

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

EMPOWERMENT

THROUGH

EDUCATION



Our Mission

The Charter Oak State College Foundation is dedicated to supporting flexible and comprehensive degree completion opportunities for adults, and technology innovations through the work of Charter Oak State College and the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium. The Foundation is a vehicle for accepting private gifts, donations and bequests for activities that are not adequately funded by the State. The Foundation Board of Trustees provides volunteer leadership for development and fundraising programs and stewardship of the Foundation's assets in order to assist deserving and underemployed adult students with college costs; award scholarships; and encourage technological initiatives that enable the College and the Consortium to be leaders in higher education.



**Charter Oak State College Foundation
Board of Directors**

**55 Paul Manafort Drive
New Britain, CT 06053
www.charteroak.edu/foundation**

President, Charter Oak State College Foundation

Dear Friends of the COSC Foundation,

It is with great pleasure and some pride that I welcome you to this Annual Report of the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Our Mission is to provide financial support to deserving Charter Oak students, and this report will detail both our efforts to raise funds for the purpose and the scholarships that we were able to provide over the past year.

We remain committed to providing essential financial aid to deserving students who are not sufficiently supported by the various state and federal programs. Each year we review the data on Charter Oak's financial aid requests, and we continue to see substantial unmet need. This is what motivates us to raise funds from generous supporters like you.

On behalf of the COSC Foundation's Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support of the COSC Foundation.



Rebeka Scalia *President, Charter Oak State College Foundation*

President, Charter Oak State College

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you to the Charter Oak State College Foundation Board, who gives so generously of their time, treasure, and talent. I would also like to thank the Charter Oak staff who support the Foundation and its goals. None of what you read about in this annual report would be possible without their generosity of spirit. But I need to thank you, our donors. The students we are able to support join me in thanking you who fund the good work of the Foundation. When we inform students about their awards, we make the source of those funds as clear as possible. We do this for two reasons: first, we want them to be grateful to you, the donors who give; and second, we believe that they, like you, must "pay it forward" when their circumstances permit it. The Charter Oak State College Foundation gives its deserving adult students a hand up, and we fully expect that they will do the same for the next generation of deserving students.

The College believes that its role in giving our students a hand up includes creating new and cost effective approaches to their degree aspirations. Toward that end, we launched our first "major" in Health Information Management (HIM) in October 2012 and since then we have launched majors in Health Care Administration, Cybersecurity, Psychology and Business. In this very challenging economy, we have learned that degrees matter, but some degrees matter more than others. Students are looking to complete their bachelors and use that credential to land a job in the emerging economy.

To support that population, the Foundation has increased the number of technology support grants it is offering to make sure our students have the technology they need to pursue their degree. It is you who make this possible, and it is you we want to thank.



Ed Klonoski *President, Charter Oak State College*

Board of Directors (2014-2015)

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Ed Klonoski

President, Charter Oak State College

Ross Ariola

Elected by Students

Sandra Morgan

Elected by the Faculty

Assoc. Prof. of Marketing/Management, Univ. of Hartford

Organization and Governance

The Board of Directors for the Charter Oak State College Foundation is composed of up to twenty members representing a diverse mix of working and retired professionals. Also serving on the Board as non-voting members are a Charter Oak student elected by the College's student body, a graduate appointed by the Alumni Association, a faculty member elected by Charter Oak faculty, and the President of the College. The full Board meets four times per year.

The Board of Directors controls and manages the property, affairs and business of the Foundation and determines the manner in which funds, both principal and income, are expended based on policies established by the Board and in keeping with the laws and legislative mandates of the State of Connecticut.

Board Committees

There are six standing committees: Executive, Audit and Finance, Financial Development, Grants, Investment and Nominating. There also is a Financial Planning Committee appointed by the President.

Annual Highlights

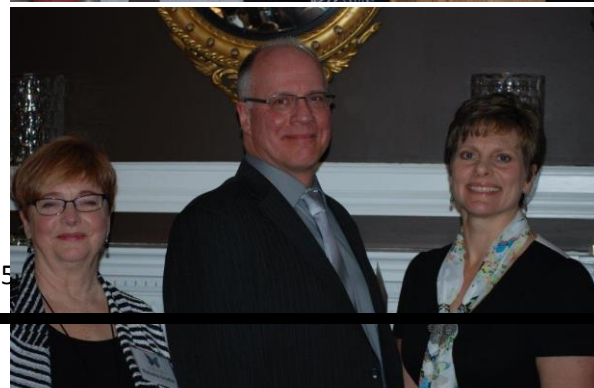
Foundation Events

The Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted its annual Spring Fundraiser on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at the Governor's Residence in Hartford. The fundraiser, **The Power of Women...Believing is Achieving**, was in support of the *Women in Transition* (WIT) program at Charter Oak State College.

The fundraiser featured keynote speaker and honoree, Marlene M. Ibsen, Chief Executive Officer and President of Travelers Foundation and Vice President, Community Relations, for The Travelers Companies, Inc. Ed Klonoski, President of Charter Oak State College, presented Ms. Ibsen with an award for extraordinary leadership and commitment to supporting education initiatives that support the community. Ms. Ibsen exemplified the theme for the evening "The Power of Women...Believing is Achieving" with her inspiring keynote address. The Foundation is sincerely thankful for all attendees and donors who continue to support this important program that has proven to significantly improve the lives of single mothers and their children.

President Klonoski also presented Delores Bell, Coordinator of the Women in Transition Program, with a recognition award at the event for her commitment and dedication to the students in the Women in Transition program for the past 10 years. Delores has successfully coordinated the WIT program since 2005.

The Women in Transition (WIT) program was established at Charter Oak State College in 1999 to break the cycle of poverty by helping underserved and low-income mothers earn a college degree. Over the past 15 years, the program has supported more than 190 women and continues to have a 72% retention/graduation rate. This unique initiative provides laptop computers, internet access, textbooks, scholarships, and academic, career and personal counseling – all of which help to break down the barriers to postsecondary education for disadvantaged and underserved mothers.



Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts a Donor Appreciation Event

When April Shines enrolled in Charter Oak State College's *Women in Transition* program, she was a single mom who had overcome a major illness and was living in temporary housing. When she spoke to donors, however, she spoke from a place of financial stability, independence and strength. And she expressed her gratitude by saying "This program has changed my life and the life of my children....I thank you so much Charter Oak State College Foundation donors for making this possible for me. Without your generosity and your caring I would not be able to see any of this happen."

It was an evening of thanks – both given and received. Just two weeks shy of the Thanksgiving holiday, Charter Oak State College Foundation donors were invited to the college for a first ever wine and cheese reception simply to be told thank you. Angela Chapman, Director of Institutional Advancement/Assistant to the President, said "Hosting a donor appreciation event extends our gratitude to those who have invested their time and resources in the Charter Oak State College Foundation. Gifts from generous alumni and friends of Charter Oak State College have been vital to the success of many students."

Rebeka Scalia, President of the Charter Oak State College Foundation, kicked off the evening with a heartfelt thank you to the donors for their generous support of the Charter Oak State College Foundation.

"I have worked with the Foundation for the past 18 years and, during that time, have watched our endowment grow from approximately \$25,000 to \$1.8 million as of last quarter. It took a few years for our endowment funds to generate enough earnings so that we could begin awarding scholarships. I remember how proud we were to actually award that first scholarship just a few years ago. And since that day, we have not slowed down, and we are continually looking for creative ways to support our students."

At the "Thank You" event, donors heard via webcam from three grateful students who were the recipients of Foundation support.

In addition to Shines, student Raquel Czikowsky, a working mother, thanked donors for the support she received from being awarded the Technology grant. Czikowsky shared how she and her school-aged daughter were sharing one computer for their studies which made it very difficult to complete her college course work. She said she often could only access their one computer late at night after her daughter had finished her schoolwork. The technology grant provided the funds she needed to purchase an additional computer. Czikowsky said, "It is now easier for *both* of us to get our homework done. Thank you to all the donors for this opportunity to receive grants such as the technology grant. It's very helpful as I am paying for college on my own."

Chapman said, "The many lives that have been changed through the generosity of our donors are priceless and a donor appreciation event was one way to demonstrate our sincerest appreciation."

Foundation Support to Students

In FY 15, the Foundation Distributed \$95,600 in Grants, Scholarships and the Women in Transition Program

Over fifty Charter Oak students benefited from \$30,000 in grants and scholarship awards that were presented during a 12-month period from 2014 through 2015. Fourteen of these Charter Oak Students received a technology grant to financially assist them in the purchase of a prescribed list of technology supporting online learning.

The Charter Oak State College Foundation continues to support students through the President's Discretionary Fund. This President's Discretionary Fund will ensure that students are not prevented from moving ahead and reaching a goal due to finances. This fund provides small gifts to students for unforeseen academic expenses that could potentially block success.

The Foundation continues to support the Women in Transition program and distributed \$65,600 to support underserved and underemployed single Connecticut mothers in their quest for degree completion. This support was made possible by The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Leipold Foundation, the Aurora Foundation, the Women and Girls' Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation, and the Charter Oak State College Foundation.

The **Women in Transition (WIT)** program served 32 students in FY'15. Five of those students were new to the program. The following is some statistical student information:

- Average salary upon entering the program: \$22,241
- Average number of children: 2.6
- Average credits upon entering program: 54
- Five students graduated: 2 Associate/3 Bachelor



Delores Bell, Coordinator of Special Programs (far left) and Janice Silva (far right) Special Programs Office Assistant with Class of 2015 WIT graduates

Sargeant Ken Miller chosen as D'Amato Award recipient

Congratulations to Sargeant Ken Miller, the 2015 recipient of the D'Amato Award. The award announcement was made during the 2015 Commencement brunch. The D'Amato Graduate Studies Award recognizes a Connecticut Charter Oak State College graduate who is continuing his or her education. The criteria for the award includes academic promise, motivation and contributions to community life.

Sargeant Miller will graduate in September of 2015 with honors from Southern New Hampshire University with a degree in Justice Studies with a Homeland/Terrorism certificate. A husband and father, he maintained a 4.0 average while also working full time as a police officer. Due to a prior commitment Miller accepted the award via a pre-taped video during the commencement brunch.

For the past fifteen years, Sargeant Miller, a 2013 graduate, has been in law enforcement. For the past five years he's been involved with the Town of Farmington's Community Policing Initiatives and provided the leadership to start a number of successful community based programs, including a Christmas toy drive, Thanksgiving food drive and a road race. He created the Community Emergency Response Team and the Domestic Violence Team for Farmington. He is most proud of the work he does on a regular basis mentoring students in the local middle school.

In reflecting on his time at Charter Oak, Sargeant Miller said, "Charter Oak State College was a wonderful and challenging learning experience that gave me the tools to flourish in my law enforcement career. It has given me the skills and desire to work towards my graduate level education."

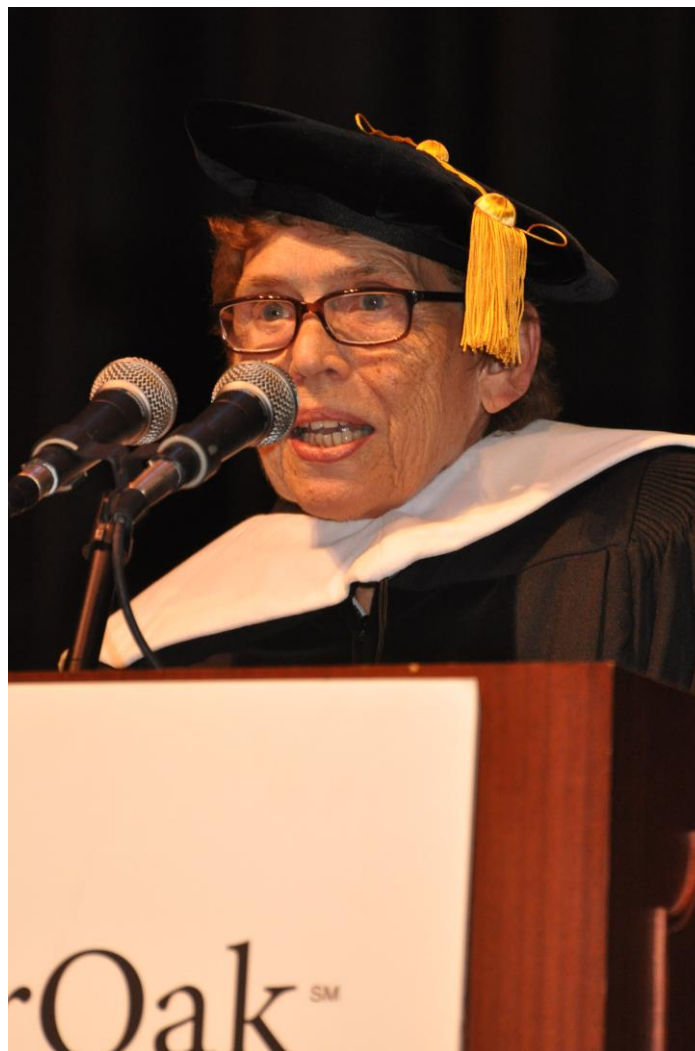
Ken Miller exemplifies the spirit of this award and we wish him well in his future studies.



Charter Oak State College Foundation receives its largest-ever single Endowment Fund contribution

The Charter Oak State College Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to Doris Cassidy, a founding member of Charter Oak State College, for graciously donating \$20,000 to the Charter Oak State College Foundation Shea Endowment Fund. The Shea Endowment fund honors Dr. Bernard Shea, Charter Oak's first President and furthers the College's mission to engage students and the community in lifelong learning.

Ms. Cassidy's longstanding dedication and support of Charter Oak State College is second to none. When the College was established by the legislature in 1973, Ms. Cassidy served as the first Chair for the Board for State Academic Awards. When the Charter Oak State College Foundation was created, she served as our first Foundation President. Perhaps most remarkably, Ms. Cassidy has served as Assistant Director of Academic Programs at the College as an academic counselor for 30 years. Her generous donation represents the largest single donation to the Endowment Fund by an individual.



Thank you from our students!

As the recipient of the Harris-Wiener scholarship, I am writing to express my sincere thanks for your generosity.

I have enjoyed my time at Charter Oak State College but I look forward to completing my Bachelor's degree next year. It is a constant challenge to balance work, school and home. Without a degree it is difficult to make enough money and to finance college. The scholarship, that you have provided me with, will help to defray the very expensive cost of school. I feel so fortunate to be the recipient of this special award.

I am the mother of three children. My oldest is in his second year of college. It is my hope that all of my children will graduate from college, regardless of the exorbitant price. Your gift has helped me show them that there is always a way. Even though money is tight, with the help of big-hearted people, like yourselves, anything is possible.

Your thoughtfulness means so much to me.

- Jill Morey 2015 Harris-Weiner Scholarship Recipient



Finance and Operations

FY 2015 Financial Activity				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents				\$ 123,367
Investments				1,682,103
Receivables				40,584
Other Assets				625
				1,846,679
FUND EQUITY				
	\$ 192,978	\$ 520,501	\$ 1,133,200	\$ 1,846,679
REVENUES				
Contributions	\$ 19,604	\$ 64,067	\$ 21,560	\$ 105,231
Other income				
Dividends and interest	34,675			34,675
Gain/Loss on investments		9,428		9,428
Transfers	36,011	(36,011)		
Total Revenues and Support	90,290	37,484	21,560	149,334
EXPENSES				
Program Services				
WIT		49,546		49,546
Scholarships and grants	36,011	8,848		44,859
Fundraising	6,768	1,033		7,801
Supporting Services				
Admin. Operating Budget	12,547			12,547
Investment expenses	9,237			9,237
Total Expenses	64,563	59,427	-	123,990
Excess of Revenue over Exxpenses	\$ 25,727	\$ (21,943)	\$ 21,560	\$ 25,344

The Foundation assets of \$1,846,679 as of June 30, 2015 represent an increase of \$35,713 or two percent, above the value of the assets at the end of the previous year. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in the value of invested funds and increases in WIT funding.

Audit of Financial Statements

The State of Connecticut Auditors of Public Accounts conducts annual audits of the Foundation's financial statements. The audits are conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that the audit be performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Foundation's financial statements are free of material misstatement and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, the auditors performed a test of the Foundation's compliance with Sections 4-37e to 4-37j of the Connecticut General Statutes for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 and found no significant issues.

Background

The Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc. was founded September 15, 1977 as the Connecticut Open Learning Assistance Corporation. As the College changed its name, so did the Foundation. In October 1983, it became Charter Oak College Foundation, Inc. and in July, 1992, it took its current name as the Charter Oak State College Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Diversity Statement

Financial support provided to the College from Foundation assets is extended to any student regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, color or handicap. This policy is pursued in a variety of ways. First, a number of grants are specifically designed to promote diversity and increase access to services for historically disadvantaged groups, single parents with low incomes and individuals with special needs. Second, the Board strives for broad representation in its membership, recognizing that without such diversity, the ability to achieve excellence in the mission and purpose would be seriously constrained. When the Foundation Board finds it necessary to fill vacancies in both director and officer levels, the Nominating Committee as well other current Board members are sensitive to the need for diversity among its membership and actively seek to fill vacancies allowing for such diversity in Board composition.

In Conclusion

At Charter Oak we believe in empowerment through education. We are incredibly proud of the highlights mentioned in this report, which are but a few of the achievements of the past year. This progress would not have been possible without the extraordinary financial support provided to the Foundation by donors who believe in the purpose and mission of the College. We are extremely grateful for the financial contributions, large *and* small, that have made it possible for numerous students to reach their academic potential and goals. *Charter Oak State College is a dynamic community of online learners advancing the workforce one graduate at a time.*



Charter Oak State College Graduation – June 2015

Foundation Supporters, Year ending June 30, 2015

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$750 and above

Shirley Adams*
Doris Cassiday*
George & Maria Claffey*
Thomas Desmond*
Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska
Astrid and Fred Hanzalek*
Merle and David Harris*
Paul Kaminski
Ed Klonoski*
Rebeka Scalia*

SUPPORTER CIRCLE

\$500-\$749

Nicolin Carr
Neal Cunningham*
Griebel Family Fund
Marjory Marsching*
Alden Mead
Dan Purushotham
Rebecca Wareing

CHARTER CIRCLE

\$250-\$499

Cathryn Addy
Carlo Cordasco
Jason Jakubowski
Linda Larkin*
Shirley Leopold*
Emily Lewis
Michael Marusa*
Joyce Petrella*
Leena Sampemane
Peter Hagerty Shea
Gale and Gregory Terrill*
Thomas P. Thomas*

SUSTAINER CIRCLE

\$100-\$249

Dr. Fleming Allaire
Marcia Anderson-Esson*
Patricia Banach
Michael Broderick
Donald W. Brodeur
Jennifer Hall Shea and Peter Bruns*
Ruth and Barry Budlong*

Jacqueline Cheney*
Danny Chun
Charles Christopher Cleary
Mardia Coleman
Howard Cronin*
Edward Drapp
Anne Elwell
Carlo Esidore
Tami Devine Fagan
Patrice Farquharson
Matt Fleury
Joseph and Sarah Francois
Yvette Ghannam
Jerome Golden
Elizabeth Groff
Carolyn Hebert
Chief Joel Hurliman
Marlene Ibsen
Barbara and Joseph Kaplowe
Bernard Kavalier
Roger Kemp
Paul Krochmal
Lora LeMosy
Chris May
Thomas McGovern*
Lisa McKinnon*
Sandra Morgan
Jane Murdock*
Borden and Ann Painter
Barry Rahmy*
Kathleen Richards
Carolyn Rogers-Ward
Sarah Emerson Shea
John Stone
Everrick Thomas
Franklin Valier
Lenny Winkler

ACORN CIRCLE

\$99 and under

Maynard Albert
Nancy Allen*
Annette Amato
Kelly Anelli
Stephen Atwood, Jr.
Katy Marie Bannister
Patrica Barnes
Robert Batterson

James Bedard
Henry Berglewicz
Jeffrey Blocker
K.J. Brady
Priscilla Bromley
Sandra Busque
Carolyn Caggiano
Ellen Carter*
Mark Carter
Angela Chapman
Thomas Cherry
Nedra Clarke
Stephen Courtney
Louis John Couture
Les Cropley, Jr.
Glenn Davis
Ronald Deyton
Richard Donald
John Doody
Kathleen Dove
Neil Robert Dworkin
Matthew Geisler
Lynn Grabowski
Mario Grietti
Michael Guarnieri*
Sheryl Hack
Carol Harry Guay
Susanne Hebert
Shawn Hendrickson
Doe Hentschel
David Paul Holmes
Steven Hudak*
Susan Israel*
Cynthia James
Theron James
Robert James, Jr.
Mark Johnson
Mamie Jones
Steven Kelleher
John Kirchhoff
Lisa Lavoie
Paul Lenares
Linda Lerman
Scott William Lord
Ronnie Maeby, Sr.
Nuno Marques*
Sophia Mazzucco
Mark McDonald
William McKeon
Linda McLaurin
Michael McMillan

Adele Miller
Richard Miller
Mark Miller
Katie Muckle
Patrick Napolitano
Tracey Neal
Michael Nicaastro
Deanna Niles
Clara Ogbaa
Maggie Gunther Osborn
Thomas Ostronic
Blanche Parker*
Maureen Perachio
Maggie Pinney
Frank Prater, Jr.
Elsie Rogers*
Karen Rollins
Daniel Russell
Noraliz Santa-Grondin
Dennisse Santiago-Rivera
Jen Schaefer
Gesualdo Schneider
Susan Seider
Hannah Sellers
Karen Severino
Sara Silano
Yamir Soto-Santa
Jenny Steadman
Kelly Stein
Shelley Strohm
Betty Sugerman Weintraub
Joann Sullivan
Doug Test
Andrea Valdovinos
Gale Van Dijk
Susan Vitale
Michael Walsh
Christina Williams
Clifford Williams
Marlene Woodman*
Susan Wrzosek

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TO THE FOUNDATION**

*Aetna Foundation
Aurora Women & Girls
Foundation
CBIA Education Foundation
CCSU Foundation, Inc.*

*Charter Oak State College Alumni Association
Capital Region Education Council
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Leipold Foundation, Inc.
Main Street Community Foundation, Inc.
People's United Bank
Simsbury Bank
Travelers Insurance/Citigroup Foundation*

IN MEMORY OF

Doris G. Cassiday
*Shirley Adams
Patricia Banach
Michael Broderick
Donald Brodeur
Angela Chapman
George Claffey
Charles Cleary
Thomas Desmond
Krystyna Gorniak
Merle & David Harris
Carolyn Hebert
Sue Israel
Ed Klonoski
Linda Larkin
Lisa Lavoie
Linda Lerman
Sandra Morgan
Karen Rollins
Rebeka Scalia
Karen Severino
Shelley Strohm
Gale & Gregory Terrill
John Atwood
Stephen Atwood, Jr.*

Richard Calder
*Shirley Adams
Kathleen Dove
Neil Robert Dworkin
Carlo Esidore
Krystyna Gorniak- Kocikowska
Hannah Sellers*

Marianna Sacchi Grietti
Mario Grietti

James Hebert
Carolyn Hebert

William & Marie Holmes
David Paul Holmes

Rex and Edna Hryniewicz
Joanne Hryniewicz Hallstrom

Inez Lanning Jones

*Rebeka Scalia
Robert Leopold
Shirley Leopold
Annie Mae Maebry
Ronnie Maebry Sr.
Lucille Masella
Marlene Woodman*

IN HONOR OF

Merle Harris
Marjory Marsching

Gale Terrill
*Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska
Sandra W. Morgan*

COMPANIES PROVIDING MATCHING GIFTS

Cardinal Health
Nationwide Insurance Foundation*

We thank you for your gracious gifts that continuously help our students to transform their lives.

To learn more about giving options, please contact Angela Chapman at 860-515-3889 or e-mail achapman@charteroak.edu.

Donors may give online at www.charteroak.edu/foundation/give.cfm