, representing \$360,000 in scholarship funding.

## GIVING

Since the Foundation's inception, we have raised more than \$18.5M and increased our partnerships with other charitable institutions locally and nationwide. Over 5,400 organizations and individuals across our region have chosen to support the work of our Foundation, with over 400 new donors joining us in the past two years. We welcome you.

## ASSETS

The Foundation manages nearly \$12.5M in assets today. Our annual earnings support ongoing scholarship awards as well as College program services of over \$2.1M this year.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

To date, we have awarded over \$8M in scholarships to more than 8,300 SUNY Ulster students. The annual scholarships granted to students have grown from a total of \$15,000 in 1980 to up to \$1,000,000 this year, all because of the generosity of our donors. On behalf of our Board of Directors, a heartfelt thank you to all of our contributors from our College community, friends, alumni, civic organizations, and corporations that have made all of our work possible.

Laurel Sweeney  
Chair, Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc.



**SUNY ULSTER** was the **ONLY NYS** community college named to the top 100 public two-year colleges in the United States with the *lowest net price* after grant aid and scholarships. Released by the U.S. Dept. of Education in 2020



Laurel Sweeney (left) with her husband Tim Sweeney, Trustee (right), taking the Challenge!



Laurel Sweeney with PCS student Christina at a SUNY Ulster's 2022 Graduation.

# SUNY ULSTER - START HERE. GO FAR.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for joining us at our Foundation's 2022 Gala!

I am honored to join the community as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of SUNY Ulster and extend my thanks to all community members, the SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board of Directors, and the Presidential Search Committee for your trust in me. It's been a warm welcome to the SUNY Ulster community, and I look forward to engaging with you all this academic year.

Community colleges are grounded in a fundamental optimism that education will transform society and enhance our communities. I believe community colleges are positioned not only to survive in a post-pandemic world but to thrive. I see the characteristics so important for our future within SUNY Ulster: close ties to the community, a culture of workforce collaboration that is deep within the DNA, and academic excellence at a reasonable price.

For all of these reasons, I am excited about the future and energized by what lies ahead. I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and get to work.

Partnerships, relationships, and operational excellence will position SUNY Ulster for success in the new realities of the higher education landscape.

Please know that I will bring my very best to this work and will endeavor every day to make you, our students, alumni, and our SUNY Ulster community, proud.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Alison Buckley, Ed.D.  
SUNY Ulster's 7<sup>th</sup> President



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



### RECIPIENT OF THE YOUR PROMISE ~ THEIR FUTURE AWARD

#### JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The **Your Promise ~ Their Future Award** recognizes donors who, by substantial planned gifts or generous contributions, provide funding deemed to be transformative.

The **Johnson Scholarship Foundation (JSF)** exists to serve disadvantaged people by assisting them to obtain education and employment. Dedicated to creating paths to brighter futures, the JSF has invested in possibilities for 30 years. Through thoughtful planning and strategic partnerships, the Foundation has built a network of

innovative funding programs and progressive relationships in the United States and Canada with some of the most respected and important community programs, schools, colleges and universities.

In 2017, after a successful grant application, the Ulster Community College Foundation was awarded seven scholarships for 2018 and seven scholarships for 2019; a total of \$100,800 for SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship! In 2020-2021 we were the recipients of a larger grant award of \$394,000 supporting PCS administrative and scholarship support over five years. JSF's commitment to support SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship has aided in the success and growth of the program.

### RECIPIENT OF THE ANNE R. DONOVAN AWARD FOR FACULTY & STAFF

#### DR. JENNIFER GUIHER

The **Anne R. Donovan Award** is given to members of the campus community who demonstrate extraordinary dedication to SUNY Ulster by undertaking initiatives above and beyond the scope of their work in support of the mission of the College.

**Dr. Jennifer Guiher**, Associate Professor of Biology, has provided visionary support to SUNY Ulster students through her engagement with the Environmental Club, SUNY Ulster's Biological Sciences Department and Environmental Studies program since her arrival to SUNY Ulster as a full-time faculty member in 2018. Most recently, Dr. Guiher applied for and was awarded a three-year \$349,838 National Science Foundation Grant to Support Applied Learning in its Environmental Studies program; SUNY Ulster's 1st NSF grant.

The goal of the project is to improve student retention and career readiness in environmental STEM students to fill a growing industry need for qualified workers in the Hudson Valley. Christopher Marx, Vice President for Workforce, Economic Development and Community Partnerships serves as a Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Guiher as the lead for this grant opportunity.

Dr. Guiher earned her Ph.D. in Biology- Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior Subprogram, CUNY Graduate Center, her M.Phil in Biology- Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior Subprogram, CUNY Graduate Center, her M.S. Biology, The College of Staten Island, and her B.S. in Biology, The College of Staten Island.

In her doctoral research, she examined differences in morphology as well as prey capture and mating call behavior in green frogs, *Lithobates clamitans*, from urban and rural sites. Additionally, as a Master's student, she utilized scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy to describe a female urogenital tract bacterium, *Mobiluncus mulieris*.

Dr. Guiher was awarded a Competitive Research Grant from the New Jersey Water Resources Research Institute and USGS for use in water research.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



### RECIPIENT OF THE #BELIKEANITA AWARD VICTORIA ST. JOHN-GILLIGAN

The #BeLikeAnita Award recognizes members of the community who work tirelessly on behalf of others, lead by example, dedicate personal time to make the world a better place, and live in a manner worthy of notice.

**Victoria St. John-Gilligan** is a tireless worker on behalf of community causes and institutions, and she is highly respected for her energy, judgment, and ability to organize and motivate individuals. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors for many major regional organizations and is a recognized leader on behalf of the not-for-profit and educational communities. Her commitment to SUNY Ulster and its mission has been foremost among her interests and activities for more than a decade. Her father, the late attorney Howard C. St. John, was instrumental in the establishment of the College in the early 60s, and the family has been strongly associated with it since its inception.

Vickie became a member of the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. in 2003 and during her tenure served as chair of the Development Committee, Secretary, and Vice Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. In addition, she has made major contributions to establishing the St. John Family Fund for Excellence.

Her commitment to civic leadership includes service on a number of community boards, including the American Cancer Society Advisory Board, the Ulster Performing Arts Center Board of Directors, the Friends of Historic Kingston Board of Directors, the New York Senate House Museum Board of Directors, and the Kingston Uptown Business Association (KUBA). In addition, she is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Kingston and was a founding member of Golden Stone Productions, a community-based theater company.

Vickie is the recipient of numerous community honors and recognitions, including the Boys and Girls Club of Ulster County "2002 Community Volunteer of the Year," the KUBA "2000 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year," the Junior League of Kingston "1999 Sustainer of the Year," and was most recently honored by Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley in 2014 at their annual Garden Party.

Vickie received her Bachelor's Degree in Developmental Psychology and Teaching from Briarcliff College in Bethpage, NY, worked as an educator, and is the President of St. John Properties.

She was appointed to the SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees in January 2010 and has served on the Executive Committee of the Board as Secretary since 2016. In 2016 she received NYCCT's Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service for her steadfast commitment to SUNY Ulster and our students.





## HONOREE

### DR. ALAN P. ROBERTS



During **Dr. Alan P. Roberts'** tenure as the 6<sup>th</sup> President of SUNY Ulster (July 27, 2015, through July 27, 2022), his commitment to student success and community partnerships was paramount, viewing the challenges facing many of today's higher education institutions, including SUNY Ulster, as opportunities.

In 2016 he launched the President's Challenge Scholarship through the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc., a scholarship initiative to assist first-generation college-bound students with overcoming the financial barriers associated with attending college starting in 8th grade.

Strengthening and leveraging the ties from K-12 partnerships and connections to college have been a foundational tenet of Dr. Roberts' leadership at SUNY Ulster. As reported by SUNY in 2019, we were one of two SUNY community colleges to see an increase in enrollment since 2015. This was largely due to the vision and support of Dr. Roberts to diversify our programs and enrollment opportunities, including the development of the New Start for Women program, which garnered support from SUNY Ulster's most prolific donor, Darlene Pfeiffer, and leveraged \$3M worth of funding from the Novo Foundation. SUNY Ulster's workforce training, Adult EDge, prison program (funded through a newly established relationship with a private foundation, Hudson Link), early college, and dual enrollment programs all contributed to our diversified enrollment efforts under his vision. We also were the first community college in New York State to hold the P-Tech program on our satellite campus, which has since moved to the College's main campus.

Additionally, during Roberts' tenure, due to the many contributions of faculty and staff, SUNY Ulster was named the #1 Community College in New York State for two consecutive years in a row (2020 and 2021) by BestColleges.com.

A past member of the New York Community College Association of President's Executive Committee, he served as Chair of the Advocacy Committee for two years in 2020 and 2021, developing a state-wide advocacy campaign and video to share why New York State Community Colleges are the key to the future of all New Yorkers. He also served as Vice Chair and board member of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce and as the Region XV representative on the National Junior College Athletic Association Presidential Advisory Council. A board member of the Rondout Valley Business Association (RVBA), Dr. Roberts volunteers at the Rondout Valley Food Pantry and also participated in the United Way of Ulster County's Dancing With the Stars Ulster County Style Fundraiser in 2017.

Dr. Roberts' involvement in the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce led the College to their recognition of SUNY Ulster as the 2020 Business of the Year in part for his work with establishing SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship. In 2018, Dr. Roberts and SUNY Ulster were recognized by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley as the Advocate for Justice, largely due to the work of New Start for Women, SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship, and SUNY Ulster's former College Entry Student Success Program, a program in partnership with Ulster County.

In 2020 Dr. Roberts was proud to implement SUNY Ulster's Safe Surprise Diploma Deliveries for SUNY Ulster's first virtual Commencement Ceremony during the COVID-19 crisis; where he traveled over 460 miles to honor graduates in Ulster County, visiting homes to deliver diplomas to our graduates during the pandemic.

Co-presenting with Trustees and Board Chairs was also part of Dr. Roberts' agenda annually, as he ensured that he shared SUNY Ulster's success with the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) organization at conferences. Additionally, leading institutional nominations of our Trustees for state-wide recognition through the NYCCT annual awards was a top priority to ensure that he thanked our volunteers who dedicated their time to our students and community.

Tagged by SUNY's Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline, Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Dr. Roberts participated in the New York State Senate's Higher Education Hearing Testimony in October 2019, where he addressed Chairwoman Stavisky, Senator Metzger, and members of the Senate and Assembly to advocate for all 30 New York State SUNY Community Colleges on the importance of community colleges as access to higher education.

Dr. Roberts previously served as Vice President of Applied Science and Technology at Indian River State College (IRSC) in Fort Pierce, FL, from 2004 to 2015. He also served as IRSC's Dean of Health Sciences (2002-2004) and also as the Dean of Business and Industrial Technology (1998-2002). Before his administrative career, Dr. Roberts served as an adjunct instructor (1988-1991), a full-time professor teaching in the Business and Accounting Department (1991-1998), and a faculty chair.

As an administrator, he has developed, nurtured, and sustained positive relations and partnerships with industry, hospitals, health-care agencies, colleges, and k-12 school districts. His breadth of experience has provided him with an in-depth understanding of and appreciation for the exceptional educational opportunities that community colleges offer. A notable collaboration was with Florida Power and Light (FP&L). This partnership established the Power Plant Technology Institute, that was recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) as one of the Top Five College and Corporate Training Partnerships in the U.S. The award recognizes innovation, collaboration, and best practices in higher education that merit replication by other colleges and universities.

Dr. Roberts received his Associate's Degree in Marketing and Retail Management from North Country Community College; his Baccalaureate Degree in Business and Marketing and Master's Degree in Distributive Education from the University of New York at Albany; and his Doctorate in Community College Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Central Florida.

# TOP DONORS

**\$1,500,000+**

Darlene L. Pfeiffer

**\$1,000,000+**

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The Life in Legacy Society honors donors to SUNY Ulster, who have created endowed and honorary & memorial scholarship funds. Scholarship awards give the vital support needed for students to further their education at SUNY Ulster and beyond. Endowed scholarships provide this life-changing assistance to our students forever. You may join the society by forming a scholarship fund or Endowment in Growth and experience the impact of your legacy during your lifetime.

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

<b>\$1,000,000+</b>	Darlene L. Pfeiffer Student Experience Endowment
<b>\$500,000 - \$999,999</b>	
<b>\$300,000 - \$499,999</b>	Professor Ann LeFevre Gilchrist Memorial • Grace E. Elliot in memory of Frank G. Elliot
<b>\$200,000 - \$299,999</b>	<b>THE ANITA WILLIAMS PECK SCHOLARSHIPS</b> Nursing Scholarship In Memory of Elizabeth H. Tucker • Public Speaking Competition Scholarship in Arts • Scholarship In Memory of Walter G. & Marianne J. Williams
<b>\$100,000 - \$199,999</b>	Susan Raymond Basch & Eli Basch • Braby & Blackwell Family Memorial • Murial O. Feraro Memorial George M. & Shirley J. Krembs • Mildred & Louis Resnick in Memory of Joseph Y. Resnick • Aaron E. & Jane M. Shultis Memorial • Glenn B. Sutherland & Cynthia A. Lowe • Karl & Catherine Weibrecht Memorial
<b>\$75,000 - \$99,999</b>	Freda & Richard Martens Memorial • Sarah M. Schmidt Memorial
<b>\$60,000 - \$74,999</b>	Eppie Convel & Stan Breite • Macdonald DeWitt Memorial
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<b>\$40,000 - \$49,999</b>	Viola C. Jansen Memorial • Elizabeth & Lloyd LeFever Memorial Ruth Pacini Satterfield, Veronica Pacini & Patricia Pacini • Gary & Janaki Patrik Music
<b>\$30,000 - \$39,999</b>	Margaret & Robert Markes Memorial • Barbara P. & Edward V. Marrott Memorial Louis & Sophie Offermann Palkowics • Gary & Janaki Patrik Mathematics • Herbert H. Reuner Memorial
<b>\$25,000 - \$29,999</b>	Louis Greenspan Scholarship for Veterans • Bessie G. Johnston • Dr. Richard Katims • Margaret C. Lewis JFC Breathe Free Scholarship in memory of Joseph F. Clausi • Professor Lawrence R. & Susan Matson - Earth Science • James P. Mertes Memorial • Adam C. Nadiak Memorial Marie & Guido Napoletano Memorial • Margaret H. Prescott Memorial Scholarship • Arthur A. Reilly Memorial Ulster Savings Bank • Charles A. Schenck Memorial • Professor Derwin H. Stevens Physics Todd Wonderly Memorial • Kevin E. Zimmerman Memorial Music Scholarship
<b>ENDOWMENTS IN GROWTH \$25,000 PLEDGED</b>	Michael B. Finnegan • Dr. Roger & Dr. Rosanne Yetzer Mathematics
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<b>UP TO \$20,000</b>	Barbara A. Adams Memorial • Walter W. Bartlett Memorial • Noreen Baumgarten Memorial Police Chief Assoc. Noreen Baumgarten Memorial • Joseph P. Budik Memorial • Eva & Hugo Carlen Diane O'Brien Cooke Memorial • Paul J. Croce Memorial • Robert O. Davenport Memorial Frank & Helen Delaney Memorial • Professor Kenneth Hallam Memorial • Jerome & Sadie Hirsch Professor Daniel N. Holleran Memorial • Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Coleen Hughes Memorial Scholarship • Michael Kandl Memorial • Professor Keith LaBudde Memorial Jack & Marti Lawson Memorial • Cantor Julian Lohre Memorial • Lawrence R. & Susan Matson John & Margaret Mikalauskas • John H. Moehle Memorial • Jacob R. Moss Memorial • Muroff-Kotler Memorial Patricia & Timothy O'Brien Memorial • Professor Terry L. Parmenter Memorial • McCann/Pezzino Memorial Police Chief Association Jack Lupton Memorial • Milton L. Reynolds Memorial • Mica J. Stanmyer Memorial Rabbi Alice Stein & Marla Stein Memorial • Professor Benjamin P. Stormer Memorial Harriet Tuchman Memorial • Ulster County Scouting Awards by Frank Skidmore Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association • United Way in Memory of Richard Fredenberg Grace Van Benschoten Memorial • Wiltwyck Chapter, NS, DAR • Matthew A. Wolff Memorial



# HONORARY & MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$1,000,000+**

**\$500,000 - \$999,999** Sherman Adin & Carol E. Adin Scholarship • George Devine College Scholars & Future of New Paltz

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# PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

In Honor of President Emeritus Robert T. Brown

ULSTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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## ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP (PCS)

SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship (PCS) program assists first-generation college-bound high school students with overcoming the financial barriers associated with attending college. Students, identified in eighth grade by their sponsoring school districts, receive mentoring and college readiness preparation through the completion of high school and after graduation, are able to attend SUNY Ulster tuition free for two years!

The President's Challenge Scholarship Program will be regarded as a legacy within our institution and community for many years to come. Families are lifted within our community when youth are provided with the opportunity to further their education.



Program Coordinator Nancy Clarke (left) with PCS students.

## THE PCS STORY

PCS was launched in 2016 with six eighth grade students from Rondout Valley Central School District. Today, thanks to a generous community of donors, the program is established in all nine school districts, with approximately 250 high school students having been awarded scholarships. We anticipate an additional 50 college-bound students joining the program annually.

We were excited to celebrate the first three PCS students who participated in SUNY Ulster's Commencement Celebration in May 2022 and are happy to welcome over 20 enrolled PCS students on campus for the Fall 2022 semester.

## THE PCS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Darlene L. Pfeiffer Student Experience Endowment supports the motivational and college readiness programming for PCS students throughout high school. Starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, PCS recipients visit the SUNY Ulster campus twice per year. During their first visit, students get their SUNY Ulster ID cards and make a commitment to themselves and the program by taking the PCS Promise. Students also connect with PCS sponsors at these events, supporting their growth and providing an additional level of engagement.

Students begin their mentorship experience with a PCS College Mentor (composed of members of the SUNY Ulster Enrollment and Success Center team) and a Club Advisor at their home school district. College Mentors, assigned to support PCS students from a participating high school, meet with students on campus, at the schools, and online. In addition to motivating students to remain on the college-bound track, the PCS College Mentor will assist with college readiness skills like academic planning, communication, and career exploration, as well as other engagement and growth opportunities as the program expands.

The Club Advisor meets regularly with students while working closely with SUNY Ulster's College Mentor and President's Challenge Scholarship Program Coordinator on the student experience and support needs. The Club Advisor offers consistent mentoring for students within the schools and facilitates engagement with fellow recipients in a constructive way. We hope to have all school districts participate in the Club Advisor initiative starting in the Fall of 2023.

## THE PCS PROMISE

At the start of their program, PCS students make a commitment to themselves and to the College by taking the PCS Promise. As a President's Challenge Scholarship Recipient I **PROMISE TO...**

- BE A RESPONSIBLE STUDENT • BE ACTIVE IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOM**
- CHOOSE AND ACT WITH KINDNESS • HAVE AN OPEN MIND & TO BE READY TO LEARN NEW PERSPECTIVES**
- SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS • MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PARTICIPATE IN PCS ACTIVITIES**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help empower our vision by supporting economically disadvantaged eighth grade students, who will be the first in their family to attend college, by sponsoring a student through the President's Challenge Scholarship Program at SUNY Ulster. To find out how you can change a life forever, contribute to the PCS Student Experience or make a larger commitment, please call Lorraine Salmon, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and External Relations, at 845.687.5093 or Nancy S. Clarke, Office of the President, Administrative Program Coordinator President's Challenge Scholarship, at 845.688.1927. **Learn more: [www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge](http://www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge)**



**PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS ROBERT T. BROWN**  
**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR TAKING THE CHALLENGE!**

**0 to nearly 250 in 7 Years!**

*The President's Challenge Scholarship has grown from six Rondout Valley Central School District students in our 2016-2017 pilot year to 16 students in 2017-2018 to 51 students in 2018-2019 to 100 students in 2019-2020, to 150 students in 2020-2021, to 200 students in 2021-2022, to nearly 250 students having been awarded scholarships today! These students, across nine school districts, have successfully taken the challenge and became part of the SUNY Ulster family. We plan to award an additional 50 scholarships annually. Thank You to the PCS Sponsors for Taking the Challenge! [www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge](http://www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge)*



**2023-2024 Sponsors - HELP Us Now!**

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 Jean Lerner - CHAMPION  
 Richard & Gillian Murphy - SUSTAINERS  
**(3) Sponsorships Available**

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 Ferriday Fund - SUSTAINER  
 (sponsoring 2 students)  
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 (ENDOWED - sponsoring 2 students)  
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 Saugerties Kiwanis Club - CHAMPIONS  
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 (sponsoring 2 students)  
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**MARLBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 Subak Family Foundation - CHAMPION  
 (sponsoring 2 students)  
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 The Flag Guys - PROMOTERS  
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# PCS \* LEADERSHIP LEVELS

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

In Honor of President Emeritus Robert T. Brown

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[www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge](http://www.sunyulster.edu/presidentschallenge)

### ANGEL \$1,000,000

A Donor who contributes \$1,000,000 to benefit the President's Challenge Scholarship Program.  
Darlene L. Pfeiffer Student Experience Endowment

### BELIEVER \$500,000

A Grantor or Donor who has sustained scholarship and/or administrative costs to grow the President's Challenge Scholarship Program.  
Johnson Scholarship Foundation

### BENEFACTOR ENDOWED

A Donor who has sponsored one or more scholarships in perpetuity.  
Rudy & the late Joyce Hellenschmidt [1 endowed scholarship annually]  
Glenn B. Sutherland & Cynthia A. Lowe [2 endowed scholarships every 4 years]

### STEWARD \$72,000

A Donor who has sponsored ten or more students.  
Sherman & Carol E. Adin Scholarship • Rich & Donna Croce

### RAINMAKER \$72,000

A Donor securing ten or more student sponsorships.  
Barbara Cohen • Rich & Donna Croce • Bruce Littlefield & Scott Stewart • Olana O'Connor & Joseph O'Connor, Esq. • Tim & Laurel Sweeney

### CHAMPION \$36,000

A Donor who sponsors of five or more students.  
Rudy & the late Joyce Hellenschmidt • Viola C. Jansen Memorial Scholarship • Floyd Lattin • Jean Lerner  
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### SUSTAINER \$28,800

A Donor who sponsors four students.  
Joseph & Kathryn Ferraro/Elna Magnetics • The Ferriday Fund • The Hill Family • Richard & Gillian Murphy • New Paltz Rotary  
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### TRANSFORMER \$21,600

A Donor who sponsors three students.  
Braby/Blackwell Family Memorial • Hayes Clement • Bill & Kathleen Cloonan • Patty Curry • Frank G. Elliot Memorial  
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A Donor who sponsors two students.  
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A PCS office held for two years during which time the ambassador(s) promote the PCS Program in a specific school district or districts.  
Kathleen Cloonan • Barbara Cohen • Rich & Donna Croce • Olana O'Connor • Dale Robbins • Laurel & Tim Sweeney

### ADVOCATE \$7,200+

A Donor who sponsors one student.  
Jill Ammerata & Peter Calatozzo and the Sherman & Carol E. Adin Scholarship Fund • Anonymous • Ronald Augustine & Eileen Katatsky  
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