

Commencement Ceremony Honors 2022 Graduates



Largest Attendance Ever

In a celebratory return to a fully in-person event, the graduating Class of 2022 came together during Charter Oak State College's 46th commencement ceremony on Sunday, June 5, 2022. Held in the beautiful Mortensen Hall auditorium of The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, CT, nearly 300 graduates attended with their families and friends. A total of nearly 600 students were conferred degrees this year, representing 28 states and 2 countries. A livestream of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu for graduates and families unable to attend in person and can be viewed at www.CharterOak.edu/graduation.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. Charter Oak Alumna, Cynthia James was this year's Commencement Speaker, and the Student Speaker was Bonnie Wheeler.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for pursuing a college education as working adults with busy lives and family responsibilities. He noted that adult students now represent 40% of higher education students today and are no longer considered 'non-traditional' but rather close to the majority.

Klonoski told the graduates "I see you" and commented on their persistence to pursue a degree while he could see their struggles

to balance work, family, and school. He told them he could see them forgoing things in order to afford their education, could see them reading assignments at the dinner table, and knows their support system sees them too. He remarked how this accomplishment will change the way they are seen by others and asked, "How will your boss see this new and improved you? How will your next employer see you?" Klonoski charged the graduates to use their new strength to make a difference in the world.

The student speaker was Bonnie Wheeler of Torrington, CT. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies with a concentration in Applied Behavior Science: Psychology. She shared her educational journey of a traditional community college graduation, then an interruption to continued studies due to a rare chronic illness that almost killed



Student Speaker, Bonnie Wheeler, addresses the graduates.

her and put her college goals on hold. She spoke of how surviving with new physical and cognitive issues meant rethinking her college dreams. She spoke of how discovering that she could complete her degree online with support from the College's Office of Accessibility, opened a whole new world to her. She said, "Although my original college plans had to change because of my health, when I look back, I recognize that it was my willingness to evolve with each obstacle that helped me succeed." She ended her speech by reminding the graduates that "we have learned, that despite the obstacles life throws at us, we can change if we need to, we can do it!" and encouraged everyone to embrace that knowledge, whether that meant reaching for the next degree, applying for a new job, or opening a business, that they can all

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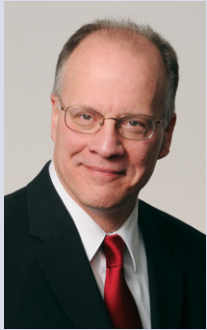
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THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



Keeping Higher Education Affordable

Welcome to summer 2022. We are all still glowing from our June graduation, which we held at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, CT. We had our largest attendance ever and our first in-person event in two years. So everyone deeply enjoyed both the venue and the graduation celebration. We even had an after party at a local Hartford watering hole.

In this essay, I want to focus on the efforts we are making to keep college affordable, particularly for working adults. The first trend that I want to share is that the average age of our graduates is declining. This is because more students in the 22-27 age group are enrolling, so the definition of "working adults" is expanding. Our most dramatic cost containment effort, the Community College Tuition Match program, is part of this change, but there is also a national trend of younger students choosing low-cost online degree programs.

There is now a whole segment of higher education, online institutions, like Charter Oak, that are growing and separating themselves from mainstream higher education based on both our delivery model *and* our pricing model. Many of us who deliver our programs online are not raising our tuition, and thereby bending the higher education cost curve. In Charter Oak's case, we have not increased our tuition for three straight years, even though our costs have risen. For our fully Pell Grant eligible students, that means the \$400 increase they will receive beginning in the fall of 2022 will remain in their pockets, and they will have more money for essentials.

This trend is producing two separate higher education marketplaces. To use a restaurant analogy, there are lots of schools chasing more Michelin stars. They keep increasing their profile and

their price with better food, better dorms, larger gyms, etc. But the online institutions who are not raising prices, are behaving like the popular meal delivery plans offering budget friendly, healthy food delivered right to your door. We provide a good product, consistently prepared, at a low, fixed price. That is the choice that faces consumers, and Charter Oak is confident that we will attract our share of students who are looking for our value proposition.

We are also experimenting with reducing barriers to enrollment like waiving application fees, deposits, etc. We are organizing in-depth interviews with students who have left the college or declined to enroll to find out what we can do better. Our academic team is busy creating articulation agreements that make it easier for students to move from where they are (which may be another college or working at a local business) to us.

Finally, we are hard at work building new programs that offer students pathways to improved employment. CT STATE (the Connecticut State Community College system) has a vibrant associate degree in Social Work, and we are providing those graduates with a bachelor's program, online, and at the Community College price. We are also creating on-ramps and off-ramps to our most in-demand programs that permit students to take a few courses and immediately gain a workplace skill that they can turn into a promotion. The idea here is to shorten the time before a new degree program results in employment gains. We also expect that employers will see these small programs as an immediate win for their incumbent workforce.

Your alma mater is focused on offering educational programs that move adults forward in the workplace at a price that they and their families can afford. I will see you next time, but you can always reach out to me at eklonoski@charteroak.edu.

Ed Klonoski, President

"Commencement Ceremony" continued from pg. 1 change and grow to continue a successful, happy life.

The Commencement Speaker and Honorary Doctorate recipient this year was Cynthia James, Charter Oak Alumnus. The honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, is awarded to recognize individuals who exemplify the spirit of the College. Ms. James thanked the regents for the honor as well as her "entire village" of friends and family at work, school, and home. Like many Charter Oak students, she shared that her educational journey, especially as a black woman, was "not an expressway." She offered tips to the graduates about continuing their

education including: ask a friend to join, take full advantage of every opportunity whether it be a grant, scholarship, tuition reimbursement, a seminar, or even free parking days at work, keep an updated resume, network and cultivate contacts, ask for recommendation letters from faculty, track your accomplishments, and save those kudos! She finished by encouraging the graduates to reach back and help someone behind them, share what they've learned, even consider hiring a fellow alum. Quoting, Leonard Nimoy of Star Trek fame, she reminded everyone, "The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have!"

Dr. David Ferreira, Provost of Charter Oak State College shared demographic facts



Cynthia Ann James, 2022 Honorary Degree Recipient with Ed Klonoski, COSC President, and Dr. David Ferreira, COSC Provost.

“Commencement Ceremony” continued from pg. 2

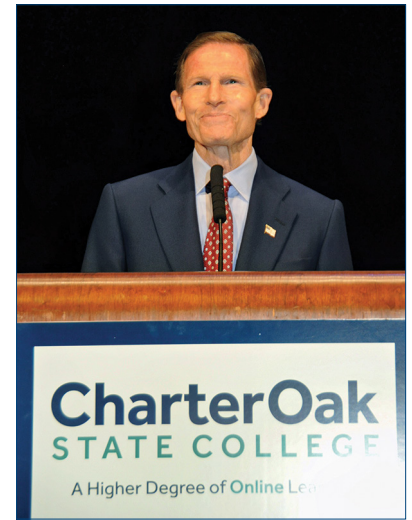
about the Class of 2022, including that 74% were women; graduates ranged in age from 18 to 69, with the average age being 39; graduates hailed from 28 states and 2 countries with 77% from Connecticut; 47% earned honors; more than 25 graduated with a Master’s degree, over 480 graduated with a Bachelor’s degree, more than 70 graduated with Associate degrees; over 25% attended full time, and most students, whether full or part time, worked full time. Almost a quarter of the graduates took advantage of credit for prior learning as noted during the Doris G. Cassiday Awards and a number of graduates are already attending graduate school. He said “100% of you are hardworking, determined, resilient, and should be proud of this awesome accomplishment!”

Connecticut’s Senior United States Senator, Richard Blumenthal was on hand to congratulate the graduates. He told the graduates that “the Bushnell has never looked better” and noted they should be especially proud of their accomplishments because of the extra demands the pandemic put on them. He remarked that each of us

stands on the shoulders of those before us so that we can leave America a little bit better, citing his commitment to equal pay and lessening gun violence.

Graduates Jessika Gossett of Ellington, CT, Raynae Serra of Shelton, CT, and Andrew McMahon of Shelton, CT all earned Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



Senior United States Senator from Connecticut, Richard Blumenthal addresses the graduates.



Master of Organizational Effectiveness & Leadership graduates with President Ed Klonoski.



Health Information Management graduates with Program Director Cindy Egerton and President Ed Klonoski.



Health Care Administration Master’s graduates with Program Director Brooke Palkie and President Ed Klonoski.



Early Childhood Education graduates with Program Director Maureen Hogan.

Doris G. Cassiday Award Presented at 2022 Commencement



Jessika Gossett accepts her 2022 Doris G. Cassiday Award from Dr. David Ferreira, COSC Provost.

The Doris G. Cassiday Award is given to those graduates of Charter Oak State College who have achieved excellence in innovative learning and who exemplify the essence of the Charter Oak mission. With this award, the College recognizes individuals who avail themselves fully of a broad range of learning options, earning credits both inside and outside the traditional classroom setting. Options include distance learning, testing, portfolio assessment,

contract learning, military service training/schooling and other non-collegiate sponsored instruction, which has been evaluated for credit, as well as classroom instruction.

The Cassiday Award was created in 1998 in the name of Doris Cassiday, a founding member of Charter Oak State College, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to higher education. Doris served the college for over 30 years; as its first Chairman upon creation, and again as the first Foundation Chairman. She then went on to work directly with students as Assistant Director of Academic Programs as an academic counselor for many years. The award continues on in memory of the dedication and leadership that she provided to the College.

2022 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients are:

Wesley Chung, Willimantic, CT

Leah Clements, University Heights, OH

Mary Alice Dewees, Berlin, CT

Scott M. Ellis, Enfield, CT

Jessika Gossett, Ellington, CT

Nechama Ishakis, Southfield, MI

Jonathan J. Whatley, Orangeville, Ontario, Canada

Congratulations to all!

WIT and CT-WAGE Programs Graduate New Class

The Special Programs at Charter Oak State College continue to move students to self-sufficiency. At the June 5, 2022 commencement ceremony, the Women in Transition (WIT) program celebrated its 23rd graduation, while the CT-WAGE program celebrated its 15th graduation. Fourteen total students were conferred degrees.

Both programs assist low-income, single parents by completing their education to create a better future for themselves and their families. The program provides grant funding and other tools and support to help ensure degree completion. A dedicated Program Director works throughout the year offering hands-on support and encouragement to get graduates to the finish line. Congratulations to this year's graduates! For information regarding The WIT and CT-WAGE programs, please visit www.CharterOak.edu/WIT.



Proud new 2022 WIT and CT-WAGE graduates pose with Wanda Warshauer, Director of Academic Services.

Watch for Upcoming Events and Ways to Get Involved!

Employer Appreciation Breakfast – Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Alumni Ambassador & Membership Meeting(s)

Virtual: Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 pm | In-person: Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 5:30 pm

Charter Oak State College 50th Anniversary Celebratory Year

Reunion Weekend 2023 | Spring Gala and more! | Save the dates: June 9, 10, and 11, 2023

Greetings and Welcome to the Class of 2022

As the Alumni Association President, I have the privilege of officially welcoming you to the Charter Oak Alumni Community. **Welcome!**

The Alumni Association mission is to be a vast community of engaged partners who build relationships and empower the pursuit of education and career satisfaction. To that end, our volunteer Board of Directors remains unwavering in its efforts to create community and offer a variety of benefits for Charter Oak Alumni, such as:

- Networking Events both Virtual and In-person
- Workshops for Career Enhancement and Personal Wellness
- Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities
- Alumni Association Sponsored Legal, Insurance, and Service Programs

As I look back and reflect over the many commencements I have been lucky enough to attend, it occurs to me that there has never been a time when there hasn't been some upheaval, some disturbance, some turmoil, some obstacle. And yet those obstacles become the way forward.

As a newly minted Charter Oak alumnus, I humbly ask you to consider one more experience with the College – that of an active, registered member of the Charter Oak State College Alumni Association. I remember my graduation day and the appreciation I felt for Charter Oak. I had to give back to Charter Oak in some way. I did that by joining the Alumni Association and then becoming a Board member. I hope you will too.



John Thomas, Class of 2013,
President, Alumni Association

Alumni Board Members

John Thomas, President
Steve Foerster, Vice President
Holly Howery, Secretary
Chris May, Treasurer
Cecilia Kozlowski, Co-Treasurer
Mervin Alexander, Director
Marcia Anderson-Esson, Director

Trinene Davis, Director
Belinda McClain, Director
Traci O'Brien, Director
Joan Palmer, Director
Sean Peltier, Director
Cecelia Peppers-Johnson, Director
Daniel Perea, Director

Joel Raffone, Director
Tenell Rhodes, Director
Kim Robinson, Director
Trebawan Soomaroo, Director
Lisa Wilson, Director
Carol Hall, Director, Alumni and
Donor Relations, COSC



2022 Alumni Association Membership: Join today!

- \$175 Lifetime Membership *plus* Charter Oak Ballcap and Charter Oak Oversized Mug
- \$40 1-Year Membership *plus* Charter Oak Ballcap
- \$40 1-Year Membership *plus* Charter Oak Oversized Mug
- \$15 1-Year Membership only



Become a registered member and ensure you are in the know!

Join online at: www.charteroak.edu/alumni or complete and return the form below with a check payable to:

Charter Oak State College Alumni Association (COSC Alumni)

55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053

First and Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Grad Year: _____ Degree Conferred: Associate Bachelor's Master's

Preferred Email: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Title: _____

I give permission for Charter Oak State College to email me.

Alumni Association in Action 2021/2022 – a Look Back and Forward!

As a group, we were able to accomplish a lot in 2021 despite COVID restrictions, and 2022 began the reboot of live gatherings for the Alumni Association, and we quickly discovered – we are better together – in-person or virtually!

Activities included an outdoor music concert in August of 2021 and an in-person celebration for the 2020 and 2021 graduates at the Hartford Yard Goats minor league baseball stadium. We added a new complimentary virtual series of Professional & Personal Development lunchtime discussions, called *Conversations With*.

Conversations With

The *Conversations With* program gave Alumni Lifetime members an opportunity to share their knowledge, encourage others in their journey, and improve Alumni engagement. More importantly, this opportunity provided our community time to connect, expand our network and knowledge, or a moment to just be refreshed. We will continue the *Conversations With* virtual series in 2022/2023.

To reboot and help Board members, the Alumni Association also sponsored a virtual workshop, *Being Resilient in a time of Change, Growth, and Uncertainty* with consultant and coach, David Fortt of New Image Consulting.

In keeping with tradition, the Alumni Board of Directors held an in-person **Winter Social**, Friday, December 3, 2021, in conjunction with First Night at the New Britain (CT) Museum of American Art. The event, with safety protocols in place, was managed by the museum staff, refreshments were individually packaged, and masks were worn. The evening included museum tours, music by the Cartells, great networking conversation... and, of course – swag!

Also, the annual Hartford **Wolf Pack Ice Hockey Game and Scholarship Fundraiser** was held on Friday, February 11, 2022.



Long-time Board members, President, John Thomas, Treasurer, Chris May, and Vice President, Steven Foerster are visiting with Sarah Ellis, Director, Office of Accessibility Services, COSC.

The evening included reserved group seating, the opportunity to network and connect, free swag for attendees, and of course, a hockey game! Hockey & Higher Education as it was named, raised \$482 towards the Alumni Association Master's Degree Scholarship Program.



Alumni, students, and staff.



Oaklee made his "live" debut!

A big thank you to Provost, David Ferreira for bringing Oaklee to life as the official Charter Oak State College Alumni Association Mascot! (Unfortunately, our smaller stuffed Oaklee's are caught up in the supply chain shortages and are currently on a slow ship, far far away.)

Acorns in Action | Volunteer Network

Our Alumni volunteers were on hand to assist with two recent commencements. On September 5, 2021, we celebrated both 2020 and 2021 grads outdoors at the Hartford Yard Goats stadium. And again, their assistance was invaluable, June 5th at the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts in Hartford, CT for the 2022 graduates.



Sean Peltier, Joel Raffone (left to right) plus, Cecilia Kozlowski (*not in photo*) helped welcome our 2020 and 2021 graduates at the Yard Goats stadium celebration.



Our June 5, 2022 commencement included more dedicated Alumni helping out. Alumni volunteers (left to right) include Joel Raffone, Mervin Alexander, Angela Klonoski, Juan Urena, Kaylie Hall (guest), and Lisa Wilson.

The Friendship Center Volunteer Service Project and Donation Drive was held in April 2022 and our Alumni painters and shoppers alike made a difference in the lives of others!

Charter Oak State College Alumni and Student Volunteer Network - **Acorns in Action** – joined forces with Provost, David Ferreira, and the Charter Oak DEI Committee to make a difference for the homeless in our community in New Britain, CT. Volunteers helped spruce up the clinical side of the center by applying a fresh coat of paint. Charter Oak was also able to supply three boxes of twin sheet sets for the temporary residents of the Friendship Center! Since 1968, the Friendship Service Center, Inc. (The Friendship Center) has provided a continuum of services for those at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness.



The Alumni Association Master of Science Degree Scholarship

was awarded in the fall of 2021 to MaKenna Clark, of Enfield, CT. MaKenna earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Charter Oak State College and is working on a Master's degree in Health Care Administration. Her goal is to oversee a long-term care facility and to change the lives of the residents for the better, while providing a caring and secure home life for her children. She expressed her gratitude in a note stating, "This money will help so much with defraying costs and lowering how much I will need in student loans. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to receive this scholarship."



Meet Leana Lopez!

Leana Lopez is the new Graduate Admissions Counselor at COSC. She has been involved in higher education admissions for over ten years. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Central Connecticut State University and a M.A. in Leadership from Albertus Magnus College. Leana is already hard at work

supporting our graduate students as they continue their educational journey. Building strong relationships, making connections, and offering guidance through the process and beyond are just some of the reasons why she loves her work. For those planning to continue their education with a Master's degree, Leana is more than prepared to assist you. If you'd like to learn about our graduate programs or have questions regarding our admissions process, reach out to Leana at llopez2@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3832.

Membership Benefits – Upgrade

Charter Oak State College Alumni Association perks include gifts with membership, invitations to member-only meetings, and group rates with a few of our partners:

Charter Oak Alumni Insurance Program – The program offers a variety of attractively-priced insurance products. For more information, visit COSC.MeyerAndAssoc.com or contact our program administrator (**Meyer and Associates**) at 800-635-7801.

LegalShield – Get unlimited consultation on personal legal matters. To learn more or enroll, visit <https://legalshield.com/info/coscaa>.

Plus, the COSC Alumni online store has been updated with the new brand and new items. View by scanning the QR code (with your iPhone camera) or visit the website: www.rhinogift.com/charter-oak.htm



2022 COSC Commencement - Largest Attendance Ever!





Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts Big 80s Dinner, Dance, and Scholarship Fundraiser



After a two-year postponement, an outdoor venue was prepared, outfits selected, and a small but dedicated crowd gathered to celebrate the **COSC Foundation's Scholarship Fundraiser**. The event was held June 25th at the Farmington Club, Farmington, CT and almost \$8,000 was raised, meeting the Board's goal.

Foundation Board Member, Susan Lewis spoke to the attendees sharing that the Foundation's challenge is "a need greater than its resources." She explained "In 2021 the Foundation received 225 applications for financial assistance, and we were only able to fund 20% of the requests." She said "Charter Oak State College students are determined to create better lives for themselves and their families. But many have full-time jobs and family responsibilities, plus tight budgets, that are getting tighter, and life continues to create obstacles to their success, making degree completion difficult."

She spoke to the audience about how the Foundation supports Charter Oak students. "We financially support the students by providing scholarships and grants, to help ease the burden and reduce student loan debt. Plus, this little bit of



Susan Lewis, Foundation Board Member

extra encouragement lets students know there is a community of people standing behind them, that believe in their efforts to complete their degree and advance their careers," she said.

Thank you to the many sponsors and donors who made the evening a success!



Dinner was enjoyed (outdoors undercover) by the Charter Oak Community and their family and friends.



Joe Waxman, COSC Foundation Board Member and owner of Guru Enterprises, kicked-off the festivities with a look back in time, when gas was way low and Charter Oak State College was just a decade old.



Big 80s "rad" style was everywhere as Board members, alumni, students, and even President Ed and Mrs. Klonoski dressed for the occasion.



Irene Puccio, (second from left) Charter Oak Class of 2016, invited friends to dine and dance!



Cheers! Charter Oak Alumni Board Member, Kim Robinson (left) and her guest got in the 80s spirit!



Provost Ferreira and Holly Howery, 3x alum, Board of Regent, Alumni Association Secretary.



DJ Dr. Love aka Julio Casiano (left), COSC Foundation Board Member, (and his assistant), kept the dance tunes playing as folks took to the dance floor.



NBDD Executive Director, Dennis Morrell (left), and his guests dug deep into their 80s closets (and yes, that is an original Caldor shirt and name tag!).



Carol Hall, about her outfit was heard saying, "This old thing! I'm an 80s gal at heart."



Brian and Sophia Jappinen, Student Association Board Member and OEL Masters' Degree Student.



Susan Lewis (right), COSC Foundation Board Member, explains the Mystery Wine Wall to Stephen and Phillipa Ivain.



COSC Foundation Board Member, Steven Taylor with Melissa Richards.



Dancing the night away!

To our generous donors, please know that together you are helping create brighter futures for our students who are striving to complete their degrees. An investment in the Foundation is truly helping to bridge the gap for our most vulnerable students, and **creating brighter futures, one degree at a time!**

Impact Report!

Between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, the COSC Foundation awarded \$142,645

Creating Brighter Futures, One Student, One Scholarship, One Grant at a Time!

Scholarship and Grant Awards

56 Students received financial assistance totaling \$47,250

- Beverly & Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship
- The Dr. George G. Moker Endowed Scholarship
- The Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings
- Elizabeth Andel Memorial Scholarship
- Harris-Wiener Family Scholarship
- John & Elizabeth Blennerhassett Scholarship
- Mark Carr Endowed Scholarship
- Michael A. Marusa Scholarship
- R. Wayne Clugston Scholarship
- COSC Foundation General Scholarship
- COSC Foundation Scholar Scholarship
- Charter Oak State College Alumni Association Master’s Degree Scholarship
- Charter Oak State College Foundation Master’s Degree Scholarship
- Technology Grant

Demographics	
Female	40
Male	15
Did not identify	1
Black or African American	21
Hispanic or Latino	10
White	21
Married	7
Single	36
Divorced	7

Emergency Assistance

15 students received Student Crisis and Charter Oak Cares Funding totaling \$3,220.

Prior Learning Assessment Awards

16 students received PLA Awards totaling \$3,390.

Return on Investment (\$3,390.68/98.5): \$34.42 per credit earned

PiiT - Parents Intent on Improving Tomorrow Scholarship

This Scholarship is an intentional resource for parents of color, living in Connecticut, with financial need (at or near the State Poverty guidelines), single or married, pursuing degree completion at Charter Oak State College.

Four \$2,000 Scholarships were awarded to parents in FY2022.

Women in Transition (WIT)

29 single-parent female students began the fall semester in the WIT Program, 14 graduated in June 2022, and three semesters of awarding totaled \$88,785.

The women came from a variety of backgrounds and on average had 2.5 children and earned \$34,246.

Demographics: 52% Black, 28% Hispanic, 21% White

Women in Transition (WIT): Tamara's Story



Mervin Alexander, Alumni Association Board Member and Ambassador referred his cousin, Tamara Paul, to Charter Oak State College and the WIT program. He was an alum volunteer at the commencement ceremony and exclaimed, "This was one of the most rewarding experiences, seeing my cousin Tamara Paul walk across the stage at her graduation. I was happy to be a source of motivation and support. For years I encouraged her, although it was not always easy, the end result was worth some sleepless nights!"

Congratulations Tamara, what an example for your daughter, Hope!

"My name is Tamara Paul, and I am a single mom to an intelligent seven-year-old young lady named Hope. I am so proud to say that I will be graduating in June 2022, and it is bittersweet. I never thought that this journey could be possible for me because I am an immigrant and a single mother, living from paycheck to paycheck.

I first heard about the Women in Transition (WIT) program from three of my coworkers who were going through the program at the same time. They highly recommended that I look into this program because it was changing their lives and I wanted so desperately to change my life. I wanted to go on to complete my bachelor's degree and for the first time in a long time, I could see a path to getting this mission accomplished.

My counselor Wanda was amazing. She and Hope have been my biggest cheerleaders. Stressing about books, tuition, and getting a

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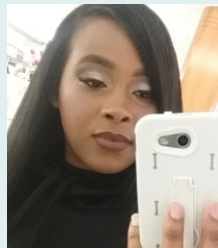
Scholarship Recipients Respond with Gratitude



"I consider myself fortunate to have had the chance to obtain a scholarship and minimize my financial load, especially in this COVID period. As a result, this scholarship could not have arrived at a better time and brought me closer to completing my degree. I express my deepest gratitude to the COSC Foundation Board of Directors and their generous donors for this Foundation General Scholarship Award." **Christein**



"I would like to take a moment to thank the Charter Oak State College Foundation for providing me with the Technology Grant. This grant affords me the opportunity to obtain a reliable device, aiding in the betterment of my online learning experience. I am truly grateful for all the support that this college gives to its students!" **Jennifer**



"I am pleased to say that I have a graduation date of August 2022 to obtain my bachelor's degree in Psychology! This Michael A. Marusa Scholarship will allow me to complete my final semesters without stress or financial burden, as I am unemployed currently. Without donors, as well as the scholarship foundation, many students wouldn't have the opportunity to complete their degrees. Coming from a family that has only had one other person graduate from college, I feel proud and extremely grateful that the foundation connected with something in my essay that made them want to help me... I will never forget the opportunities I was given here at Charter Oak through these scholarships, and can't wait to be able to pay it back. Going into this new year I feel more confident now than I have ever felt, and I owe it all to all of you! Thank you!" **Quiana**



"Thank you for selecting me for the Beverly & Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship! For years, I have aspired to start a nonprofit in hopes of changing communities for the better through education. I took CLEP and DSST exams, and with Charter Oak's high acceptance of credits, I have been able to accelerate my degree completion. The Beverly & Rodney Hawes, Jr. Scholarship has taken a significant amount of financial pressure off my family, allowing me to focus on the education that will prepare me for future success in nonprofit startup and management. Thank you, Hawes Family, for your generous contribution to COSC students, and thank you for believing in my dream!" **Savannah**

Create Brighter Futures! Together, we can help create brighter futures, one scholarship, one student, one degree at a time.

Please consider a **donation** to the Charter Oak State College Foundation and help us **give more to our students**. Pay-it-forward today by giving a **recurring monthly gift, a one-time gift** of any size, or **create a legacy** by establishing a named fund.

To give online, please visit: <https://bit.ly/Give2CharterOak>

To create a legacy fund, please contact: Carol Hall, COSC Foundation Executive Director at chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889.

Contributions to the Charter Oak State College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Fiscal Year 2022, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Donor Recognition and Appreciation

To Increase Giving Impact, the COSC Foundation works with individuals, corporations, and foundations to create legacy endowment funds. An endowment gift to a 501(c)3 such as Charter Oak State College Foundation, is a permanent gift that is protected. Distributions are made (from the earnings) for specific or general purposes as established.

We want to thank our community of donors who gave generously in Fiscal Year 2022. Thank YOU!

President's Circle

\$750 and above

Dr. Shirley M. Adams
Robert Addy
Aviva D. Budd
Dave Calibey
Nicolin Carr
Robert Casale
Julio C. Casiano
Naomi & Michael Cohen
David Ferreira
Paul & Elizabeth Foody
Merle & David Harris
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Myra & William Kleinman
Ed & Angela Klonoski
Liberty Bank
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Susan B. Sweeney
Thomas P. Thomas
Betsy Udal
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Alumni Association,
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Student Association,
Charter Oak State College

Supporter Circle

\$500 - \$749

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Irene Puccio
David Ross
Andrew Salak
Susan Shimelman

Michael S. Wilder

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Charter Circle

\$250 - \$499

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"Tamara's Story" continued from pg. 13



WIT graduates are all smiles with Wanda Warshauer, WIT Program Director.

computer for my class were the last things on my mind. At the beginning, middle, and end of the semester, Wanda reached out to make sure that I had everything I needed to push through my journey. I remember not wanting to take my Statistics class and she was so encouraging. She told me that she believed in me and that I could pass the class if I just believed in myself. So, I took a deep breath and chugged on through. She was right, I passed that class with an A.

When my computer broke in the middle of my class, the WIT program provided me with a new computer. When I was worried that I would not be able to afford internet service to continue my studies, the program provided me with a hot spot adapter so I could continue my studies anywhere. The program has also been very generous in providing gift cards during the holidays to help spread some holiday cheer. During the height of COVID, the program offered to connect me with counselors to help with the stress of it all.

My daughter looks up to me and is proud of the hard work and effort that I put into acquiring that degree. All of this would not be possible without your kind and generous donations and the support of the team behind the Women in Transition program. I am proud to be a product of that program. My self-confidence is higher, my future and my daughter's future are brighter. I can finally ask for a raise because I am qualified to do so. I would and have recommended this program to many women like myself.

Thank you and I hope that you continue to change the lives of women like myself who thought that this dream was impossible without drowning in a sea of debt."

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