

# connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2019 VOL. XLIV NO. 2



## Charter Oak Holds 2019 Commencement Ceremony on June 2nd – Theme was “Persistence”

A completely full auditorium of family and friends gathered to celebrate the graduating Class of 2019 as students received degrees during Charter Oak State College's 45th commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 2nd, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. Over 600 students graduated with nearly 250 graduates in attendance, representing 35 states and 4 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 featured two speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients:

Yvette Melendez, Founding member and past Vice Chair of the CT Board of Regents, and Peter Reinhart, Charter Oak alum. The student speaker was Laverne Littles.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for their achievements arrived at along a non-traditional path. He commended them for the persistence required to pursue a college degree while holding down careers and family responsibilities. He reminded them of their courage, to try college again



Student Speaker, Laverne Littles, addresses the graduates.

when original efforts were blocked. “I am intrigued by the grit it takes to try again, he said. To me, taking the risk to start again is far more interesting than the reasons you didn’t finish the first time”.

He also addressed those in the crowd receiving graduate degrees and those unique challenges. He spoke of the choice they made to answer whether a graduate degree will get the desired promotion or job security vs. the sacrifice of money and time spent with family and friends. He praised them for their persistence as well, noting that the capacity to keep reaching for a new success also takes grit and is a key characteristic to keep deploying.

He told the crowd “You are a group of people who show up, say yes I can, get back up, and who keep moving forward. If you do this at work, in your personal relationships, in every aspect of your lives, it guarantees that you will make the most

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# THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



## Major Developments

Today's world demands a variety of options and choices. To that end, the College has identified creating new degree programs as its most pressing strategic priority. Potential students typically identify their target colleges based on three criteria: speed to degree, cost, and availability of a desired degree. As you know, Charter Oak has a strong

case to make in the first two cases. We are one of a handful of degree completion colleges who are characterized by our friendly transfer credit policy and our Prior Learning Assessment program. On the cost front, we have worked hard to stay a low cost provider. To address the third criteria, we have been working toward developing a more comprehensive and attractive offering of career-relevant degrees.

That work has been channeled along two principles: first, converting concentrations for which we provided most of the online courses, into majors; and second, building new programs in key industries such as Health Care, Early Childhood Education, and Public Safety. Our aim is to present an interconnected set of related degrees to build alternatives for interested students.

In addition to new majors, we have also created a number of key credentials including certificates in Health Information Management, Cyber Security, Medical Coding, Victim Advocacy, and Health Information Fundamentals for Health Professionals.

In the next year, we will continue moving forward by offering majors in both Human Resources and Organizational Leadership. We're also adding a Management track in the Public Safety Administration major for students employed in the field of Emergency Medical Services.

In the field of Early Childhood Education, we've created majors so that graduates of the Child Studies Bachelor's program will be eligible for our Alternate Route to Teacher Certification program.

You can see the pattern here. We want to offer programs that provide students with as many relevant options in their chosen field as possible.

We have begun enrolling students for this fall into our new RN-to-BSN program. This degree was designed to bring Associate level RNs from the Connecticut Community Colleges straight into the Bachelor's of Nursing and has already generated a lot of excitement. Here we will also deepen our relationship with our community colleges by providing those eligible graduates our Community College Tuition Match scholarship.

And finally, we're excited about the launch of our next two Master's degrees. The first to launch will be the Health Care Administration Master's planned for Spring 2020, followed by the Health Informatics Master's in Fall 2020. The two Master's will have points of intersection with each other and with the Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership, as well as with many of our undergraduate majors. We are allowing undergraduates to take up to six graduate credits in any of the three Master's programs as part of their undergraduate major.

You can see that our students are the center of all program development efforts at Charter Oak as we remain committed to supporting our students' success in their careers of choice, and generating more proud graduates to join the ranks of our amazing alums.

**As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at [eklonoski@charteroak.edu](mailto:eklonoski@charteroak.edu).**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Klonoski'.

**Ed Klonoski, President**

*"2019 Commencement: Persistence" continued from pg. 1*

of the opportunities that lay ahead of you".

The student speaker was Laverne Littles of Hartford, CT. Littles completed a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a Concentration in Individualized Studies. She shared her journey of a traditional college start interrupted by family considerations. After 18 years of raising three children through their own college and military experiences, she came to the College via the Women in Transition program and began her own 15-year journey to complete her Bachelor of Science degree. Littles' story resonated with many Charter Oak

graduates who have likewise put other obligations ahead of their own to reach this day. She ended her speech by telling her fellow graduates, "I would like to end by saying the definition of exception is a case to which all rules do not apply. The rules of limitations, failure, the downfall, and challenges all say that I should not, you should not, we should not be in this place today, but we are exceptions to all the rules. Congratulations Class of 2019, WE MADE IT!"

The College hosted two Commencement speakers and Honorary Doctorate recipients this year; Yvette Melendez, Founding member and past Vice Chair

of the CT Board of Regents, and Peter Reinhart, Charter Oak alum and award winning author. Ms. Melendez thanked the regents for the honor and noted it was particularly special because of the unique mission of the College and its innovation and approach to college completion, its values addressing the needs of students in a holistic manner, and its entrepreneurial approach to higher education. She said, "To my knowledge, no institution of higher education in Connecticut has done more than Charter Oak to create flexible programming, acknowledge training and experience, and facilitate degree completion".

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## Master's Program Graduates 40

The College graduated its second ever Master's degree cohort this academic year. This large class included students from all over the country many of whom were able to attend the June Commencement ceremony in person. All were conferred the Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership by President Ed Klonoski. 🌱



Members of the Master's degree graduating class stand with College President, Ed Klonoski.

## Health Information Management Program Graduates 26

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 (AHIMA). Several new graduates have already taken the exam and passed! 🌱



HIM program graduates with Assistant Program Director, Frank Valier, far left, Program Director, Cindy Edgerton, center, and President, Ed Klonoski, far right.

"2019 Commencement: Persistence" continued from pg. 2

Peter Reinhart also accepted his honorary doctorate with appreciation and words for the graduating class. He shared that his combined experiences of 25 years of teaching in culinary academies and writing several books on bread have really just exposed the 'connectedness of life' and that we all are looking to excel in that one thing we really love. He told the graduates "Find that one thing you enjoy most and master it. Become an expert, be the go-to person in that subject and once you've known and experienced excellence in that one thing, you will discover that excellence spills over into lots of other things too and it will change your life forever." In closing he told the graduates, that mindset "will be an initiation, just as today's graduation is an initiation into the rest of your life."

Dr. Shirley Adams, Provost of Charter Oak State College shared demographic

facts about the Class of 2019, including that 65% were women; graduates ranged in age from 17 to 65+, with the average age being 39; graduates hailed from 35 states and 4 countries with 71% from Connecticut; 39% earned honors; 40 graduated with a Master's degree, over 440 graduated with a Bachelor's degree, more than 50 graduated with an Associate's degree; 88% of Master's degree recipients also earned a Bachelor's at Charter Oak previously, a third of graduates used multiple methods to earn college credit as noted during the Doris G. Cassidy awards and a number of graduates are already attending graduate school.

Graduates Daniel S. Tole of Bristol, CT, Kimberly J. Shirk of Stafford Springs, CT and Tania S. Alves of New Britain, CT all earned Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance. 🌱

**Congratulations to the Class of 2019!**

## connections

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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 2

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

 **CharterOak<sup>SM</sup>**  
**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**  
*Ned Lamont, Governor*

**Board of Regents**  
*Mark E. Ojakian, President*

**Charter Oak State College**  
*Ed Klonoski, President*

## Doris G. Cassiday Awards Granted at 2019 Commencement



Elizabeth Fitzgerald accepts her 2019 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 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. 🌱

### 2019 Doris G. Cassiday Award recipients included:

Nikke F. Belkin, Cleveland, OH  
Elizabeth J. Fitzgerald, Southington, CT  
Terence J. Higgins, San Diego, CA  
Michael Ken, Webster, TX  
Eric W. Trautman, Street, MD

**Congratulations to all!**

## Charter Oak Guarantees Admission to Eligible Connecticut Community College Nursing Graduates

The College's new RN-to-BSN program is proving to be a popular option for working RNs. Enrollment of new students is very strong for the Fall 2019 term and a recently agreed upon arrangement with Connecticut Community Colleges will only add to that. Charter Oak and six Connecticut community colleges have signed a dual admission agreement that will guarantee eligible students of the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) admission to Charter Oak's new online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The agreement provides a seamless path for the transfer of nursing credits to our new RN-to-BSN program. Students will receive 35 Nursing transfer credits with an earned A.S. degree toward COSC bachelor degree requirements. Benefits for participating students include a smooth transition from the CT-CCNP to Charter Oak State College, guaranteed enrollment in the B.S. in Nursing program, consistent academic advising support, and a waived application fee.

Requirements for students interested in participating include proof of current licensure as a registered nurse in the state of Connecticut, graduation from their current A.S. degree program with a minimum 2.3 GPA, and enrollment in Charter Oak's program within one year of graduating.

"The agreement we sign today helps address the needs of health care employers in Connecticut," President Ed Klonoski said. "We are thrilled to be partnering with our Connecticut Community Colleges on such an important workforce-relevant program. Making credit transfer easy and seamless for students is what Charter Oak was created to do, and this agreement exemplifies our efforts to create opportunities for students to graduate with degrees that are aligned with workforce needs."

According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics, 500,000 nurses are expected to retire nationally by 2022, and 1.1 million new nurses will be needed by 2023. 🌱

## Celebrate Your Accomplishment with a Charter Oak Class Ring!

Class rings are available at **Jostens**.



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

# Alumni Association Greeting!

## Hello Charter Oak State College alumni and welcome to the newly graduated class of 2019!

There is a lot of excitement within the alumni community as the Association grows and provides a variety of new opportunities to get involved. As we reflect on 2019 – one word takes center stage – collaboration.

The alumni leadership engaged in the art of collaboration with other Charter Oak leaders and talented individuals this year to offer career development workshops, personal brand building and goal-setting experiences, entrepreneurial workshops, a night of networking, as well as social gatherings and sporting events. Additionally, the all-volunteer leadership of the alumni board is on a strategic planning mission to discover what benefits our graduates most desire and what benefits our alumni association is able to provide.

A quick couple of questions for you!

- *What can your Alumni Association do for you?*
- *What can you do for your alumni community?*

As a community of learners, we know there are many hidden talents within our alumni community. As we strive for collaboration, continuous learning, and community support – it is important to pursue activities that benefit the individual, our communities, and the organization. Will you consider your role in these endeavors?

The board is expanding and new board members and community service volunteers (Acorns in Action) are being sought. There is also a need for volunteer photographers and social media talent.

**To get involved, stay connected, or learn more, please take a moment to review, complete, and return the survey on the alumni page - [www.charteroak.edu/alumni](http://www.charteroak.edu/alumni).**

✿ New for YOU! Meyers & Associates is offering alumni discounts on a variety of insurances while offering the Alumni Association a means to earn money. Watch your email and mail for more details.

✿ New in 2019, the Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Foundation

Board of Directors, awarded two \$1,000 Scholarships to alumni of Charter Oak pursuing their Masters' degree at Charter Oak. It is the goal of the Alumni Association to be able to continue to provide scholarships each year.

✿ The Student Association in collaboration with the Alumni Association are providing discounted tickets to an evening of Baseball & BBQ, Thursday, August 22, 2019 – 6:00 pm at the Hartford Yard Goats – Heineken Party Deck. Bring a friend and save – 2 tickets are only \$35 and include access to the climate-controlled YG Club, ballpark buffet dinner, and seats to the ballgame!

Thank you to all our active members! We look forward to another year of learning and growing with you! Please don't hesitate to contact **Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development** at Charter Oak State College with any questions, comments, or ideas you may have via email – [alumni@charteroak.edu](mailto:alumni@charteroak.edu) or phone: 860-515-3889.

**Cheers to another successful year!**

## Charter Oak Forms Acorns in Action

The Alumni and Student Associations have teamed up to create a community action network – **Acorns in Action**. This spring the students and alumni presented **Rebuilding Together New Britain, Inc.** a \$1,000 sponsorship, gathered through online donations and contributions from both Associations.

**Rebuilding Together** is a national program that provides low-income homeowners with a day of repair and clean-up work. Teams come together to work together on projects, while monetary sponsorships like ours provide for the supplies and material needed. This year the donation was used to support a

single mother with safety and home improvement projects.

Stay tuned, in the fall, the **Acorns in Action** will be looking to grow a team of volunteers available to provide volunteer support for a variety of projects, such as hoagies for homeless, fall clean-up opportunities, and a veteran drive for personal hygiene items.

If you are already working in your community, providing support or volunteer efforts, please send us your news, your photo of you in action, and join our network alongside your fellow alums and students! The first 50 to sign-up for the new **Acorns in Action** program will receive a free t-shirt. ✿

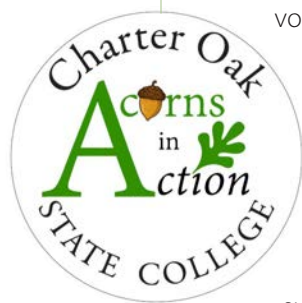


Photo includes, Amy Jimmo, President of the Student Association, Kathi Brumetti, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together New Britain, John Thomas, Alumni Association President, and Wanda Warshauer, Director of Academics Services, Liaison to the Student Association.

✿ Register as a volunteer to be sure you hear of upcoming opportunities at [www.CharterOak.edu/alumni](http://www.CharterOak.edu/alumni)

✿ Share your volunteer/community involvement and receive our new volunteer t-shirt by emailing [alumni@charteroak.edu](mailto:alumni@charteroak.edu).



# alumni profile

**Meet**  
**April Shines B.S. '14, M.S. '19**



April Shines

**Connections recently caught up with April Shines a two-time Charter Oak State College graduate. April graduated in May with a Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a Concentration in Psychology in 2014.**

## **What do you do for work?**

I am currently employed as Director of Change Management for Healthcare Contracts at United Healthcare Networks.

## **Describe your educational journey.**

My educational journey has spanned 24 years to date. I had earned undergraduate credits from Mercer University and Kennesaw State University prior to enrolling at Charter Oak. I completed the remaining 30 hours I needed for my B.S. at Charter Oak. My course of study was purposefully planned such that I would complete both the bachelor's and certificate programs together and I could begin to prepare for a formal career in project management. I completed the Master's degree at Charter Oak because I was attracted to the structure and the content of the Program and it prepared me to take the Certified Change Management Professional (CCMP) test.

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***"I felt I had peaked, in terms of opportunities, without a degree. In order to have stability for myself and my kids, I had to finish college."***

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## **What led you to Charter Oak State College?**

I originally relocated to Connecticut from Atlanta for a job opportunity. However, the position was dissolved before I began due to funding cuts. I found myself unemployed, divorced, with two children in tow. My prospects were low because my only experience was in sales and consulting. Every position of interest to me required a bachelor's degree that I didn't have.

During one of my lowest points, I saw a commercial for Charter Oak. I began researching the College because it sounded too good to be true – a state school, 100% online, geared towards adult learners? I thought it may be one of those schools with no accreditation and overly expensive. I was concerned about my ability to afford it. I inquired about scholarship opportunities and was directed to the Women in Transition (WIT) program, specifically designed to assist lower income single mothers earn a college degree.

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***"I am grateful for the higher learning opportunities afforded me by this institution. It has literally changed the trajectory of my life."***

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I was connected to Delores Bell, the WIT program coordinator at the time. She said that if I really saw the goal of completion, we should speak in person and interview for an opening in the program. When we spoke, she knew I came in with a plan. I knew exactly what I needed to take to complete the bachelor's degree. But I wanted to know how I could apply general studies to a tangible skill aligned to my passion for organizational psychology. She told me we would figure that out together because she would be with me every step of the way. I committed to attending full-time and attended half-time in the summer. With Delores' guidance, I completed a B.S. with a concentration in psychology as well as a certificate in project management simultaneously.

This all prepared me well to take the Project Management Professional

Certification (PMP). That certification directly led to my employment at Optum/United Health Group. In three years, I moved from application to portfolio manager. This was all due to the credentials and preparation I received from Charter Oak.

## **What made you come back for more?**

Knowing that I'd done so well professionally with an undergraduate degree, I knew I wanted to continue and earn a master's degree. I wanted a program that would utilize my deep knowledge of project, program, and portfolio execution and expand it to enterprise capabilities. As soon as the Master of Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership began accepting students, I applied. I was one of the very first students accepted into the program. I, of course, made this decision with Delores, as well. She was driven to make sure her students made it to their goals. When she passed away during my enrollment, I knew that finishing the program and landing in the leadership role she knew I deserved, would be the only way to fulfill her legacy.

I stayed the course. I went in knowing everything I wanted to accomplish, including my thesis topic within my organization. The program helped me find my specialized niche and deepest passion; organizational change management; particularly transformation. My thesis project presentation directly led to my current position. In finding Charter Oak, I found myself along the way and the investment paid for itself almost immediately in opportunity.

## **What are you most proud of accomplishing?**

I am most proud to be one of the lives Delores Bell influenced and impacted so that I can honestly say I am reaching my full potential. In turn, I am developing and leading other women as leaders to develop learning organizations in complex and competitive environments. I've accomplished a lot and it was accelerated by the resources at Charter Oak and the strategies of the WIT program.

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### What is the biggest change you've noticed in yourself and your field during your career?

I'm far more confident. I'm not waiting for anyone to tell me what I can be allowed to do as a career (applying for jobs and hoping I am selected). Now, I know that I am an expert. I know the art and science knowledge dimensions which are key to success in my field. Now, I know I am a thought leader and strategist in organizational development, effectiveness, and performance. I know that I will never question if I can find employment.

There aren't enough true change managers who understand the interconnectedness of leadership, learning, human resources, capital, process, tools, technology, environmental factors, economics, etc. The practical application and impact to employers of this can be an immediate stabilizing force.

### What one word describes how your degree(s) from Charter Oak have affected your life and career?

Stability. I have financial security and employment stability, plus I was able to work full-time in both programs. I set my schedule around demands of career and life. The investment, especially graduate school, was returned as soon as I finished my thesis. The education literally paid for itself.

### What activities outside of work interest you?

I'm a true nerd. I read and attend lectures on history, automation, world affairs, politics. I also enjoy performances; plays, concerts, etc. I make a point to continue learning to maintain and sharpen my skills. I make sure to unplug, too. I also love to travel. I love beaches, anyplace warm. We went to Cartagena and a few surrounding cities in Colombia last April. We learned so much about the culture and the food was delicious. My new position in my company is 100% remote work. We plan to relocate to warm weather before winter returns.

### What's something people don't know about you?

I often say that because I do complex thinking all day, I want to use as few brain cells as possible when I'm not working. In the spirit of this, I have a few guilty pleasures, one of which is 90 Day Fiancé. It is literally my favorite TV show. 🌱

# alumni spotlight

## 1988

**Raymond Rivard**, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Social Science, is volunteer treasurer and former president of the National Iwo Jima Memorial Park and Foundation Incorporated, located in New Britain, CT. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. during the Korean War period where he began his educational journey with his high school diploma. After his honorable discharge, he attended the Connecticut School of Electronics. Since Charter Oak, he has added a M.S. degree from Central Connecticut State University to his accomplishments.

## 2000

**Jerry Golden**, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Individualized Studies, reports that he is officially retired. He retired from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, NM after a 30 plus year career beginning with the plant's construction in 1985, through different phases of the project including waste characterization, packaging, shipping, handling, and disposing. He now plans to work on his own projects as well as build a new house in Virginia.

## 2012

**Alexa Lane**, A.A. in Liberal Arts, recently opened a Performing Arts and Fitness studio in Norwalk, CT offering classes for adults and children in dance, acting, voice, musical theatre, and fitness.

## 2017

**Evan Benjamin**, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Health Studies, graduated from Charter Oak with general scholarship honors. In February 2019, he married Jill Diamond, a licensed speech language pathologist.

## 2018

**Bo Alexander**, B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Liberal Studies, is the Transportation Supervisor for the Franklin Special School District in Tennessee. FSSD serves approximately 3,900 students in grades pre-K through 8.

**Brian Fair**, B.S. in Cyber Security, recently started a new role as Senior Manager, Architecture, Global Cybersecurity at Spirit AeroSystems. He reports having a degree so relevant to his position made a big difference during the interview process.

## 🌱 STAYCONNECTED!

We always like to hear from our alumni about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. Email updates to share to [chall@charteroak.edu](mailto:chall@charteroak.edu).



COMMENCEMENT 2019

*Congratulations  
Graduates!*









## WIT and CT WAGE Programs Graduate Large Classes



Proud new 2019 WIT and CT WAGE program graduates stop for a photo with Wanda Warshauer, Director of Academic Services and Ed Klonoski, President.

The Special Programs at Charter Oak State College continues to move students to self-sufficiency. At the June 2, 2019 graduation ceremony the Women in Transition (WIT) program celebrated its 20th graduation while the CT WAGE program celebrated its 12th graduation. Twenty-one total students were conferred degrees.

Both programs assist low-income single parents complete 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](http://www.charteroak.edu/WIT). 🌱

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## The Women in Transition (WIT) Program Thanks Donors

In 2019, under the direction of Wanda Warshauer, twenty one students graduated from Charter Oak State College and enrollment grew. The Student Speaker at Commencement, Lavern Littles, a WIT participant is now a proud graduate.

Understanding that educating women provides a lifetime of enrichment, many of our philanthropic donors support the Women in Transition Program faithfully each year with generous grants.

### ***Thank You 2018/2019 Supporters Empowering Women through Education***

**Aurora Women & Girls Foundation**

**Widows' Society**

**Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**

**Leipold Family Foundation**

Previous grant supporters include: Carrier Foundation, CHUBB, CT Wage, Liberty Bank Foundation, New Britain Foundation for Public Giving, NewAlliance Foundation, Northeast Utilities, Smith Whiley Foundation, The Daphne

Seybolt Culpeper Foundation, The Junior League of Greater New Britain, The Linford & Mildred White Charitable Fund, and Women and Girls' Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation.

The Women in Transition (WIT) program empowers women to believe that hard work, determination, and perseverance will lead to degree completion, which 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 earning, single mothers to earn a college degree by providing financial, educational, and technological resources that are critical to postsecondary education. Assistance can include a laptop, internet access, textbooks, scholarships for tuition and fees, plus, academic, career, and personal counseling.

For more information about the program or to **empower women through education**, please contact Carol Hall, Executive Director, [chall@charteroak.edu](mailto:chall@charteroak.edu) or 860.515.3889. 🌱



# \$110,000 Awarded to Over 114 Students by the Charter Oak State College Foundation

The Charter Oak State College Foundation, comprised of volunteers committed to higher education, worked tirelessly through the year to secure donations and distribute scholarships, technology grants, and other financial support.

The generous giving of Charter Oak State College Alumni, family, and friends coupled with corporate and organizational grants contributed to the overall ability to distribute needed funds.

The mission of the Board is to provide students relief from the financial barriers that often prevent our motivated adult learners from pursuing and completing a higher education degree.

**\$110,000** awarded to over **114 Charter Oak students** in fiscal year 18/19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), included:

✿ **Endowed Scholarships** awarded to help meet the cost of education; used for tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses, ranging from \$500 – \$1,000 per student.

✿ **Foundation Technology Grants** supported students' technological needs such as ensuring access to wi-fi, laptops, and printers up to \$500.

✿ **Student Crisis Fund** provided immediate access to grant money for students that experienced unforeseen financial crisis situations that could prevent successful completion of their degree.

✿ **Women in Transition Program (WIT)** designed to assist low-income, single mothers to complete their college degree; provides financial assistance along with mentoring.

✿ **Prior Learning Assessment Program (PLA)** distributed funds to encourage students with knowledge equivalent to college-level learning to pursue credit via established PLA pathways; thus reducing the cost and time to graduation.

To be part of the giving and help make the educational dreams of adult learners a reality, don't hesitate, contact **Carol Hall, Associate Director of Development** at Charter Oak State College, today! Email: [chall@charteroak.edu](mailto:chall@charteroak.edu) or phone: **860-515-3889**.

To be eligible for a scholarship, Charter Oak students must be matriculated and in good standing. Some Endowed Scholarships also include other variables such as, demonstrated financial need; a minimum grade point average; and a specific course of study.

Scholarship applications will be available at the end of August; details will be provided in the Acorn Student Portal and via email distribution. ✿

**Thank you for the dedicated service of the Charter Oak State College Foundation 2018/2019 Board of Directors, which included:**

## Officers

Rebeka A. Scalia, *President*  
Neal Cunningham, *Vice President*  
Glenn Davis, *Treasurer*  
Tony Sheffy, *Secretary*

## Directors

Marcia Anderson-Esson  
David Calibey  
Julio Casiano  
Anne Elwell  
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Martin Geitz  
Jason Jakubowski  
Cecilia Kozlowski  
Joyce Petrella  
Daniel Purushotham  
Gregory Sneed  
Betsy Udal  
Joe Waxman

## Non-Voting Members Ex-Officio

Carol Hall, *Executive Director Foundation*  
Ed Klonoski, *President COSC*  
Thomas Desmond, *Honorary Member*  
John Thomas, *Alumni Representative*  
Randell Orner, *Faculty Representative*  
Amy Jimmo, *Student Representative*

## Legacy Giving – You Can Influence the Future

The Charter Oak State College Foundation can help you establish a legacy gift to provide for students for generations to come. You are invited to demonstrate a commitment to education by leaving a charitable, tax-deductible bequest to the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Individuals from all walks of life are discovering that one of the most effective ways to make a difference and touch the future is to leave a legacy.

Please contact the Foundation by calling **Carol Hall** at **860-515-3889** to discuss your bequest, or please consider conveniently making a donation online at [www.charteroak.edu/foundation/give.cfm](http://www.charteroak.edu/foundation/give.cfm).

***We need your help and no matter what the size, each gift directly impacts our students.***

# 45th Anniversary Celebration Raises over \$5,000

A celebration of the **45th Anniversary of Charter Oak State College** was held Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Farmington Club, Farmington, CT. The volunteer leadership of the COSC Foundation, Alumni Association, and Student Association banded together with staff of Charter Oak to celebrate **45 Years**, and to raise funds and awareness of Connecticut's only public online college. COSC honored Faculty and Staff Emeriti, shared a testimonial video, and celebrated 70's disco dance style!

Rebeka Scalia, COSC Foundation President, stated the urgency of the fundraiser, "Tonight we are here to honor faculty and staff and to acknowledge the commitment to higher education and the impact a college degree has on a person and their family... Last year the Foundation received over 200 applications for financial assistance from our students. Simply put, we need to raise more to give more."



Foundation Board member  
Dave Calibey with wife, Sue



Foundation President, Rebeka Scalia



Auction items

Community College System, **David E. Sloane**, Professor of English, University of New Haven; **Staff: Pat Derech**, Registrar, **Dr. Merle Harris**, President, **Linda Larkin**, Director of Academic Services.

Over 100 guests were on hand to watch the unveiling of the newly produced testimonial video (watch on our home page at [www.CharterOak.edu](http://www.CharterOak.edu)) organized by the newly appointed Foundation Executive Director, Carol Hall, who proclaimed "The alumni and students of COSC are an inspiration and their stories need to be heard!"

From a nearly homeless single mother of two to a proud leader and visionary, April Shines earned both an undergraduate degree and master's degree from Charter Oak and was recently promoted to Associate Director of Organizational Change at UnitedHealth Group, Hartford, CT.



Rowena McGoldrick, HR Director,  
is all smiles



Board Secretary, Tony Sheffy with  
wife, Melissa

The faculty and staff in attendance and honored for over ten years of service to Charter Oak State College's students were: **Core Faculty: Donald Brodeur**, Professor of Psychology Emeritus, Sacred Heart University, **Irene Clampet**, Professor of Business & Marketing Program Coordinator, Three Rivers Community College, **Shyamala Raman**, Professor

of Economics & International Studies Emerita, Saint Joseph College; **Teaching and Core Faculty: Robert Zabek**, Director of Student/Academic Information Systems, Connecticut

## Generous friends of Charter Oak provided silent auction and wine wall items and helped raise over \$5,000 towards the Scholarship Fund.

### SPONSORS & AUCTION DONORS:

Albert W.A. Schmid	Dean Rhoden	Homewood Suites	Rockledge Golf Course
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George Claffey, Jr.	Rebeka Scalia
Neil Cunningham	Betsy & Matthew Udal
Michelle Eathorne	Joe & Carol Waxman





Paige Pelton, Academic Staff, with faculty emeritus, Donald Brodeur and Marian Warne



President Emerita, Merle Harris and husband, David enjoy the evening

The video also featured the first African American Woman to be appointed to the level of supervisor in the Connecticut Judicial system. Sharon Moyes-Johnson recalled her journey and acknowledged that if she hadn't gone back to school to earn her degree, she wouldn't have been qualified to apply for the position. These two women are just the tip of the many amazing students who graduate through the rigorous, and fully accredited online degree programs at COSC.

Dr. DJ Love, Julio Casiano, a long-time Foundation Board member volunteered his services to spin the tunes from the 1970s, and a great time was had by all! 🌿



Alumni Association Board volunteers Lisa Wilson and Cecilia Kozlowski



Foundation board members Joyce Petrella with husband, Mario and Betsy Udal and husband, Matthew



Mr. and Mrs. Davis Ross under the disco ball



The disco and dancing theme was enjoyed by many!

## Honoring Our Faculty and Staff Who Provided 10 Years or More of Service to the Students of Charter Oak State College.



From right to left, Emeriti Award Winners with President Ed Klonoski, Linda Larkin, Dr. Merle Harris, Pat Derech, Robert Zabek, Shyamala Raman, Irene Clampet, Provost Shirley Adams, Donald Brodeur, and David Sloane.

### FACULTY EMERITI AWARDS

#### Core

Donald Brodeur  
Irene Clampet  
Lucille Cusano  
Phyllis Gutowski  
Keith Johnson  
Elizabeth Markham  
Sandra Morgan  
Borden Painter  
Shyamala Raman

#### Teaching

Nathan Greeno

#### Teaching and Core

David Henderson  
Regina Miller  
Julius Rubin  
David Sloane  
Mary Beverly Wall  
Robert Zabek

### STAFF EMERITI AWARDS

Dr. Merle Harris, President  
Vilma Allen  
Ruth Budlong  
Dee Coviello  
Pat Derech  
Helen Giliberto  
Sue Israel  
Linda Larkin  
Maryanne Legrow  
Liz Pratt  
Barbara (Elliott) Smachetti  
Anne Taft  
Gale Terrill  
Harry White  
Marlene Woodman  
Josi Zendzian

# Charter Oak State College Foundation Donor Appreciation!

**Thank you to our many donors for the generosity, support, and creativity of giving in Fiscal Year 2019. Giving to the Foundation supports life-changing, degree completion.**

**Donations were received** through the Annual Appeal Challenge, the 45th Anniversary Celebration, the Employers' Appreciation Breakfast, corporate matching gifts, foundation grants, donor-recommended grants, donor-advised funds, and personal donations.

**Donations directly impact the Foundation's** ability to give more financial assistance, remove barriers, and ensure degree completion for our adult learners.

**A college degree** opens up opportunity for career advancement and improves the economic status of graduates, their families, and generations to follow – life changing!

**The Challenge in 2019!** Each year the Foundation makes an annual appeal for unrestricted donations, and this year a 1993 Graduate, Alumni Association Board Member, Foundation Board Member, and fan of Charter Oak, Marcia Anderson-Esson, posed a challenge to the Charter Oak community: ***"Add a zero to the number of years since your graduation, or your affiliation with Charter Oak, and make a donation of that amount to the Annual Appeal."*** Marcia and over 90 others answered the challenge! Thank you for adding a zero and showing your pride and support of Charter Oak's mission.

*The Donor list reflects all gifts received in fiscal year 2019, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. \*Loyalty in Giving – five consistent years of giving.*

## 45TH ANNIVERSARY SAPPHIRE CIRCLE

*\$900 and above*

Shirley Adams\*  
Nicolin Carr\*  
Merle and David Harris\*  
President and Mrs. Klonoski\*  
Dan Purushotham\*  
Rebeka Scalia\*  
Susan B. Sweeney\*  
Richard and Melinda Towne

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

*\$750 - \$899*

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Leena Sampemane\*  
Betsy Udall

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Brian and Lucille Mulroy

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Dave Calibey  
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Lori Gagne Pendleton  
Linda Perfetto  
Barry Rahmy\*  
Shyamala Raman  
Albert W. A. Schmid  
Jeffrey Segal  
Joseph L Waxman  
Michael S Wilder  
Charles Woldenberg

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*\$100 - \$249*

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Kristin Ebner Martin

**Dr. Merle Harris**  
Sandra W. Morgan

**Holly Palmer Howery**  
AlphaSights, Ltd.

## **CHARTER OAK COLLEGE ALUMNI & STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS**

# **Summer 2019 BASEBALL & BBQ**



*Please join the Charter Oak State College Alumni & Student Associations  
Meet area Alums, the Association Board and Staff  
Enjoy a social hour, buffet dinner, and an evening of baseball*

**August 22, 2019 | 6:00pm**

Yard Goats Stadium | 1214 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

**6:00 pm Ballpark Classic Buffet Heineken Party Deck**

**7:05 pm Game Time**

**Yard Goats vs. Fightin Phils**

**Ticket cost: \$22/person or bring a friend – 2 for \$35!**

Includes exclusive access to Heineken Party Deck  
plus 2-1/2 hour Ballpark Classic Buffet

*Plus! Access to climate controlled YG Club begins at 5:30 pm  
through the YG Club entrance.*

**RSVP by August 1st – tickets will be mailed.**

*Parking: \$5 (additional; payable at the stadium)*

[www.milb.com/hartford/ballpark/parking-transit](http://www.milb.com/hartford/ballpark/parking-transit)

## **SAVE-THE-DATE**

**Friday, November 8, 2019**

### **COSC FOUNDATION Employer Appreciation!**



The Second Annual, **Bring Your Boss to Breakfast/Employer Appreciation Program** is scheduled for Friday morning, November 8, 2019.

The **Employer Appreciation**, complimentary breakfast and program, is an opportunity for you, our students and graduates, to show appreciation to your employer for the support and recognition of your higher education endeavors.

As you worked to accomplish your goal of degree completion, your employer was beside you in many ways, or perhaps hired you because of your degree. Please take this opportunity to join us as we express our appreciation for your employer too! Or perhaps you are the boss – *come celebrate you!*

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#### Registration Deadlines

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Spring Term 2 • 3/19/20

**Ask about our NEW Alumni Association Master's Degree Scholarship**