

connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2018 VOL. XLIII NO. 2



Charter Oak Holds 2018 Commencement Ceremony on June 3rd – Theme was “The New Majority”

A completely full auditorium of family and friends resided over the graduating Class of 2018 as students received degrees during Charter Oak State College's 44th commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 3rd, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. Over 500 students graduated with more than 200 graduates in attendance, representing 34 states and 3 countries. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu for graduates and families unable to attend in person.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. This year's commencement speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient was

Mrs. Brenda S. York, Charter Oak Alumna. The student speaker was Shelly L. Carter.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for pursuing a college education while simultaneously balancing their busy work and family responsibilities. He spoke of the changes in higher education from the historical 18 to 24 year-old, full-time population living in dorms, to nearly 50% of college students today over the age of 24,



Student speaker, Shelly Carter



Honorary Degree Recipient, Brenda S. York addresses the graduates.

attending part-time, and managing families and jobs. He told the graduates that their accomplishments are rapidly becoming how the majority of college students now complete their degrees.

“It is no longer true that what you managed, the work you did, and the way you did that work represents something non-traditional. In fact, your story is now the mainstream story for American higher education, and states like Connecticut are committed to preparing 70% of its workforce with postsecondary credentials.”

Klonoski charged the graduates with their first post-graduation responsibility saying “Tell your story, explain why you came back to finish, detail how it made a difference to your career, and together we will re-create the college myth to include your stories and your successes.”

The student speaker was Shelly L. Carter of Meriden, CT. Carter completed a

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THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



Welcome to the Summer/Fall issue and congratulations to our recent graduates!

We are all working hard on our Fall enrollments. First on our enrollment agenda is our Early Childhood programs. We recently elevated our two Early Childhood concentrations into an Associate's degree and Bachelor's degree respectively. And we were granted a

\$600,000 pool of scholarship money for Connecticut Early Childhood Education degree seekers by the state Office of Early Childhood. Our Early Childhood team has been meeting with Early Childhood Center directors across the state, and we are very encouraged by the responses we are receiving. Charter Oak has long been a leading provider of Early Childhood degrees, certificates, and even an Alternate Route to Early Childhood Certification (for CT teacher certification). We are working to corner the market and become the leading early childhood resource for the whole state.

Next, we have officially launched a Community College Tuition Match Program that offers recent community college graduates the opportunity to finish their Bachelor's degree at Charter Oak at the community college tuition level. We offered this option to our 12 Connecticut Community Colleges and all 12 schools signed up in just three weeks. We already have 20 students signed up. We think this could be a major development.

We are also preparing a new marketing campaign that guarantees transfer students to Charter Oak will never pay twice for the same course. As part of this campaign, we will also guarantee on-time graduation. We never close a course if

it has enrollment, and we offer all the courses for our degrees every semester. So every student can take the course he or she needs at whatever rate is appropriate for them. So everyone finishes on time.

We have been asked by the Board of Regents to produce an RN to BSN program for Associate's prepared Nurses. The healthcare industry increasingly requires that these nurses upgrade their credential from an Associate's to a Bachelor's, and we have been asked to produce an online program that accomplishes this. We are currently moving through the approval process and beginning the course design process. We expect to launch this program in Fall 2019. To assure efficiency for working nurses, the program will be designed so that CT Community College graduates can use all of their Associate credits toward a Bachelor's degree.

Finally, a fun new approach to growing enrollment is our Alumni Ambassador program. We are asking our alums all around the country — always our best marketing resource — to talk up the college and their experiences, and to encourage friends, co-workers, and family members to consider Charter Oak. Any of those connections who apply will receive a waiver code that makes their application free. We are giving credit to alumni ambassadors who bring us new students and plan to celebrate with them as their successes mount. So share your Charter Oak story and give your friends a free application.

Consider yourself updated and enjoy the rest of the summer! Please keep your suggestions and feedback coming to eklonoski@charteroak.edu.

Ed Klonoski, President

"2018 Commencement: The New Majority" continued from pg. 1

Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a Concentration in Public Safety Administration. She shared that her desire to stay the course when she joined the City of Hartford Fire Department at the age of 29 led her to various promotions and later to pursue her college degree. She came to Charter Oak in 2015 as a participant of the successful *Go Back to Get Ahead* degree completion program. Carter noted that "Engine Company 9 was where she initially learned to master her craft and earn promotions to become one of the first two female engine drivers in the City, become a Lieutenant, an Arson Investigator,

Fire Code Enforcement Official, Fire Instructor, then the only African-American female instructor at the state level, and now a graduate of Charter Oak State College!" She congratulated her class on staying the course while finishing papers late at night or on the sidelines of their children's sporting events and finished by quoting Malcom X who said "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

The commencement speaker and Honorary Doctorate recipient was Mrs. Brenda S. York, Charter Oak



alumna. She spoke of her educational journey that began with attending a four year college but leaving to marry and raise a family without completing a degree. She and her husband raised 8 children who were home educated by Brenda utilizing home based curriculums, specialized tutors,

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Master's Program Graduates 8

The College graduated its first ever Master's degree class during the 2018 commencement ceremony. The class of 8 included Ernest Cantwell, Sharon Efron, James Gibbs, Quishema Jones, Shawn Judge, Riccardo Polselli, Christopher Taylor, and Joshua Tefft. All were conferred the Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership by President Ed Klonoski. 🌱



Members of the College's first Master's degree graduating class. Seated (left to right) Sharon Efron and Shawn Judge. Standing (left to right) James Gibbs, Riccardo Polselli, President Ed Klonoski, Joshua Tefft, Ernest Cantwell, and Program Director Tom Barron.

Health Information Management Program Graduates 19

As a program that was new in 2012, the Health Information Management major is now starting to see significant sized groups of graduates.

The Health Information Management (HIM) program prepares students for a career that is in high demand. HIM professionals work with electronic health records, patient information, data analysis, health care statistics, quality management of health information, and medical coding to ensure quality medical records for patients and providers. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the Registered Health Information Administrator credentialing exam through the American Health Information Management Association. 🌱



HIM program graduates Christine Nemec and Emily Liao stand with Assistant HIM Program Director Frank Valier, College President Ed Klonoski, and HIM Program Director Cindy Edgerton.

"2018 Commencement: The New Majority" continued from pg. 2

and private lessons to enhance their education. When her oldest child was 28 they discovered Charter Oak State College and challenged her to complete a college degree before marrying. Since that time, 6 of her other children have completed degrees at Charter Oak, her youngest is planning a 2019 graduation and Brenda herself completed her degree in 2017. She thanked the College and "those innovative thinkers and courageous educators who chose to 'think outside the box' in the first place and instituted the Charter Oak concept in order to see more individuals succeed in their goal of obtaining a college degree." In closing, she urged the graduates to "begin today to show our appreciation for what we have received by using our schooling and our skills to make a difference for good, in our families, in our communities, and our world."

Dr. Shirley Adams, Provost of Charter Oak State College shared some interesting facts about the Class of 2018, including that 69% were women; graduates ranged in age from 17 to 65+, with the average age being 38; graduates hailed from 34 states and 3 countries with 69% from Connecticut; 10% earned honors; 8 graduated with a Master's degree, 415 graduated with a Bachelor's degree, more than 60 graduated with an Associate's degree; a third of graduates used multiple methods to earn college credit as noted during the Doris G. Cassiday awards; and a number of graduates are already attending graduate school.

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance were presented to Amelia M. Saunders of Andover, CT and Kathy M. Alves of Bristol, CT. 🌱

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

connections

SUMMER/FALL 2018
VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 2

Issued semi-annually for alumni and friends of Charter Oak State College.

 **CharterOakSM**
STATE COLLEGE

Degrees Without Boundaries

Charter Oak State College complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action.

Helen Diecidue, Editor

State of Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor

Board of Regents
Mark E. Ojakian, President

Charter Oak State College
Ed Klonoski, President

Doris G. Cassiday Awards Granted at 2018 Commencement



Bryan Heston accepts his 2018 Doris G. Cassiday Award.

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 G. 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 and as an academic counselor for many years. The award continues on in memory of the dedication and leadership that she provided to the College. 🌱

2018 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients included:

Bryan E. Heston, New London, CT
Scott M. Ingram, Easton, CT
Deborah L. McLaughlin, Brockton, MA
Ronald A. Pisani, Jr., Cheshire CT

Congratulations to all!

2018 Community College Transfer Scholarships Awarded

8 Outstanding Applicants Recognized

The College was pleased to award Community College Transfer Scholarships to 8 recipients this spring. Applicants for the scholarship must demonstrate interest and success in online learning, have an overall GPA of at least 2.7, be nominated by an instructor, counselor, or administrator at the Community College they attend, and provide a short essay on the benefits of online learning. *"The members of the scholarship review committee were excited to see the number of excellent applicants this year and even more excited that they will all be recognized,"* said Orchid Deer Dalomba, Admissions Counselor at Charter Oak.

The 2018 Community College Transfer Scholarship recipients are:

Elizabeth Constante of Trumbull holds an A.S. in Business Administration Marketing from Housatonic Community College and will study Business Administration at Charter Oak.

Janey Davis of Manchester holds an A.S. in General Studies from Capital Community College and will study Human Resources.

Ian Curtis of Southwick, Massachusetts holds an A.S. in Criminal Justice from Asnuntuck Community College and will study Public Safety Administration.

Chelsea Manos of Milford holds an A.S. in General Studies from Gateway Community College and will study Business Administration.

Eunice Mukidi of Waterbury holds an A.S. in General Studies from Naugatuck Valley Community College and will study Psychology.

Antoinette Ledgister of Hartford holds an A.S. in General Studies from Capital Community College and will study Health Information Management.

Monica Padilla of Stamford holds an A.S. in Medical Office Management from Norwalk Community College and will study Health Care Administration.

Windy Ayala of Stamford holds an A.S. in Early Childhood Education from Norwalk Community College and will study Child Studies.

Celebrate Your Accomplishment with a Charter Oak Class Ring!

Class rings are available at **Jostens.com**



Visit the website
or call
800-854-7464
for more information!

Alumni Association Greeting!

Welcome Class of 2018 to the Community of Charter Oak Alumni and Congratulations on your successful completion of a college degree!

The milestone of your achievement is a proud moment for you, your family, and for us here at Charter Oak State College. We have found that many graduates have a desire to stay connected to their alma mater and continue to gain value from the College and Alumni Association long after graduation.

We are here for all of our graduates – whether you need further guidance, a Masters' Degree, or you desire to give back of your time, talent, and expertise. We have opportunity!



John Thomas, Alumni Association President

Best stated by our Alumni Association President, John Thomas, *"For me, the appreciation of Charter Oak and my education was enough for me to get involved... What about you?"*

Ways to stay involved after graduation:

- Join the Alumni Association, network, and attend social events
- Become an Alumni Ambassador for the college
- Participate on an Alumni Association Committee:
 - ✿ Scholarship
 - ✿ Career & Mentoring
 - ✿ Graduation
 - ✿ Development/Fundraising

A Year-in-Review: As we look back at the 2017/2018 school year, we discover the Alumni Board of Directors busy reestablishing activities and reinvigorating opportunities. New officers were elected, new committees were formed, and new initiatives were established. A brand new Masters' Degree Scholarship Program for Graduates of Charter Oak looking to continue in the Graduate Program at Charter Oak was launched. We established a new Alumni Ambassador program to empower all alumni to refer family, friends, and colleagues to your alma mater for an exceptional educational experience with a caveat of an application fee waiver!

Career Development: The Alumni Association teamed up with the Foundation Leadership and the Student Association to sponsor a three-part Career Development Workshop. This complimentary workshop series was open to all students and alumni of Charter Oak State College. The Calculus of Talent Team accentuated the importance of developing a career path as well as a personal brand by providing invigorating presentations with helpful planning strategies and tools. Session 3 will provide the essential do's and don'ts of networking with strategies for successful career development.

Social Activities: 2017 kicked off with a summer social at the Hartford Yard Goats baseball game with a sold-out opportunity to watch the game, enjoy a beverage, and meet new folks! Then, the Holiday Happy Hour at the Thomas Hooker Brewery of Bloomfield, CT offered an extended period of time to meet and greet while sampling brewery favorites and noshing on Bears' Barbeque! The Alumni then joined the Foundation at the Shea Lecture and enjoyed the benefits of the Art of Wellness and kicked off the 2018 Alumni Ambassador Program.

Volunteer Opportunities: The fun continued with opportunities to be



Two generations, Mrs. Angela Klonoski and daughter Brittany Hart, represent Charter Oak at the CT Women's Expo.

involved! A few of our alum proudly represented the college at career and women expos. While a group of our talented and generous alumni donated to the Foundation Spring Online Auction, provided us with a glimpse of their talent! The year concluded with a crew of volunteers assisting with graduation day festivities who had the pleasure of meeting our newest alum members, the Class of 2018!

Don't miss out on the upcoming activities, be sure to stay connected with Charter Oak by providing your best contact information to alumni@charteroak.edu.

Watch your email for details regarding Alumni Events such as:

August 23, 2018 | Career Development Workshop [#3]

Fall 2018 | Charter Oak Networking Day

December 2018 | Holiday Happy Hour & Ambassador Celebration

Spring 2019 | Social Outing, Alumni Showcase... the planning is in the works!

Best wishes for all the best! ✿

Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development, Charter Oak State College

alumni spotlight

1980

Robert L. Hall, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Applied Arts, is working with the Peace Corps teaching literacy to primary school children in a small village in the mountains of Dominica, a Caribbean island nation. Robert also has several decades of experience in the teaching and law enforcement professions.

1991

Franci Knight, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Social Science, is celebrating 20 years as a Certified Medical Support Hypnotherapist.

2007

Dr. Marcia H. Hawk, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Business Administration, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in the Division of Educational Leadership, Adult & Higher Education Program of the Graduate School, University of South Dakota. Dr. Hawk's dissertation was titled: *Adult Students' Satisfaction with Institutional Services at a Liberal Arts College*.

2008

Ken Roberts, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Math and Finance, earned a Master of Science degree in Accounting from New England College, Henniker, New Hampshire.

2009

Jack Tom, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Studio Arts, was promoted to Associate Professor of Art at Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT. He teaches Illustration and Design courses.

2012

Brian Moody, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Liberal Studies, received his M.A. degree from American Military University in Intelligence Studies with a concentration in Intelligence Operations. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Society for Strategic Defense Studies, a student organization dedicated to the study of defense, intelligence, and strategic studies.

2014

Liz Climie, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Organizational Leadership, is the Director of Facilities at the Hopkins School, a private, co-educational day school in New Haven, CT. She has worked in the construction and facilities management field for two decades and holds multiple facilities/property management certifications.

Robert Turner, B.S. Criminal Justice Concentration, is currently serving as the Acting United States Marshal for the District of Columbia.

2015

Greg Antonini, B.A. in General Studies with a concentration in English, has published a book of poetry, *Speaking in Hands*, published by Flying Horse Press. The book was initially part of a final project for his Charter Oak English degree.

Deepak (Danny) Singh, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Business Administration, is an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at the inlingua Language School in Orlando, Florida and the Florida International College in Kissimmee, Florida for adult immigrant students.

2016

Virginia Vogel-Polizzi, B.S. in General Studies, received her Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts. She was inducted into The Jonathan Edwards Society, Andover Newton's honor society. Virginia was ordained into the priesthood by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and will serve as full-time Chaplain Resident at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY, while studying bioethics there. She will also continue to serve at Grace Church of the Southern Berkshires. ✨

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH

connections

We would like to hear from you about promotions, job changes, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We will publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please email your name, class, and news to:

Carol Hall at chall@charteroak.edu.

happenings

The Alumni Association is actively seeking alums who would like to get involved to stay connected with the college in a variety of ways. Carol Hall, Alumni Association Coordinator is looking for volunteers willing to share their expertise in the areas of career mentoring, board membership, commencement assistance, social/event planning, scholarship, and general alumni ambassador duties. She can be reached at **860-515-3889** or chall@charteroak.edu.

Charter Oak State College Foundation receives \$40,000 grant to support the Women In Transition program for the 2018/2019 academic year. The Widows' Society of Hartford, CT, a philanthropic organization of volunteers was established in 1825 to aid needy single women. The WIT program is exactly the type of venture their organization was founded to support.

Charter Oak State College President, Ed Klonoski is quoted in a new book titled *Free-Range Learning in the Digital Age: The Emerging Revolution in College, Career, and Education* by Dr. Peter Smith. Chapter Five, "Adult-Friendly College Presidents Speak" features thoughts and discussion by President Klonoski along-side 4 others regarding the adult learner journey, credentialing, workforce learning, and the changing world of higher education.

The Alumni Association announced its new \$1,000 Graduate Degree Scholarship. This new scholarship is open to all graduates of Charter Oak State College pursuing a graduate degree at Charter Oak. The association is currently accepting applications and will award 2 scholarships in the fall. Please direct any questions to chall@charteroak.edu.

ARC Program graduates 24. The popular Alternate Route to Certification in Early Childhood Education program boasts 24 new graduates as of June 3rd. This teaching certificate qualifies professionals to work in a variety of settings such as public preschools, Birth to Three Early Intervention services, and public school kindergartens. New cohorts begin each August and January. Applications are accepted throughout the year at www.CharterOak.edu.

The College begins offering new Early Childhood Education majors. Both a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and an A.S. in Early Childhood Education will begin with Fall 2018 classes. Concentration options include Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC), Program Administration and Leadership, Infant/Toddler, Preschool, or Montessori.

The Graduate Program department continues to hold well attended monthly informational sessions both on-ground and online regarding the Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership. Be sure to check the website regularly for dates that work for you! www.CharterOak.edu/Masters

Free Career Development & Mentoring Workshop

Thursday, August 23, 2018 | 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Fleet Conference Room, Charter Oak State College
55 Paul Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT



The Charter Oak State College Alumni and Student Associations, in conjunction with the Foundation Leadership, continue their workshop series on *Career Development and Mentoring with Workshop #3*.

Workshop #3 focuses on Career Planning and Networking Strategies. Charter Oak Foundation Board Executive, Joyce Petrella and her team from Calculus of Talent has provided useful tips for developing your career and personal brand, and now, in Session 3 will discuss **networking strategies** for successful career development. Find out how to move your career forward, make meaningful connections, and become and remain relevant in your field. The workshop will include a roundtable discussion and Q & A time. Come, learn, participate — you'll be glad you did!

The complimentary workshop is open to all students and alumni and will include light food and beverages. **Please RSVP to:** alumni@charteroak.edu or call Carol Hall at 860.515.3889, with your name, preferred email, and graduation year or enrollment status. **Requested registration closes Friday, August 17th.**

Remote access will be available and the dial-in information will be distributed with confirmation emails.

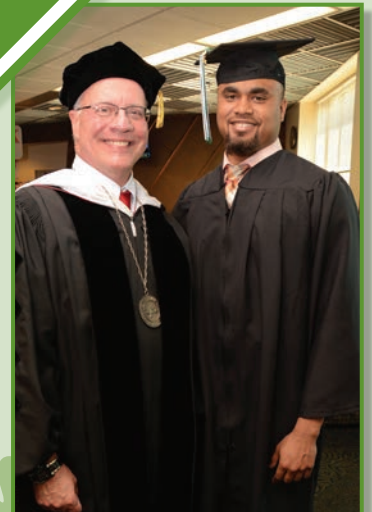




CharterOakSM
STATE COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 2018

Congratulations
Graduates!



WIT and CT WAGE Programs Graduate 11



2018 WIT and CT WAGE Program grads include Lakeshia Allen, Kukuli Bayona, Karen Facey, Tennesha Graham, Ana Iturbides, Dea Jackson, Debreeda Jones, Denee Kerr, Shatoya Mccollum, and Maricely Torres.

The Special Programs at Charter Oak State College continues to move students to self-sufficiency. At the June 3, 2018 graduation ceremony, the Women in Transition (WIT) program celebrated its 19th graduation while the CT WAGE program celebrated its 11th graduation. Eleven students were conferred degrees.

Both programs assist low-income, single parents in 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.

Empowering Women through Education!

The Women in Transition (WIT) program empowers women to believe that hard work, determination, and perseverance to degree completion will improve their economic position. WIT provides the platform to break down barriers to postsecondary education, encourage women on their journey, and break the cycle of poverty, while enriching the lives of women and children.

WIT assists low-wage, single mothers earn a college degree and as qualified students, are provided a laptop, internet access, textbooks, scholarships for courses and fees, plus, academic, career, and personal counseling.

Understanding that educating women provides a lifetime of enrichment, many of our generous donors support the

Women in Transition Program faithfully each year. We take a moment to salute the Foundations that gave grants during fiscal year 2017/2018.

Thank You 2017/2018 Supporters!

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Leipold Family Foundation

Widows' Society

For more information about the program or to empower women through education, please contact Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development: chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889. 🌱



CHARTER OAK ALUMNI AMBASSADOR Pay-it-Forward

*Help others realize their dream of degree completion,
join the Charter Oak State College Alumni Ambassador Program.*



Simply email ambassador@CharterOak.edu with your name, email, and phone number, then begin to refer prospective students. The College will contact the prospective students with a FREE application WAIVER code.

Help your family, friend, or colleague begin the journey.

www.CharterOak.edu/Alumni/Ambassadors.php

18 members of the York family celebrate with Charter Oak

Many large family groups came together on June 3rd to celebrate their loved ones accomplishments. Eighteen members of the York family also made the trip to hear Brenda York, 2017 Charter Oak alumna, deliver the 2018 Commencement Speech. Three of her grown daughters sang a custom-arranged Star Spangled Banner for the event. The York family is unique to Charter Oak in that 7 members of the family have graduated with Bachelor degrees from the College with the last child planning a 2019 graduation. Congrats to them and all 2018 graduates for completing their degrees at Charter Oak State College! 🌱



2018 Commencement Speaker, Brenda York, with Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski, and 18 members of her family.

Charter Oak State College Foundation partners with Liberty Bank to Educate Connecticut Residents about Cyber Security



Liberty Bank, a Charter Oak partner, headquartered in Middletown, CT and the College Foundation launched a free series of online video courses designed to help individuals protect themselves from cybercrime. The 5-part series can be accessed at www.CharterOak.edu/cybersafe.

The videos feature former FBI special agent Jeff Lanza, who shares his 20 plus years of experience in protecting against cybercrime and identity theft. Lanza's real world information is delivered in an easy to understand style. Topics include **Prevent Identity Theft, Protect Your Digital World, Protect Your Documents, Protect Your Communications, and Beware of Tricks**. Each segment contains strategies that can be implemented immediately and ends with an optional quiz containing personal assessment questions to test viewers on their

retention and understanding of the material. In less than an hour viewers can complete the series, take the quiz, and receive a certificate of completion. The series is informative and includes PDF file hand-outs with helpful contact information for taking the right steps to protect your identity and avoid cybercrime.

"We are excited to take our partnership with Charter Oak State College to the next level," stated Chandler J. Howard, Liberty Bank President and CEO. "After learning about this great educational opportunity to help people protect their hard-earned money and stay ahead of criminals, we immediately got involved. Keeping our customers and community safe from cybercrime continues to be a top priority for Liberty and this free, online course reinforces our commitment to do just that."

Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College said, "We're grateful to Liberty Bank and their ongoing support



Liberty Bank provided a generous donation to the Charter Oak State College Foundation to help launch the free, online video courses in Cybcrime. Pictured (l to r) Chandler J. Howard, Liberty Bank President and CEO; Marzena Bukowski, New Britain Branch Manager; Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College; Marc Nadeau, Liberty Bank First Vice President, Central North Regional Market Manager; and Glenn Davis, Liberty Bank Vice President, Community Development/CRA Officer. To take the course visit: www.CharterOak.edu/cybersafe.

of the Charter Oak State College Foundation. With Liberty's support the College's Foundation is able to act on its mission which includes educating the public on relevant topics such as Cyber Security." 🌱

2018 Shea Lecture and Spring Dinner



The Shea Lecture has been a Charter Oak State College tradition for over 30 years. It is named after Dr. Bernard Shea, the first President of the College. The Shea Endowment was established in 1987 upon his retirement. The fund enables the College to sponsor

public lectures which further the College's mission to engage students and the community in lifelong learning. The Charter Oak Foundation Financial Development Committee worked tirelessly to coordinate a distinguished panel of guest speakers, a topic of importance and interest, while also providing a unique educational setting. The conclusion of this dedicated hard work was, success!

The 2018 Shea Lecture was held Tuesday, May 1st at the New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, Connecticut. The "Art of Wellness Panel" discussion provided an opportunity to learn from community experts as they shared wisdom and insight on the social determinants of overall well-being.

Supporting Educational Wellness, the Foundation is very appreciative of our sponsors: **Dave Calibey** of BIG Thunk and **Joyce and Mario Petrella** of Calculus of Talent.



Maureen McIntyre, Andy Lee, and Andrea Mullin

Nancy Billias

The panel included:

Maureen McIntyre, CEO, North Central Area Agency on Aging (NCAAA). Maureen opened the evening welcoming guests and providing an overview of the social determinants of well-being, pulling from her 25 years of experience in the health care industry. She expanded on the economic and social implications on overall health and well-being, giving insight into recognizing the key indicators and improvements.

Andy Lee, Chief Mindfulness Officer, Aetna, provided a hands/minds-on exercise introducing the art of mindfulness. Defining mindfulness as "paying attention to your present moment experience with an attitude of openness and curiosity," Andy gave insight into corporate and personal

mindfulness practices and benefits. He provided the audience helpful approaches to common day stressors, with helpful and encouraging strategies and explanations for improved overall mindfulness and wellness.

Nancy Billias, Ph.D., Professor, University of Saint Joseph, and Core Consulting Faculty, Charter Oak State College, gave us a glimpse into an emotional and spiritual well-being exercise that can best be described as the art of silence. As a lifelong practitioner of contemplative prayer with extensive education and experience, she knows firsthand the value of meditation in her own life, and in the lives of her clients and students. Professor Billias shared practical and not so natural ways of dealing with silence and improving awareness. Nancy challenged the attendees to pause and consider the well-being of the impatient driver attempting to break through our consciousness with their horn!

Andrea Mullin, Client Manager, United Healthcare and WIT Program Graduate. Andrea shared her personal testimony on Educational Wellness; how she empowered the Art of Continuous Learning to improve her overall economic and emotional well-being. As a single mother, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College while working full time. She continued on with passion and fortitude on an educational journey and has not stopped learning. Her personal story was an inspiration to those in attendance, solidifying the impact of our Women in Transition (WIT) Program.

As an added bonus, immediately following the lecture, our very own Alum and New Britain Museum of American Art Docent, Pat Hickox provided tours of the museum including a view of the special Prendergast exhibition.

Charter Oak State College – Spring Dinner!

The evening also featured the Foundation Spring Dinner and included members from the Alumni Association, Foundation, Board, faculty, staff, and students.

President Klonoski provided a brief update of the Foundation efforts for 2018. He described the Boards' decision to increase the scholarship award amounts to meet the rising costs of tuition; and thanked our dedicated volunteer board, constituents, alumni, faculty, and staff of Charter Oak. As Klonoski recognized the need to increase our scholarship fund, which would in-turn increase the scholarship award amount, he touted Charter Oak as a viable option for adult students.

He also honored Marcia Anderson-Esson, a very dedicated Alumni Association and Foundation Board member, by thanking her for her contributions and presenting her with the very first Alumni Ambassador Pin and Certificate. Klonoski



President Ed Klonoski honored Marcia Anderson-Esson, for her Alumni Association and Foundation contributions and dedication.

explained that Marcia has made significant contributions to Charter Oak in her volunteer efforts on both boards, however, more importantly “she has served as an ambassador to Charter Oak, whether knowingly or not.” Marcia exemplifies the pay-it-forward mantra in her everyday comings and goings. Most notably, in her constant commitment to the message and work of Charter Oak, she often recommends the college to others.

Marcia’s story began years ago, she was an RN trained in the hospitals of England and recruited here to the U.S. by Yale New Haven Hospital. She

lived in New Haven and attended Gateway Community College. She saw an invitation to meet at the local library to learn more about Charter Oak State College and was intrigued. She attended the meeting and decided it was time to complete her Bachelor’s degree at Charter Oak. Marcia is a Charter Oak traditional student that compiled work, previous credits, and used CLEP and other testing to aggregate her credits. She received 45 credits for being a nurse, registered for courses, and successfully passed CLEP exams to complete her degree in 1993.

The Shea Lecture provided an opportunity to learn to live a life of wellness by successfully navigating our mindful and silent moments and appreciating the growth and value in continuous learning. The Spring Dinner provided a glimpse into the lives of our adult students and the successful contribution of our Foundation and Board, helping to change lives!

The Charter Oak Foundation Board extends appreciation to all the participants, speakers, and sponsors.



Auction items donated to the Spring Fundraiser.

Spring Fundraiser Kick-off

Charter Oak Foundation’s first-ever Online Auction was unveiled at the spring dinner. The auction items were available for viewing and were generously donated by alumni, board members, and fans of Charter Oak. Proceeds from the auction were directed towards the Scholarship Fund, to offset the rise in scholarship award amounts.

The Foundation thanks those who donated to the auction:
Apple Rehab, J. Timothy’s Taverne, Hair Crazy, Healing Trail Wellness Center, Michelle’s Florals and Sister’s Print Designs, Modern Tire, New Britain Museum of American Art, as well as individual donors Alfred Brissette, Alum; Becky Brown, Chef, Cook Book Author, and Alum; Julio Casiano, Board Member; Trine Davis, Children’s Author and Alum; Marcia Anderson-Esson, Alum and Board Member; Lisa Foster, Career Coach and Fan of Charter Oak; Franci Knight, Spa Owner and Alum; Joyce Petrella, Calculus of Talent and Board Member; Dean Rhoden, Alum; Tony Sheffy, Attorney and Board Member; Gregory Sneed, Alum; and Joe Waxman, Board Member.



David Calibey, Board Member and owner of BIG THINK with wife, Sue.



Ady Yllanes and Julianne Haraday enjoying the Wellness event.



Julio Casino of the SBA and the COSC Foundation Board participated in the wellness lecture along with many others in the Stanley Works Gallery.

Charter Oak State College Foundation Donor Appreciation!

Thank you to all the generous donors who contributed to the Charter Oak State College Foundation during the time period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 (Fiscal Year 2018).

As we reached out to our alumni, board, family, friends, and fans of Charter Oak, we asked, "Would you be one to give to the gift of education, a gift that lasts a lifetime?" Many answered the call and the 2018 Annual Appeal surpassed the goal of \$15,000!

A big THANK YOU to those who took the time and made a contribution.

Please know that your donations are used to support the Foundation's work in changing lives of adult students by providing financial assistance towards degree completion. A college degree opens up opportunity and improves economic status for families and generations to follow... life changing!

As Barbara Nye, a donor who graduated from Charter Oak at the age of 62 in 1995, exclaims "I felt wonderful at finishing a journey started in 1952! Thanks for continuing to bring dreams to fruition."

Tammy, a 2018 Scholarship Recipient, describes her gratitude to Charter Oak for the programming and the Foundation for the funding. "I feel privileged to be part of the Health Information Field and its ever-advancing technology in the new millennium. For some time, I searched for a program where I could utilize the credits I earned from nursing school prior to my illness and bone marrow transplant. This degree will allow me to be a part of the health care field, but in a less physically demanding capacity. Also, this award will assist me in several ways, helping to satisfy the payment for the course and helping me to purchase the required text books. I express my sincere gratitude!"

***Loyalty in Giving reflects 5 consistent years of giving. We thank you, our generous constituents, for recognizing the ongoing need and choosing to continue to make a difference.**

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Remembering Delores Bell

A colleague, mentor, and friend to many.

April 17, 1967 – June 24, 2018

A debt of gratitude is due to Delores Bell, for her passion, dedication, and commitment. We pause to honor her memory and reflect on her legacy. Delores passed peacefully in June 2018.

Delores Bell was the Coordinator for Special Programs, which included the Women in Transition (WIT) Program, at Charter Oak State College for over 14 years. In this position, she provided support and assistance to women towards degree completion. She was a mentor, advocate, and cheerleader, ensuring the women of WIT had the necessary support and tools needed to successfully complete their degrees.

In her professional work, Delores worked tirelessly for and with women to encourage education and degree completion as a way out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. As of May 2018, the WIT program served 208 women, with 121 women earning 146 degrees (92 Bachelor Degrees, 54 Associate Degrees). In June of 2018 another 7 WIT women graduated from Charter Oak State College.

As one woman from the WIT program expressed her condolences, she described the mentoring phone calls she received from Delores as very motivating, and explained that she would "brace herself" as Delores did not accept excuses. Her encouragement was drawn from the belief that "failure was not an option," Delores empowered women to stay focused and keep pressing forward with the goal of degree completion on the horizon.

Delores' favorite quote was by Maya Angelou – *"A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy; a wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim."*

On a personal note, Delores Bell was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, the youngest of 10 children and is a first generation college graduate. Delores recounted her early years, describing that she was determined to not become part of a negative statistic, she showed early

signs of leadership and looked for opportunity to excel. In high school she was selected and attended Laurel Girls State – a week-long government education program which prepared young ladies for careers in government through citizenship and democracy. In addition, through a gifted and talented program at her high school, Delores was selected to attend the Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University, a 4-week residential arts program focusing on theater.

Through her exposure to such opportunities, which developed a sense of confidence, and her parent's determination to provide her with every opportunity to succeed in life, Delores worked diligently to obtain her Bachelor of Science Degree from Adelphi University in Political Science. Delores quickly discovered that she could be "more impactful as a counselor assisting people in living emotional, healthy, and stable lives." Delores went on to earn her Master's Degree in Community Counseling with a focus on Pastoral Care from the University of Saint Joseph and became a licensed Professional Counselor for the State of Connecticut.

In her spare time, Delores served at her local church as a youth leader, and spent time with her family and friends. She was a brave woman determined to not let cancer cripple love, shatter hope, or destroy her faith.

Delores was an amazing woman who lived by her convictions. Her legacy as a leader and social advocate for women will live forever. We will miss her. 🌱

– Wanda Warshauer,
Director of Academics Services.

Donations as well as reflections in memory of our courageous program director may be made to the Women in Transition Fund online at:
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineformsCharterOakStateCollege/WITDeloresBell2018.html>.

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