Stewards for Positive Change

I am pleased to present this annual report of progress and activities during the past year at the Washtenaw Community College Foundation.

As you will read, the Foundation continued to sharpen its focus on student success by offering a powerful combination of scholarships and other financial assistance to eligible students.

In 2018, we added a new program called the Finish Line Scholarship that is allowing students who have completed 75% or more credits toward their degrees, but who left school for financial or other reasons, to return to campus and get across the finish line.

The program just started but we are delighted that dozens of students have already qualified for a scholarship and have come back to school. We look forward to seeing them walk across the stage at graduation!

With generous gifts from many donors from this community, we continued to add new endowed scholarships, grow the Student Emergency Fund and find new ways to support our students. These efforts will get students to our campus, keep them in school and help them complete their degrees.

Throughout the year, we worked diligently to be good stewards of your generosity and to put our vital mission into action.

Many thanks,

Phillip J. Snyder,
Associate Vice President of College Advancement
Connecting Community

On behalf of the Washtenaw Community College Foundation Board of Directors, I am delighted to present to you and our community this 2018 annual report.

I have been proud to serve on the Foundation Board for the past six years, including as its current Chair, and have been privileged to work with an outstanding Board made up of leaders from many sectors of this county. They are among the most caring and dedicated people I have ever met.

Together with our Foundation leadership and staff, we continued to work hard to raise the funds needed to help more students get into WCC, and then to stay in school until they have completed their degrees. We have made good progress but have much work to do going forward.

The Foundation is evolving to meet the changing needs of our students. Over the past year, we continued to learn more about the most effective ways of providing our students with tuition assistance, emergency fund help and even connections to community services that will help them be successful.

I want to personally thank you for your support of the WCC Foundation and for helping to change people’s lives!

Sean Duval,
WCC Foundation, Board Chair
Empowering Students

A car breakdown, reduced job hours, hardship at home. Sometimes even the most dedicated student can become discouraged. Whether the obstacle is large or small, we’re here to help students get the encouragement they need to continue.

The Washtenaw Community College Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), organization created to give hope and support to WCC students. Since its founding in 1984, the WCC Foundation has supported tens of thousands of students with tuition scholarships and assistance for transportation, food, childcare, books and other unforeseen issues.

The WCC Foundation provided more than 1,100 scholarships during the 2017–18 school year and helped dozens of students through the Student Emergency Fund. A new Finish Line Scholarship program is allowing students to return to campus and complete their degrees.

For more than three decades, numerous individuals, corporate partners and innovative foundations have provided donations and grants that have helped the Foundation achieve its simple, but powerful mission: “To give hope and support to WCC students through scholarships and other philanthropic support, creating a better educated workforce and a stronger community.”

A Board of Directors, comprised of volunteer community leaders, contribute their expertise, time, resources and leadership to the Foundation, while a dedicated professional staff works to implement annual goals and a strategic plan.

The WCC Foundation will continue strengthening its engagement with the community to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to help students get into WCC, stay in school and complete their degrees or certificates.
ANNUAL FUNDS: 66
ENDOWMENT FUNDS: 285

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED: 13,000+

SINCE WE STARTED TOTALING: $9 MILLION+

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Child Care
Transportation Assistance
Textbook Vouchers
Emergency Food Gift Cards
“We want to help the greatest number of students possible.”

Sherry Cogswell & Stephen Stefanac

Why did you create the Cogswell/Stefanac Family Health Sciences scholarship?
“We believe there’s a lot of value in getting an education through a community college. Community colleges are one of the best investments for giving people an opportunity to further their education or have a career. We’re both very committed to trying to give people as much help getting an education as we can.”

What do you hope to achieve through this scholarship?
“We both work in health care. [Stephen is the senior associate dean of patient services in the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan, and Sherry is a senior administrator at the Medical School there.] Health care is an area where there are many, many opportunities. It’s a very practical area of study. If we can help reduce a health sciences student’s overall indebtedness by helping to fund their tuition and expenses, that may help them pursue a higher level of degree. Or if they graduate and immediately start practicing, that’s cool too.”

Why support WCC?
“Health care programs at WCC are very practical. And they’re good. At the U-M School of Dentistry, we have WCC dental assistants rotating through for a couple months out of their program, and they’re top quality. We have a lot of respect for their instructors. Students can get a two-year nursing degree and maybe go on to another program, or they can go out and get jobs immediately. A degree from WCC opens up a lot of opportunities in the health care area. If we can promote that in some way, that’s a good use of our resources.

“We just believe community colleges provide good value for your donation. You have the ability to really affect a large number of individuals with your gift. With WCC, we trust that our donations will be used for the greater good of a greater number of people. That’s important to us.”
Legacy of a lifetime of learning

JoAnn Socha

How did the endowment come about?

“I have an insatiable appetite for learning. I just returned from a safari where we had daily lectures, and I’ve always been in school one way or another. I started taking classes at WCC years ago, picking courses out of the catalog like a kid in a candy shop. I’m taking Conversational Spanish right now. The classes I’ve taken at WCC have all been so good, I can’t say enough about them.

“I started contributing to the scholarship quite a few years ago. I just kept adding to it, not thinking anything about it. Then WCC told me it was practically at the stage where it could become an endowment, where it could be invested and the profits used for scholarships. That really appealed to me, so I topped it off.”

What do you hope the scholarship will achieve?

“I originally wanted it to go to women who planned to go on for a four-year education. But people with a two-year degree can go on to have very successful lives. So now it’s just for anyone who is studious and maintains a high grade point average.

“Education is my legacy. If I can help just one student reach their goals, that’s a life achievement.”

Why support WCC?

“WCC takes care of its students. They care. Their focus is on getting their students graduated. They help with things like child care, paying the rent, keeping students in school, finding out why they drop out. What they do is incredible.

“The students going to school there are struggling, and they need our help. They will be our future, and they’ll be paying us back for being good citizens if we give them the support they need.”
“Education is for everyone.”

Kitty Vincent-Hower

Why did you create the Guy Hower Memorial Scholarship?
“My husband was one of the founders of WCC. Guy truly believed in its mission of open doors, that every student who came to WCC belonged there. After he died last year, I decided to create a legacy in his memory so his name would live on as a reminder that education is for everyone. My hope is that it will offset day care expenses for students with small children."

Why day care?
“Students at WCC are highly motivated, but they have to overcome struggles every day just to get to class. Many of them have kids. I believe that kids do better when their parents are more educated. So if you have a place where kids can go while their parents get an education, you’re helping to create a better society right there.”

Why support WCC?
“Every time you have a complaint about someone working in an hourly position for little money, think about the difference a few classes would make to that person. Instead of looking down on them, maybe give them a hand and a step up. It’s just amazing, the people who end up at WCC. I think our future is safe with them. I really do.”
Honoring a friend and colleague

Judy Fry

Tell me about Fred Olsen.
“Fred worked with us at the Office of Executive Education at the University of Michigan as a graphic designer. He was beloved for his gentle nature, his incredible work ethic, his good humor, and his willingness to always do his best and then a bit more.”

Why did you and your colleagues decide to start a scholarship in his name?
“When Fred retired in spring of 2017, he was greatly missed. Although he and his wife, Sally, had hoped to spend some retirement years traveling, Fred was soon diagnosed with terminal cancer. This greatly saddened friends and colleagues from Executive Education, and we wanted to do something special for Fred that would be a lasting tribute. We decided that if we could raise enough money, a scholarship in Fred’s name would be the perfect thing to honor him.

“The best part about this was that Fred was given a certificate about the scholarship in the final weeks of his life. So he knew how much he was appreciated and that his name would live on and help future graphic arts students in need of a financial boost. Fred and Sally decided that any memorial gifts upon his death would also go toward the scholarship fund. While losing Fred was so difficult for his family and friends, everyone felt better that there would be a lasting tribute to this fine person that will continue.”

Why support WCC?
“Since Fred’s graphic art training had been at WCC, it became the fitting place for the scholarship. And we all certainly believe that WCC is an important part of the community. It helps so many people find careers and develop a livelihood. It’s a wonderful institution.”
“WCC is the best-kept secret in the county.”

Nancy & Philip Margolis in memory of Cynthia Margolis

What can you tell me about the endowment?
“We originally planned a legacy gift in our will to start a WCC scholarship. But this year, when our daughter, Cynthia, died after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis and brittle Type 1 diabetes, we felt we wanted to do something to remember her in perpetuity. We decided to fund our legacy promise now and endow a scholarship in her memory. We felt the best way of honoring our daughter would be to remember her every year with a scholarship that would benefit students and change their lives.”

What do you hope to achieve through this scholarship?
“We have not limited the scholarship to any one area of study because we want the gift to be available to any student who needs help, whatever their needs – child care, books, transportation, not just tuition.”

Why support WCC?
“We’ve always loved WCC for the work it does, the opportunities it gives to students. WCC is so diverse and open and wonderful. WCC accepts students at all levels and all stages of life. The college is totally non-judgmental and works with all students to help them achieve their dreams.

“We would encourage anyone who’s never been on campus to give themselves a real treat. Walk around WCC and get a feeling for the energy, the diversity, the intellectual skills of the students and professors there. We think WCC is the best-kept secret in the county. It has been a real privilege for us to be involved.”
“We want to provide support in perpetuity.”

Norman & Debbie Herbert

Why did you decide to create the Norman and Debbie Herbert scholarship?

Norman: “We’re very supportive of education. The idea to set up an endowment came from spending years managing the University of Michigan’s endowment portfolio. We like the concept of providing support in perpetuity, in this case, to fund a scholarship for students in need. To the extent we can, we want to give something back to the community.”

What do you hope the scholarship will achieve?

Debbie: “We’d like to support women who are returning to school, who are unemployed or underemployed and are struggling to finance their education. I come from a family that believes strongly in education for women as well as men. My grandfather was born in the late 1800s and was almost unique in his generation: he said his daughters would get just as good a college education as his sons would get. And that’s what happened. I think education and reproductive rights are what women need to advance their dreams.”

Why support WCC?

Debbie: “Not every student can afford a four-year university education. WCC is important as a bridge for students who want to go to college but their grades or financial resources won’t take them there.”

Norman: “In addition, I’ve always been very partial to what WCC offers in terms of access to education for students who might not want to just pursue academic but also vocational training. WCC’s programs are extremely well recognized. It has a strong reputation for work in trade development through its programs in things like welding and auto services. I’ve been impressed with the equipment students have access to, creating automobile prototypes or prostheses for people who have lost a limb. The college is at the cutting edge of providing opportunities for students to have access to training like this. It’s just amazing when you think about it.”
Tell me about your mother, Shirley Belcovski.

“My mother passed away in September 2017. After her death, my siblings and I wanted to celebrate her life in a way that would be meaningful to her and would make her proud.

“Mom’s parents came to America from Syria as immigrants in the 1930s, and the first language she heard was Arabic. But she developed an early aptitude for reading and then actually helped teach her parents how to read and write English. Our mom instilled in us a love of reading since we were each toddlers. When we were growing up, she took us every week to the story hour at our local library. She wanted us to be able to understand that the world was much bigger than Warren, Michigan, and she wanted to ensure that we had opportunities to learn about a breadth of topics. She also nurtured her own curiosity and instilled that in her children.

“When it came to honoring our mom’s life, my brother and sister and I could think of nothing more special than to endow a scholarship in her name.”

What do you hope the scholarship will accomplish?

“We’d like the scholarship to go to a student who is an English or journalism major because we know those professions attract students who appreciate the art of reading. Anything and everything is possible if you read about it, learn about it, know about it. And I really do think that reading brings people together.”

Why support WCC?

“I’m a big community college supporter. I went to a community college myself and now work at WCC. In a community college setting, you see such a wide array of students. It’s that melting pot aspect that makes it unique. There’s no one right way to get an education. It takes as long as it takes. Just enjoy the process.

“Education opens up a whole new world of possibilities. It’s an investment that can never be taken away. When you support a community college student, you will be supporting the transformation of someone’s life.”
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Beacon Investments Co.
Marie Beauman Memorial
Rose B. Bellanca
Omer & Elsie Bellfi
Clara M. Berg
Effie Jane Bigford
Stuart Blacklaw Leadership
Ralph Bottruff Math
Bottum, Boyd & Ljutich Families
Jim & Juanita Bradley
Briarwood Pittsfield Kiwanis
Jamie & Cheryl Buhr
David R. Byrd Memorial
Callaghan, Konschuh, Walworth
Sam Callan
Loren W. Campbell II Memorial
Joyce A. Castanier Memorial Nursing
Construction Technology
B.C. Dahlmann Memorial
James Davenport Memorial
Judith & William Davis
Detter Family Foundation Childcare
John & Alice Dobson
William T. Dobson Business
Curtiss and Pauline Drouillard Memorial
Pat Dudley Music
Philip & Beulah Elving
Christine Euritt
Esther & Stanley Fracker Memorial
Ronald Fracker
Douglas D. Freeth Business & Banking
Gargi B. French Chemistry
Albert Galardi
Stephen & Jeannine Galetti
Don Garrett Memorial
Harold S. Gazan
David & Sherry Gebhardt
Arthur Gluckman Memorial
Dennis Guastella
Lloyd H. Haas
Charlotte A. Haatvedt
Ruth A. & Paul B. Hays
Herrick Foundation
Jonathan Hoffman Memorial
Mr. & Mrs. Howard S. Holmes
William B. Holmes Family
Judith C. Hommel
Pamela J. Horiszny
Evel Howard Memorial
Jim & Millie Irwin
Ginny O. Johansen
Jean Johns Childcare
Jesse Michael Joslin
JRP Childcare
Elizabeth Kennedy Childcare
William & Mary Kinley
Rhea Kish Nursing
Nathan Kiskin Memorial
Gladys H. Knoll
Michael Kollen
Behavioral Science
Al Krugler Memorial
Henry S. Landau
Morris J. Lawrence Memorial
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Gonzalo Martin
McClatchey Family
Janet McOmber Nursing
Ted & Hattie McOmber
Ann R. Meredith
Robert E. Meredith Memorial
Norma Meyers Accounting
Flora Miller Memorial
Milton Miller Memorial
Moosbrugger/Stoll HVAC
Vernor & Edith Morris Family
Aron & Gina Myran
Gunder Myran -Ypsi Rotary
Rosemarie Nagel
Robert & William Nelson Radiography
NSK Corporation Inc.
Arthur & Janetta Parker Memorial
Silver Endowment

David Abramson’s Promise
Academic & Career Skills
Sally Adler Childcare
Arbor Brewing Company
Business & Hospitality
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Batell Family
Shirley Belcovski
Love Of Reading
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Blain/Konschuh
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Madeline Sophia Chandler
Celestino Cicone Memorial
Bill & Fritz Clemes
Rob Cook Memorial
Writing Center
Karl & Nancy Couyoumjian
Edith M. Croake Faculty
Professional Development
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Dental Spa Center
Domino’s Pizza
Marguerite D. Eaglin
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Friedman Family
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Beth Gannon
General Endowment
Lyle Goscenski
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Brian Gunderson Memorial
Katherine L Hameleleh
Douglas J. Harris Memorial
Florence & Peter Hedwall Memorial
Gary & Pat Hentz Vocational
Norman & Debbie Herbert
James D. Herter
Carole E. Holmes
Guy Hower Memorial
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Judith James Wood Carlson
Jernigan Family
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