

# connections

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2016 VOL. XLI NO. 2



## Charter Oak Holds 2016 Commencement Ceremony on June 5th – Theme was “Persistence”

With every seat in the auditorium taken, 625 members of the Class of 2016 received degrees during Charter Oak State College’s 42nd commencement ceremony held on Sunday, June 5, in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. Over two hundred and fifty graduates were in attendance representing 38 states. A live webcast of the ceremony was hosted on CharterOak.edu for graduates unable to attend in person.

Charter Oak President, Ed Klonoski addressed the graduates. This year’s commencement speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient was Dr. Regina “Gina” Barreca. The student speaker was Sara Jones.

In his remarks, President Klonoski congratulated the graduates for laboring to finish their education and balance papers and tests with work and family. “Let me congratulate all of you on your achievement. Most of you have arrived at this moment along a non-traditional path. Many of you were stopped in your progress by family responsibilities. You put the needs of others ahead of your own and that meant your education was delayed.”

He noted their persistence made their accomplishments sweeter because it took so much more discipline – “finishing a college degree while you worked and took care of a family is no small thing and I know that you are



Dr. Regina Barreca addresses the graduates

all ready for the next challenge and to make the world a better place.”

The student speaker was Sara Jones, of Meriden, CT. Jones shared her emotional story of initial failed attempts at college and life. Homeless and a single mom at 21 she was given a chance by a non-profit organization to take a few free classes. That led to a 6 year journey to complete her Associate’s degree at a local community college taking one class at a time. She was then accepted into the Women in Transition program at Charter Oak and completed her Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Child Studies, with honors. She credited the Charter Oak WIT staff for their mentoring and their unwillingness to let her give up on herself and told her classmates that she is proof that you can come back from anything and create your own destiny.

Commencement speaker and Honorary Doctorate recipient Gina Barreca spoke of being the first girl in

*continued on pg. 3*

## in this issue

- 1 2016 Commencement Persistence
- 2 The President’s Take Self-Study
- 5 Alumni Social Art & Music
- 8 Commencement Day College Graduates 625
- 11 WIT-CT WAGE Graduates

# THE PRESIDENT'S TAKE



We are making the final preparations for our ten year review by our regional accreditor, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). And I have just come back from a two week vacation, the longest break I have taken in over ten years. The time away and the self-study we just completed have combined to get me thinking about

the College from a more global, and less tactical, perspective. In other words, I am thinking about the role and purpose of Charter Oak rather than the particular programs we are busy producing.

*Here is how I expressed it in the introduction to our NEASC self-study:*

Charter Oak was created to serve adult students intent on completing a degree, and the percentage of adult learners in higher education is approaching 50% nationally. In addition, current estimates of adults with college credits but no credential is over 30 million in this country. That makes the Charter Oak mission more necessary than ever. Charter Oak has a long and impressive history of providing degree completion to adults at rates that exceed any other higher education institutional type. Our mission of assisting working adults to finish their degrees is growing more important as the number of U.S. jobs that require such credentials grows. So we are bullish in our niche and enthusiastic about our ability to fulfill the expectations in front of us.

So while it is true that American higher education has never had more challenges, Charter Oak is well-positioned to succeed. We are built for the workforce needs that our country faces today, and we have the approaches that adult learners require for success. For that we need to be thankful to our founders. But those of us who are now responsible for the College must take full advantage of the flexibility we have to serve our niche.

And that is the "truth" I am discovering about higher education. It is not a single thing, it is not built for a single purpose, and it is not universally good at everything. The tools and strategies necessary to educate young adults are not the same as those necessary to educate working adults. Approaches to credit, degree attainments, and student services are wildly different for these two populations. Charter Oak has long been dedicated to our population of working adults, struggling to finish their education while caring for a family and working at a job. And that niche, our niche, is now the majority of the American higher education audience.

So when the going gets tough, that thought warms me and helps all of us move forward. And speaking of warm, I hope you all have some summer fun to refresh yourself and re-charge your battery.

**Enjoy the summer,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Klonoski". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Ed Klonoski, President**



President Ed Klonoski (sixth from right) joins state of Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy at the signing of the SARA bill. SARA, which stands for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, is a nationwide initiative that makes distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines.

# Summer Greetings from Your Alumni Association!

## We are excited to welcome a new group of graduates to the ranks of Charter Oak Alumni.

This year's graduating class numbered 625! The Commencement ceremony on June 5th was a little wet but the happy graduates were not fazed by the rain. As always, it was wonderful to meet so many of our newest alumni and their supportive families.

For those who just graduated and those within the past few years, we hope you will take advantage of the Alumni Association and that you will lend your talents to your alma mater. In particular, we hope you will become our best source of referrals and tell your friends, family and coworkers about the quality affordable and flexible degree you earned at Charter Oak. We now offer a Master of Science degree in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership that you may want to consider. The first fall class is currently

registering at a healthy pace.

The Connecticut alumni chapter had another successful and well attended social event in April at the New Britain Museum of American Art featuring the fun twist of musical entertainment by our very own talented alums!

If you know of a company who you think could benefit from a visit or a webinar, please let us know. We are especially interested in health care, technology and public safety fields so if you are in any of those fields and interested in talking with us about how you might be able to help with recruiting efforts at your workplace, please contact:

**Nancy Taylor, Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations** at [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu) or 860-515-3863.

As always, if you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact **Chris May, Alumni**

**Association Board President** at [jhchris280@yahoo.com](mailto:jhchris280@yahoo.com) or **Nancy Taylor** at [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu). We are always in search of alumni eager to share their positive experiences of their Charter Oak careers with prospective students to promote and enhance the College's image. We encourage participation in our association any way you are able. Alumni are one of the College's most important assets. We welcome your input at all times, and we, in turn, strive to keep you informed about Charter Oak throughout the year using email and our website.

Please send us your ideas and your updates – we always like hearing about the accomplishments of our impressive alumni! And don't forget – YOU are our best ambassadors for the College. 🌱

**Have a great summer!**

## "2016 Commencement: Persistence" continued from pg. 1

her family to graduate high school in a timely fashion and the first one to go to college. She joked that her Italian upbringing in a traditional family in those times was not the best environment for women role models but grew serious telling the graduates that "one of the great things about a diploma is that they can never take it away from you, which having grown up in Brooklyn, NY was important to me". She reminded the graduates that "today is a big deal, Charter Oak has given you the perfect education for whatever you do next". Dr. Barreca encouraged the graduates to keep humor in their lives and to always speak up, to go out and make change, be leaders, and make their voices heard even when others don't agree with them.

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

interesting facts about the Class of 2016, including that 65% were women; graduates ranged in age from 17 to 70+ with the average age being 38; graduates hailed from 38 states and 2 countries with 69% from Connecticut; 44% earned honors; 500 graduated with a Bachelor's degree, 100 graduated with an Associate's degree; many 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.

Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance were presented to Natasha Butcher, Brian Devine, Daniel French, Peggy Goodew, Veronica Sandoval, and Anna Rita Tornello. 🌱

**Congratulations to the Class of 2016!**

## connections

SUMMER/FALL 2016  
VOLUME XLI, 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  
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor

Board of Regents  
Mark E. Ojajian, President

Charter Oak State College  
Ed Klonoski, President



Thomas Barron, CAGS, MBA, MSOD

**The College is excited to welcome Thomas Barron to its staff as the Director of its online Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership. Connections recently caught up with Tom to discuss his vision for the program.**

### Define your role at the College ...

My primary responsibilities are to lead, develop, implement, and promote the Master's in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership program. This will require a highly collaborative interaction with the faculty, staff, and leadership team throughout the College. In addition to this, I will be working closely with the students to ensure that they are successfully progressing through the program so that they can achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals.

### How will you interact with students in the program?

I would like to be able to talk with each student to develop an understanding of their personal and professional

aspirations and then continue to talk with them on a regular basis throughout the program to ensure they are continuously moving towards these goals. I also would like to facilitate the communication between the students, to share the personal and professional victories of the students as they progress through the program.

### What special skills (special sauce!) do you bring to the College?

I would have to look at the "special sauce" as my belief system including being willing to take risks as there is no such thing as failure, only learning experiences. When working with students I look at myself as a coach and mentor. I tend to look at the potential that exists and encourage students to achieve that potential. Finally, when working within a team, I feel the best ideas will come with the sharing of ideas within the team and the best solutions must favorably affect the entire organization, not just my area of responsibility.

### What drew you to Charter Oak?

Charter Oak has an excellent, nationally based reputation in guiding and mentoring adult learners in completing their degree requirements and making a substantive, positive difference in the lives of its students. Additionally, I am looking forward to the challenge of working with a great team in developing and implementing the institution's first, Master's-level program.

### What is your vision for the graduate program?

Recognized nationally as an innovative and academically rigorous online graduate degree program, the Master's

in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership Program develops and transforms its students into dynamic managers and leaders. This will be accomplished through the dissemination of applied knowledge and skill sets that encourages these future leaders to perceive future trends, identify and solve problems utilizing systems thinking, lead substantive change initiatives, and develop team members with the goal of improving individual, team, and organizational performance in their organization.

### Tell us about your real world experience.

The first part of my career included leadership positions in the corporate financial arena for small, medium, and international firms. These leadership roles included responsibility for functional areas such as accounting, information systems, treasury, and human resources functions. As I was working in the corporate sector, I was also an adjunct instructor in a graduate and undergraduate business program, teaching courses in the areas of management, finance, and accounting. Several years ago, I left the corporate world to pursue a career in higher education as a Director of Graduate Business Programs and Assistant Professor at a small, private college in Western Massachusetts.

### Any tips for our Alums considering a Grad program?

Alumni need to consider several things when looking at a graduate program.

- What are my personal values and goals and how will this program assist me in supporting these values and achieving the goals?

continued on pg. 7

# Alumni Spring Social: New Venue, New Twist!

The Alumni Association took in some art and culture for its Spring Social event this year. Alumni, their spouses, and staff members gathered at the New Britain Museum of American Art on Friday, April 29th to mingle and snack amongst the beautiful art works and meet up with friends and

associates. In a fun twist, a few of our talented alumni graced us with their musical talents during the evening – thank you all for sharing!

Moving the event to a more central location in the state seemed to work well for many. We'll begin planning for the next Spring social soon so

please feel free to share any ideas and feedback with **Nancy Taylor**, *Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations* at [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu) if you have suggestions or other ideas for the event. 🌱



More than 70 alums and guests enjoyed an evening of food, art, and music



Colleen Krugor (Class of 1999) sang the classics



Gregory Sneed (Class of 2009) played the sax



L-R: Gregory Sneed (Class of 2009), Colleen Krugor (Class of 1999), and Nancy Taylor (Assistant Director of Corporate Recruitment and Alumni Relations)



Holly Palmer (Class of 2014) and guest Karen enjoy the art



History faculty Dick Gerber admires the sculptures



L-R: Ed Klonoski (Charter Oak State College President), Brittany Caye (Class of 2015), Angela Klonoski, Rebeka Scalia (COSC Foundation Board President), and Frank Scalia



Classical guitarist Jake Spector provided background music

# alumni spotlight

## 2002

*Donna Foss* is the Registrar for Westover School, an all girls' independent day and boarding school in Middlebury, CT. Previous employments included corporate banking, medical education, and education. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College and three Master's degrees in Organizational Management, Human Services, and Teaching and Learning Theory.

## 2003

*Paula Coyne* has joined the Trekkers of Thomaston, Maine as Director of Development. Trekkers is a local outdoor-based youth mentoring organization. Coyne holds a B.A. in General Studies with a Concentration in Individualized Studies from Charter Oak State College.

## 2005

*Matt Fleury* of Hartford, CT has been named the new Chairman of the Board of Regents for Higher Education in Connecticut. Fleury has served as a member of the Board since its creation in 2011 and is a Charter Oak alumni and holds an MBA from the University of Connecticut. He is the president and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford, CT.

## 2007

*Patrick Ridenhour* recently joined the Danbury, CT police department as Chief of Police. He was previously the police chief of Stratford, CT and is a 28-year law enforcement veteran. Ridenhour holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College and a Master's degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Springfield College.

## 2011

*Teresa Daley* of Ellington, CT received her Master of Social Work degree from Springfield College. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College.

*Starr Merritt* published her first book, "Transform ... Beyond the Break" this year. After earning a Bachelor's degree from Charter Oak in 2011, Merritt earned a Master's Degree in Psychology from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT in 2014 and has also earned certification as a Certified Professional Coach from the International Coach Certification Alliance in 2015.

## 2014

*Shlomo Boukai* is working toward a Master's of Public Administration with a concentration in Policy Analysis and Evaluation at Baruch College, City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY. Through a federal work-study grant

Boukai is also working part time at the NYC Department of Social Services.

*Joseph McCall* was invited to speak at the American Society of Microbiology's annual meeting, ASM Microbe 2016, and will be featured in their Careers in Microbiology website. He recently passed that board's certification exam making him a certified Specialist Microbiologist in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device. The ASM has named McCall as one of their Subject Matter Experts to the U.S. FDA's Department of Health and Human Services Network of Experts. This is a vetted network of outside scientists, clinicians and engineers who provide the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) staff with expertise as needed to supplement existing knowledge and expertise within the CDRH. He is currently employed as Team Lead, QA Microbiology, with Bausch + Lomb in Greenville, SC. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College.

## 2015

*Kelly Anelli* is currently working towards a Master's in Human Services with a focus on non-profit management at Post University's graduate program. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oak State College and is currently the Director of Member Organization Services at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Wethersfield, CT.

"Thomas Barron, Master's Director" continued from pg. 4

- Is the program rigorous and academically challenging?
- Is the program challenging in a way that will help you build your confidence to accept greater responsibilities within your current or future organization?
- Are the instructors in the programs experts in their respective fields from both an academic and real world experience perspective?
- Are the instructors and institution staff committed to your academic success?
- Does the program provide applied skills and tool sets you will be able to implement within your current or future organization?
- Is the course delivery model appropriate for the way you learn?
- Does the delivery model support your work, family, and personal schedules?
- Is the program affordable?

You do not have to sacrifice your financial future to earn a quality Master's degree!

Are you interested in learning more about the online Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership? Visit [CharterOak.edu/Masters](http://CharterOak.edu/Masters) or call Graduate Admissions at 860-515-3895. 🌱

## Your Charter Oak Gear is a Click Away!



**Wear your college colors!** The Charter Oak Shop is open 24/7 at <http://shop.charteroak.edu> and offers a variety of apparel, accessories, diploma frames, and more!

## 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!



## STAY CONNECTED THROUGH connections

We'd like to hear from you about promotions, graduate degrees, awards, marriages, births, and other significant successes in your life. We'll publish your news in the next edition of *Connections*. Please use the form below or drop us a note. Send to: Alumni News, Charter Oak State College, 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053-2150 or email [nataylor@charteroak.edu](mailto:nataylor@charteroak.edu).

Your name and address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

My news \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# COMMENCEMENT 2016



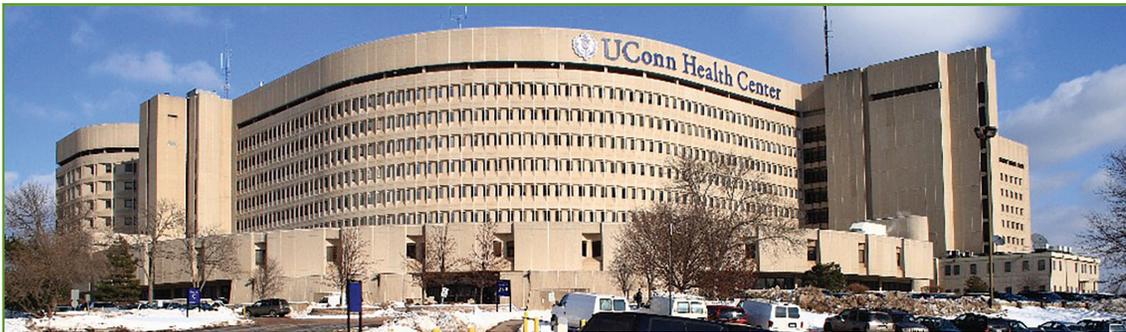
*Congratulatio*



ns Graduates! 



# College Sponsors Health Information Management Panel Event



*Charter Oak State College & UConn Health present ...*

## **COLLECT. DETECT. PROTECT.**

### **Health Information Needs Cyber Security**

**Wednesday, April 6th, 2016 at 5:30 pm**

**at UConn Health in Farmington, CT**

Patel, Senior VP & East Region President at Hartford HealthCare, Tom Murphy, Chief Information Security Officer at UConn Health, Anne Elwell, Vice President for Community Relations at Qualidigm and Alison Nicklas, HIM Director & Privacy Officer at St. Francis Hospital. Moderator Joyce Petrella, President of Calculus of Talent kept things moving for a lively discussion.

Charter Oak State College, in partnership with UConn Health, hosted a public panel discussion around Cyber Security in the Health Information field on Wednesday, April 6th at UConn Health's Low Learning Center. Titled "Collect. Detect. Protect." The event

was a moderated panel discussion regarding the critical importance and implications of cyber security issues facing the healthcare industry today. Anne Diamond, CEO at UConn John Dempsey Hospital, offered the opening remarks and panelists included Bimal

Charter Oak offers Bachelor of Science degrees in both Health Information Management and Cyber Security – both fast growing occupations with high projected job growth rates by the Bureau of Labor. 🌱

## **Doris G. Cassidy Awards Granted at 2016 Commencement**

The Doris G. Cassidy 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 schooling and other non-collegiate sponsored instruction which has been evaluated for credit, as well as classroom instruction.

The Cassidy Award was created in 1998 in the name of Doris Cassidy, 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 until her retirement last year. Doris Cassidy passed away shortly after retiring but her longstanding commitment and dedication to the college and its students will long be remembered.



**Dr. Shirley Adams, Provost, recognizes Ethan York, one of the 2016 Cassidy Award winners**

### **2016 Doris G. Cassidy Award recipients included:**

David J. Chuhta, Trumbull, CT  
Chana R. Drasnin, Oak Park, MI  
Eric Gauvin, Kensington, CT  
Dalia Oziel, Dallas, TX  
Ethan York, Greenfield, WI

**Congratulations to all!**

## WIT and CT WAGE Programs Graduate Twelve



WIT and CT WAGE's proud graduates prepare for Commencement

Two Special Programs at Charter Oak State College continue to move students to self-sufficiency. At the June 5, 2016 graduation ceremony the Women in Transition (WIT) program celebrated its 17th graduation and the CT WAGE program celebrated its 9th graduation. Six students per program 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. Both the Program Director, Delores Bell, and the Program Assistant, Janice Silva were excited about the accomplishment of graduating a total of 180 students since the inception of the two programs and even more excited that the graduation student speaker this year was a program graduate, Sara Jones. Sara Jones

Proud WIT graduate, Sara M. Jones, graduated with honors and was also the student speaker at Commencement. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies with a concentration in Child Studies.

passionately shared her story of overcoming homelessness. Living in a shelter with her daughter, then being given the opportunity to work in a non-profit organization that led her on a path from assistant teacher to preschool teacher and program supervisor. In addition, she was given the opportunity to take a few free classes which led to her educational journey of completing her Associate's degree in 2007 and her presence on the Charter Oak State College stage to receive her Bachelor's degree. Sara made it clear that one of the

important factors to success is belief in self, "I stopped thinking that I couldn't; though they all still thought I wouldn't. I stopped thinking I wasn't good enough; though they thought I'd never be. I believed in myself. Without any doubts or hesitation."

In addition, Sara noted that the support system that she received from the program encouraged her to never give up. She closed her address encouraging her fellow graduates with "Only you have the power to invest time in your success. I wish you all nothing but greatness and the highest level of success in all your future endeavors." The shout out from her daughter, "That's my mom!" was resonated by lingering thunderous applause from all in attendance at the graduation ceremony.

Sara is an inspiration to many and proof that success is not determined by one's struggles, situation or circumstances, but really a matter of belief in one's own abilities, opportunities and a little support. Sara has been accepted into the Alternate Route to Certification teacher program and will start her studies in the fall. 🌱

*For more information regarding The WIT and CT WAGE program, please visit [www.charteroak.edu/WIT](http://www.charteroak.edu/WIT)*



# Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society

## *You Can Influence the Future*

The Charter Oak State College Foundation is pleased to announce the founding members of the **Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society**, the Foundation's legacy giving program.

The Founding members of the Legacy Society have demonstrated a commitment to education by leaving a charitable, tax deductible bequest to the Charter Oak State College Foundation, providing for students for generations to come. These commitments to our students are both essential to the future of the Foundation and eminently admirable. 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.

*The Founding 9 Members of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society are:*

1. Marcia Anderson-Esson
2. Neal and Rose Mary Cunningham
3. Merle and David Harris
4. Astrid and Fred Hanzalek
5. Marjory Marsching
6. Joyce and Mario Petrella
7. Rebeka and Frank Scalia
8. Ed and Angela Klonoski
9. Anonymous Donor

The Charter Oak State College Foundation has decided to cap the Founding members of the Legacy Society at an even dozen; therefore, there is room for three additional Founding members. It is our hope that these leaders light a path that is followed by many of you.

Please contact Angela Chapman at 860-515-3889 or [achapman@charteroak.edu](mailto:achapman@charteroak.edu) for information on becoming a Founding member of the Charter Oak State College Foundation Legacy Society. ✨

## **Thank you to the current and past supporters of the Women in Transition program (WIT) that benefits underserved and underemployed single Connecticut mothers in their quest for degree completion:**

### **Current Supporters:**

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
The Charter Oak State College Foundation  
The Leipold Family Foundation  
The Aurora Women and Girls Foundation  
The Women and Girls' Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation

### **Past Supporters:**

NewAlliance Foundation, The Daphne Culpeper Seybolt Foundation, The Junior League of Greater New Britain, CHUBB, Carrier Foundation, New Britain Foundation for Public Giving, Smith Whiley Foundation, The Linford & Mildred White Family Foundation, Northeast Utilities.

*A special thank you to The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for generously providing a total of \$503,000 to support the Women in Transition Program.*

# Charter Oak State College Foundation Hosts Spring Fundraiser

The Charter Oak State College Foundation hosted a Spring Fundraiser on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Double Tree Hilton in Bristol, CT in support of the Charter Oak State College Student Crisis Fund.

The Charter Oak State College Foundation's Student Crisis Fund was established in 2011 to provide funds to Charter Oak State College students for unforeseen financial crisis situations that could prevent students from successfully completing their degree. A college degree can change the lives of many adult students and their families, but sometimes issues of life can become so burdensome that finishing college is far down on the list. The Student Crisis Fund is a critical resource to the Charter Oak State College student during extraordinary times of crisis.

The uniqueness and value of the Student Crisis Fund reside in its ability to respond to unanticipated student needs immediately. The ability to respond almost instantly to emergency situations as compared to other Foundation programs that provide for scholarships and awards that are planned well in advance of actual distribution has allowed us to step in and help students overcome unplanned obstacles that might otherwise derail their educational goals.

The fundraiser featured keynote speaker and honoree, Denise W. Merrill, Connecticut Secretary of the State. Ed Klonoski, President of Charter Oak State College, presented Secretary Merrill with an award for her continued support of Charter Oak State College. Secretary Merrill

inspired the audience with her heartfelt keynote address sharing her personal college educational journey as an adult learner. In addition, Alfred Brissette, a junior at Charter Oak State College and recipient of the Student Crisis Fund delivered a powerful speech of thanks to those who have generously provided funds to support this great fund. Mr. Brissette shared his story on the impact the Student Crisis Fund had on his life and how he was able to remain on his journey to a college degree because of the support he received from the fund.

*The Foundation is sincerely thankful for all attendees and donors for their support of this important initiative to significantly improve the lives of the Charter Oak State College adult student.* 🌱



L-R: Marcia Anderson-Esson, Foundation Board Member, with guests Penny Davis and Sherree Sutton



Denise W. Merrill, Connecticut Secretary of the State, accepts an award for her support of Charter Oak State College from Ed Klonoski, President



Denise Merrill speaks to attendees



Alfred Brissette, right, Student Crisis Fund recipient chats with guest speaker and others

# THANK YOU DONORS

The Charter Oak State College Foundation and the College thank our donors for their gracious gifts. Your generosity continues to help countless students transform their lives, often beyond what they ever thought was possible. Whether you are a long-time supporter or a first-time giver, we could not do it without you. The list of donors below includes those who have made a contribution to the Annual Fund or Endowment between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The names with asterisks have given for the past five years. *To learn more about the Foundation and giving opportunities, please visit the Foundation website at [www.charteroak.edu/foundation](http://www.charteroak.edu/foundation) or contact Angela Chapman by phone (860-515-3889) or email [achapman@charteroak.edu](mailto:achapman@charteroak.edu).*

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE \$750 and above

Shirley Adams\*  
Mary Ann Bunting  
Nicolin Carr  
Neal Cunningham\*  
Thomas Desmond\*  
Astrid and Fred Hanzalek\*  
Merle and David Harris\*  
Paul Kaminski  
Ed and Angela Klonoski\*  
William Ledoux Jr.  
David Matthews  
Joyce Petrella  
Dan Purushotham  
Rebeka Scalia\*  
Benson Yang

## SUPPORTER CIRCLE \$500-\$749

George and Maria Claffey\*  
Scott Claunch  
Carlo Cordasco  
Richard Gerber  
Griebel Family Fund  
Alice Herrmann  
Jason Jakubowski  
Marjory Marsching\*  
Rebecca Wareing

## CHARTER CIRCLE \$250-\$499

Cathryn Addy  
Scott Cleary  
Nicholas Donofrio  
Carl & Karen Forster  
Linda Larkin\*  
Shirley Leopold\*  
Sandra Morgan  
Deene Morris  
Barry Rahmy\*  
Leena Sampemane  
Peter Shea

## SUSTAINER CIRCLE \$100-\$249

Marcia Anderson-Esson\*  
Carole Ap Carso  
Theodore Benoit  
Daniel Bishop  
Paul Blomquist  
William Boudreaux  
Donald W. Brodeur  
Ruth and Barry Budlong\*  
Donald Butler  
Julio Casiano  
Jacqueline Cheney\*  
Deborah Ciak  
Louis John Couture

Edward & Suann Cronin  
Howard Cronin\*  
Lisa Crowe  
Edward Drapp  
Anne Elwell  
JoAnn Fitch  
Matt Fleury  
Kevin Fong  
Harold Gantert  
Jerome Golden  
Krystyna Gorniak-  
Kocikowska  
Naren Gursahaney  
Jennifer Hall Shea &  
Peter Bruns  
Eileen Harding  
Ella Hawkins  
Carolyn Hebert  
C. Yvonne Hickey  
Steven Hudak  
Joel Hurliman  
Angela Jimenez  
Keith Johnson  
Cecilia Kozlowski  
Maribeth & Shelly Lawrence  
Jeanne Leblanc  
Lora LeMosy  
Emily Lewis  
Jerry Long  
Mary Ellen Lutz  
Ronnie Maebry Sr.  
Annie Malechek  
Patrick Martin  
Michael Marusa\*  
Bob & Mary Ann Matthews  
Chris May  
Thomas McGovern\*  
Jane Murdock\*  
Borden and Ann Painter  
Blanche Parker  
Donald Rainville  
Peter Saxon III  
Jen Schaefer  
Britt Schermerhorn  
Christina Shorter  
Tiffany Sikes  
Gregory Sneed  
Joe Sullivan  
Thomas P. Thomas  
Franklin Valier  
Clifford Williams  
Karen Wosczyzna-Birch  
and John Birch

## ACORN CIRCLE \$99 and under

Nancy Allen\*  
Annette Amato  
Eric Andujar  
Michael Baehr

Kevin Barry  
Delores Bell  
Maria Augusta Bernardino  
Joseph Birritteri  
Martha Black  
David Bogozzi  
S. Sanford Boughton  
Ramanee Bramwell  
Lynette Braunhardt  
Priscilla Bromley  
Laura Brown  
Walton Brown-Foster  
Carey Butler  
Carolyn Caggiano  
Marguerita Calder  
Ellen Carter\*  
Bryan Cassiday  
Angela Chapman  
Thomas Cherry  
David Chisnell  
Christopher Cobb  
Marc Cohen  
Mardia Coleman  
Sherry Connors  
Stephen Courtney  
Penny Davis  
William and Patricia Derech  
Ronald Deyton  
Elaine Doherty  
John Doody  
William Dougherty  
Ivette Dreyer  
Linda Drumm  
Neil Robert Dworkin  
Dean Curtis Ebdon  
Jennifer Fillman  
Patricia Gates  
Vicky Gauthier  
Mylissa Graber  
Mario Grietti  
Michael Guarnieri  
Carol Harry Guay  
Brian & Sharon Guyer  
Jane Harris  
Robert Haydu  
Michael Healy  
Susanne Hebert  
Cameron Henderson  
David Paul Holmes  
Mubarakah Ibrahim  
Mark Johnson  
Mary Johnson  
Bruce Jones  
Steven Kalb  
Barbara and Joseph Kaplowe  
Richard Keeter  
Sally Keiser-Bankert &  
Carl Bankert  
Steven Kelleher  
John Komorowski  
Faith Kunes

John Lahda III  
Judy LaRocco  
Amy Lawson  
David Levine  
Cynthia Mannella Nickell  
Nuno Marques\*  
Michael McMillan  
Joan & Randy Meads  
Mary Mignosa  
Adele Miller  
Mark Miller  
Richard Miller  
Gregory Moore  
Patrick Napolitano  
William Newton  
Michael Nicaastro  
Vanessa Nkrumah  
Barbara Nye  
Thomas Ostronic  
Andrea Pandolfi  
Rose Parker  
Lauren Paxton  
Lori Gagne Pendleton  
Maureen Perachio  
Amy Piccoli  
Patricia Placido  
Riccardo Polselli  
Frank Prater, Jr.  
Alice Pritchard  
Irene Puccio  
Tyrone Richardson  
Donna Ricketts  
Diane Robillard  
Elsie Rogers\*  
Richard & Janice Rogers  
Wesley Rogers  
Carole Schultz  
Helen & Jerry Scully  
Azra Sholtes  
Kim Skehan  
Barbara Smachetti  
Joan Smith  
Michael Smith-Takacs  
Gail Smithwick  
Susan Socci  
Marcia Stephenson  
Marlene Stephenson  
Andrew Thompson  
Robert Toros  
Melinda Towne  
David Tucker  
Victoria Tuite  
James Tulacro  
Susan Vitale  
Michael Walsh  
Joseph Waltos  
Barbara Williams  
Penelope Wintgens  
Marlene Woodman\*  
Adeline Yllanes  
Rodi Zimmerman

## BUSINESSES DONATING TO THE FOUNDATION

Aurora Women & Girls  
Foundation  
Charter Oak State College  
Student Association  
Express Strategies LLC  
First Niagara Bank  
Frontier Communications  
Hartford Foundation for  
Public Giving  
Leipold Foundation, Inc.  
Liberty Bank  
Main Street Community  
Foundation, Inc.  
Management Search, Inc.  
People's United Bank  
Simsbury Bank  
Travelers Insurance/Citigroup  
Foundation  
Xerox Corporation

## IN MEMORY OF

Richard Calder  
Marguerita Calder  
Amy Lawson  
Doris Cassiday  
Bryan Cassiday  
Richard Cohn  
Sandra Morgan  
Debbie Flinn  
Shirley Adams  
Marianna Sacchi Grietti  
Mario Grietti  
Inez & Maurice Jones  
Rebeka Scalia  
Margie & Brad Keeter  
Richard H. Keeter  
Annie Mae Maebry  
Ronnie Maebry, Sr.  
Michael A. Marusa  
Daniel Bishop  
Martha Black  
Wayne Boudreaux  
Laura Brown  
David Chisnell  
Deborah Ciak  
Scott Claunch  
Edward & Suann Cronin  
Lisa Crowe  
Linda Drumm  
Jennifer Fillman  
JoAnn Fitch  
Kevin Fong  
Carl & Karen Forster  
Harold Gantert  
Naren Gursahaney  
Brian & Sharon Guyer  
Michael Healy

## "In Memory Of" continued

Sally Keiser-Bankert &  
Carl Bankert  
Maribeth & Shelly Lawrence  
David Levine  
Mary Ellen Lutz  
Annie Malechek  
Cynthia Mannella Nickell  
Bob & Mary Ann Matthews  
Joan & Randy Meads  
William Newton  
Andrea Pandolfi  
Richard & Janice Rogers  
Wesley Rogers

Britt Schermerhorn  
Helen & Jerry Scully  
Azra Sholtes  
Christina Shorter  
Tiffany Sikes  
Joe Sullivan  
Benson Yang  
Rodi Zimmerman  
Patricia Mitchell  
Susan Vitale  
Birda & Robert Parker  
Rose M. Parker

Dr. Bernard Shea  
Jennifer Hall Shea & Peter Bruns  
Michael Smithwick  
Gail Smithwick  
Vincent Soggi  
Susan Soggi  
Stasia Wosczyzna  
Karen Wosczyzna-Birch &  
John Birch

## COMPANIES PROVIDING MATCHING GIFTS

Cardinal Health\*  
Nationwide Insurance Foundation  
Walt Disney Company Foundation

## IN HONOR OF

Merle Harris  
Marjory Marsching

\*A special thank you for your loyalty in giving to the Charter Oak State College Foundation annually for the past five fiscal years. Thank you for recognizing the consistent need and choosing to make a difference.

## Foundation Distributes \$96,650 to Charter Oak State College Students

The Charter Oak State College Foundation provides scholarships and other financial support to remove the financial barriers that often prevent the adult learner from pursuing and completing higher education. We look to the Charter Oak State College Alumni, our friends and organizations providing grant funds to help us to make the dream of higher education a reality and the hope of a better future possible. These contributions have a lifetime effect on the students and their families.

**During a 12-month period from 2015 through 2016, the Foundation distributed \$96,650 to:**

- Provide Foundation grants to over 50 Charter Oak students.
- Provide technology grants to support students' technological needs.
- Provide financial assistance to Charter Oak State College students for unforeseen financial crisis situations that could prevent students from successfully completing their degree through the Student Crisis Fund.
- Award endowed scholarships ranging from \$700-\$1,600 to help students meet cost of their education.
- Support the College's Women in Transition (WIT) program, designed to assist low-income, single mothers to complete their college degree.

- Support the College's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program by distributing Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Scholarships to encourage students with knowledge equivalent to college-level learning to pursue credit via established PLA pathways; thus reducing the cost of their education and their time to graduation.
- Host a free Shea Lecture supported by an endowment established in 1987 upon the retirement of Bernard D. Shea, Charter Oak's first President. The endowment enables the College to sponsor programs which further the College's mission to engage students and the community in lifelong learning.

Scholarships and grants were awarded by the Charter Oak State College Foundation whose Board of Directors include 17 dedicated volunteers representing both working and retired professionals. Non-voting Board members include a Charter Oak student, a Charter Oak alumnus, a Charter Oak faculty member and the Director of Institutional Advancement for the College. The Board manages the Foundation's affairs and business determining the manner in which funds – both principal and income – are expended based on established policies.

To be eligible for a scholarship distribution, a Charter Oak student must be matriculated and in good standing, must have completed a minimum of one semester following initial matriculation and must demonstrate financial need. A minimum Grade Point Average is also a guideline for scholarship eligibility. ✨

### 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 **Angela Chapman** 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.***

## Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership has Begun!

### Complete Your Master's degree at Charter Oak

- ▶ Sharpen your leadership skills – affect change in your workplace
- ▶ Business or Non-Profit track – 8-week classes
- ▶ Very affordable online program at the Master's level
- ▶ No GREs or entrance exams required

Specifics at [www.charteroak.edu/masters](http://www.charteroak.edu/masters)  
Contact Graduate Admissions at 860-515-3895 or  
[gradadmissions@charteroak.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@charteroak.edu)

*Spread the Word!*  
Fellow alums, friends, coworkers, family!

## IMPORTANT DATES!

**Fall Term 2 2016 –**  
Last day to register 10/19  
Classes begin 10/24



**Spring Term 1 2017 –**  
Last day to register 1/11  
Classes begin 1/17



**Spring Term 2 2017 –**  
Last day to register 3/15  
Classes begin 3/20