2019
Scholar & Donor Reception
A Celebration of Scholarship and Philanthropy

ccsuConnected
“I honestly have a great appreciation of this scholarship, as it helped me realize good things could happen and hard work does pay off. Thank you so much! This scholarship made the past couple of rough months look like I was finally going to be able to turn around and catch up to what I felt like I was drowning in bills. I have taken up two jobs and currently am on the search for a paid internship to be able to be financially stable. I will put this scholarship to good use and continue to excel in my studies.”

Amber Martinez
Media Studies Major

Gianaris Family Scholarship
“Receiving these scholarships gives me hope of a positive future and motivates me to work that much harder in my classes. My education has changed my life and my family’s life for the better. Please know that your support and investment in me is an honor and proves I am on the right path to success. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!”

Justin West
Graphics Technology Major

J. Thomas Gugerty Scholarship
Carmine J. Abate Sr. Scholarship
Anthony & Helen G. Bichum Scholarship
Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Scholarship
“These scholarships allow me to not stress out over book prices or tuition costs and instead focus on applying for internship opportunities, prepare for grad school/law school, and dedicate myself to my responsibilities on campus. I thank everyone and any organization that is willing to donate money towards scholarships to help students through the difficult financial process that is college.”

Johanna Zukowski
Double Major,
International Studies & Political Science

CSEA / Glennen Scholarship and
Classified Employee/Dependent Child Scholarship
“My success in academia has been a testament to my tenacity, drive and overall understanding that I am representing something larger than myself. As a student in the Sixth Year Program, I maintained my 4.0 GPA while still volunteering as a Biology teacher every Saturday at the Legacy Foundation of Hartford. Also, I am a member of the Greater New England Alliance of Black School Educators, volunteer at the breakfast program assisting the homeless population in Hartford, teach summer school and lead district professional developments. The Lindgren Family Scholarship will assist me in accomplishing my goal of using my education to remedy the present achievement gap between suburban and urban environments.”
“Thank you for your generosity; I was very appreciative to learn I was selected. These scholarships will help ease my financial burden which will allow me to focus on my academics. Thank you for all your help!”

Samantha Haddad
Sociology Major

June Baker Higgins Scholarship
Paul L. Altieri Scholarship
“To me, receiving this scholarship means a world of difference. As someone who works hard on his academics, this gives me motivation to continue to strive for excellence. It is nice to know that there are donors who assist CCSU's students with school-related expenses, and I want to say that this certainly doesn't go unnoticed. I appreciate your generosity and would like to give a heartfelt thank you for awarding me the Paul K. Rogers Scholarship.
“I would like to thank you for your generosity in awarding me these scholarships. With this support, I will be able to put it towards my education so I can continue to work hard in school, in my internships, and at work. No matter what, I am determined to finish and enter into the professional world with all I am learning.

Thank you again for your contribution to my education. I am so grateful for your generosity.”

Christiana Vickrey
Candidate, MS in Marriage & Family Therapy

GSA Professional Development Scholarship
Schain Family Endowment Fund
ITBD Golf Tournament Scholarship
“When I received the email that I was chosen for the Yoko Niibo scholarship, I of course jumped up in surprise and checked to see if the email was real, because I had never imagined that I could be worthy of something so life-changing. I still remember the day vividly, and the emotions that went through my head after realizing that I might actually be able to study abroad in my University experience. I am eager to bring the stories and experiences of this study abroad semester back to America, and more specifically back to CCSU where I hope to encourage or assist others in making their dream of studying abroad in Japan a reality.”
Diana Sanchez  
Management Major  
Travelers EDGE Scholarship

“I am so grateful for everything this program has provided me and my family, not only financially but the personal/professional development it brought to my life. The coaching this program provided me with helped me to make dean's list since Spring 2017, join the Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Society, become the EDGE Peer Mentoring Program co-manager, and I recently get offered a full-time job at Travelers!”
“By the grace of God and the hard work of my parents, I was able to develop as a student in an environment that supported my excitement for knowledge. Thanks to the Juran Institute and Dr. Fearon I will be able to afford to continue my studies and to pursue my desired degree. I will treat this gift and the opportunity it presents me with the way the Colombian people would - with respect, gratitude, and a commitment to succeed.”
“I would like to thank you for your continued support, as this is my second time being a recipient of the generous and prestigious Fu-Shang Wei award. It means a lot to me that my strong work ethic has been recognized, and this award further inspires me to continue my academic achievement in Mechanical Engineering at CCSU.”

Matthew Iossa
Mechanical Engineering Major

Fu-Shang Wei Scholarship
“To me this scholarship is an incredible gift. I’m so glad that the Portuguese community is supporting education. It’s heartwarming to see the support given back. This is a big motivation for me to push myself academically. This will motivate me to study even harder, to volunteer more and work harder. I want to make the Portuguese proud.”

Andreya Patinha
Biomolecular Sciences Major

Graciete Maria Simao Rosa Scholarship
Ndengo Mwilelo
Strategic Communication Major

Curtis E. & Degi Jennings Scholarship
Educational Support Services Scholarship

“Because of the war in my country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, my family and I were forced to flee. Moving from one country to another in order to seek safety and a new foundation of life my education was always at risk. As a young girl when my mother will take me to pray with her my only prayers were always "God please help me go to school" not that I didn't have any other things to ask God for. Moving to Connecticut with my family, my prayers were answered.”
“This scholarship has motivated me to remain persistent in my academics and showed me the great benefits that dedication can provide. As a student, it is extremely helpful to be able to spend more time on my schoolwork and less time worrying about how to pay for my classes. It has truly been a privilege being able to live on campus and experience campus life for the first time last year.

I am so in love with my experience at Central, and the scholarships I have received during my time here have allowed me to embrace the Central culture and lifestyle fully.”

Rhiannya Byrne
Psychological Science Major

Estelle Jones Triarhos Scholarship
Nicholas Parent
Construction Management Major

Alumni Association Scholarship
KBE Building Corporation Scholarship in Honor of Kenneth Russo

“I cannot believe I have been awarded such generous scholarships. I am very appreciative and cannot thank those who donated and helped put this together enough for their generosity. I have been working since I was 15 to try and pay my own way through college and when unexpected surprises like this pop up it makes all the hard work seem worth it. Thank you again, I am truly grateful.
“Receiving this scholarship meant a lot to me because I felt like I was making my mom very proud of herself and the accomplishments she made since she graduated from CCSU in 1994. I felt like I was carrying her skills and knowledge that she learned at the university and using them myself.

Academically, I am very proud that I received this scholarship because I worked very hard the entire year and proved not only to my family but to myself that I have the potential to do anything I set my mind to which is something that my mom has taught me throughout my whole life.”

Morgan Kelly
Pre-Social Work Major

Alumni Association Scholarship
Dr. M.K. Chung/Hyundai Motor Company and Classified Employee/Dependent Child Scholarships
“As a recipient of this scholarship and a student with considerable independence in their college career, this grant allows me to prioritize myself, alleviate all of the burdens and limitations, and offers peace of mind.

Yamia Gibson
Sociology Major

Sodexo Scholarship
Daniel Pobidel
Computer Science-Honors Major

Carol A. Ammon Endowment Fund
Miano Memorial Fund Scholarship

“As a first generation college student with a single parent, all financial aid and scholarships help out our family more than you can imagine. When I first applied to CCSU I wasn’t sure how I was going to manage paying for the high cost of college, and was worried that I would burden my mother, but with the support of scholarships it all became possible. I feel so blessed to be able to focus on college and only work part time to support myself instead of having to work full time or build up thousands in student debt.

I hope that one day I find myself in a position where I can not only help provide for my family, but also contribute to scholarships for future generations, as you have for mine.
“It is extremely encouraging to know that there are people who support my academic career. Acts of kindness like this truly do push me to do my best because it shows that my hard work will pay off in the end and I could not be more thankful to receive this scholarship. In high school I was blessed to have dedicated and driven teachers and I can only hope to be like them one day. Once again, receiving this scholarship is an honor and I could not be more blessed to be a recipient.”

Ashley Hoang
Elementary Education - History Major

Paul J. Sorbo, Jr. Scholarship
“Academically receiving this scholarship is an honor because I consistently try to put 100% into my academics and I hope that is being shown through what I accomplish here on campus. Personally though, this means a lot more because it’s no secret that the financial burden of going to school does affect a person’s education. This scholarship is not only rewarding, but it's taking away some of the financial burden and how thankful I am for that cannot be expressed in 250 characters.”
“Receiving this means that I can continue my journey to become a cyber security analyst, a tutor/teaching assistant for professors in Networking courses or a systems administrator specializing in networking. I am using the knowledge that I learn in my courses and applying it in the classroom by helping students learn the material and prepare them for the next big things in computer networking. I would like to continue on to my masters degree after I complete my bachelors degree and specialize in cybersecurity and assurance for data systems.

Thank you so much for assisting me with my program of study!”
“It means a lot that I was recognized in the finance department for my grades and extracurriculars. This gives me encouragement as I continue to search for a career in finance post graduation.

Personally it was very exciting because these are the first scholarships I was awarded from CCSU. This will help my family since my sister and I are both in college at the same time. I am very appreciative of this recognition and award.

Thank you for your generosity and presenting me with these scholarships.”
“This scholarship allows me to finish my degree without much of a financial burden and for that I am beyond grateful. Being in my final semester, also means that I am in the most difficult classes I can be in so receiving this scholarship was such a relief. I will finish strong and use my time wisely to achieve to the best of my ability.”

Cory Sipos
Mathematics Major

Baha El-Eid Scholarship
“As a working mom I spend the majority of my personal time thinking about my family. My job keeps me busy too. As a town wide curriculum specialist I bounce between 11 schools facilitating professional development, writing curriculum, and supporting school leaders. Until I started at CCSU, I focused on how my efforts could support others. I very rarely did things for myself. Receiving this scholarship helps me to finish the leadership program that for so long I put off. I can't thank you enough for your support of both me and my family.”
“I want to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the honor of being the recipient of the Helen Bichum Trust & Stanley Lotko Scholarships. These scholarships are extremely important. They will allow me to continue my academic goals. With this gift you make me feel taken care of and that you believe in me and what I am able to accomplish. Your generous gifts empower me to continue to work hard and fulfill my dream of being a journalist.”
“Receiving these scholarships means so much to me and I feel grateful to have been selected. This gives me a chance financially to complete my education, and with that I plan to be in the Top of my class! You will not regret the investments you have made in me so far. I will make you proud, my family, and the whole of CCSU proud. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

Peace Uwaya
Finance Major

Fote Family Scholarship
Dr. Patricia Hall Scholarship
Educational Support Services Scholarship
Dr. Mong Koo Chung/Hyundai Motor Company Scholarship
“You have helped provide me with the belief that as hard as things can be in an increasingly difficult world, there are still blessing all around us. This is a big step in achieving my dreams of graduating this university and being a helpful and productive member of society. I want to extend my utmost gratitude to you for your contribution to my education, goals, and dreams. I wish there was something I could do in return, but I think the best I could do on my part, would be to continue to excel in school and graduate. Thank you very much!”

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Denis Mehmedovic
Pre-Management Major

Human Resources Scholarship
“This scholarship makes it financially possible for me to continue working toward degree completion. I can focus on working with underserved student populations to help them in achieving their goals in higher education. My goal is to raise the awareness of students from these populations about the resources, including scholarships and programs, available to them so that they can work more positively and successfully toward completing their degrees. As a single female from a minority population, the odds are often against me and it can be discouraging, especially when, financially, it appears impossible to continue working toward my dream of earning a doctorate. Thank you!”

Vangella Buchanan
Doctoral Candidate, Educational Leadership
Beyard-Ellis Doctoral Dissertation Fund
“I cannot fully express my gratitude for your generosity which has helped me continue my academic career as a Biology major as well as my athletic career as a member of the swim team. As I complete my final year at Central Connecticut, I know that I will look back on this experience as an opportunity that was made possible by you!

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift. I hope that one day I can do for others what you have done for me.”

Erika Maercklein
Biology Major

Jack Suydam Scholarship Fund
“I am so grateful for this scholarship. Being an immigrant I came to this country when I was three years old. My parents brought me here so I could have better opportunities than they could give me. They didn't have the privilege to go to college so I worked very hard in high school to be able to get here. School is expensive but it is a necessity, with this scholarship I am one step closer to accomplishing my goals.”

Nickaelle Florestal  
Management Major

Kerzner Family Fund
“I typically work 25 hour weeks at a local grocery store, but with this scholarship I will be able to cut down my hours which will effectively increase the amount of dedication I can put into school. This also means that I will be less stressed which will improve my academics and growth as a student and prospective teacher. I know the value of a dollar and am wholeheartedly grateful for the Nancy Antonez Fund. I will not take this for granted and plan to spend my future academics and professional experiences learning. Thank you.”

John McCauley
Elementary Education - Mathematics Major
Nancy Antonez Fund
“Receiving this scholarship gives me much confidence in my future. I become more confident that I can accomplish much as long as I work hard. It also gives me an opportunity to learn a different culture and broadens my horizons. I really appreciate the opportunity to study in CCSU and I will also try my best to get a good performance in study. I think it is the best way to express my gratefulness to Huang Family. I will also try to help students who would be picked in the program following me. Thanks again.”

Xiaoying Zhao
Mathematics Major

C.J. Huang Chinese Student and Educational Development Fund
“These scholarships make a world of difference. Although I heavily rely on student loans, the scholarship money is a motivator to keep moving forward and finish a degree in the Computer Science field. I hope I am able to continue into the Master's program at CCSU, while seeking a position in this career field. I genuinely appreciate the gracious amount you have given me and I will continue to work hard to prove that you have made the right decision by choosing me. I thank you most sincerely from the bottom of my heart.”

**Sylwia Furdyna**  
Computer Science-Honors Major  

Sue Ann Collins Scholarship Fund  
Helen Bichum Trust Scholarship
“To receive this scholarship that was started after a man who believed in higher education to better oneself and who focused on global health and education, I feel honored to be a recipient of this award.

My mother is currently still paying back loans that she had to take out for herself and my brother. I did not want to be another burden, but then I was able to receive this scholarship which takes a weight off of the shoulders of myself and my parents. So I thank the C.J. Huang Foundation. I will not let you down.”
“I am so grateful and thankful to have received these scholarships. This will help me continue my studies with less of a financial burden. I am so fortunate to have academic and financial support and am so proud to call CCSU my home. I am excited to continue my studies here thanks to the generosity of these foundation scholarships. Thank you very much for all of your support.”

Shannon Wynne
Elementary Education - Interdisciplinary Science Major

Class of 1962 Scholarship
Alumni Association Scholarship
“Receiving this scholarship is a huge help that I am beyond grateful for. Paying for school while attending classes and working part time is never easy, but thanks to the generosity of these scholarship donors it is possible. Thank you for helping me make my dreams come true.”

Amy Gagne
Physical Education Major

Kevorkian Family Scholarship
“Receiving the Governor O’Neill Scholarship will open an opportunity for me to continue furthering my education and become the first in my family to go to college. Personally it is very important to work hard for your dreams. My dream is to go to college and receive my degree in Business Management. I am very grateful for the scholarship and for the amazing people who have helped me in the EOP program. Thank you.”

Alondra Gonzalez
Pre-Management Major

Governor William A. O’Neill Scholarship
“These scholarships are literally the reason I can continue to pursue my degree. I put myself through college and would not be able to get the needed funds to pay for school without it. This is everything to me because I plan to get my masters degree and I will be the first in my family to do this. I have been interested in being an engineer since I was in 6th grade. This support in making that dream a reality is just beyond what words can express. Thank you all so much for making this possible.”

Gordon Perrett
Mechanical Engineering Major
Pratt & Whitney
Quality Engineering Scholarship
Dr. M.K. Chung/Hyundai Motor Company Scholarship
“I would like to say thank you to the generous donor(s) for awarding me. In the past year I have been heavily inspired by the women I have met while volunteering in medical settings both domestically and abroad. I will continue to work closely with women from underrepresented populations to do what I can to bridge the gap in healthcare access. Receiving the Ruthe Boyea Scholarship has only increased my motivation to excel in my studies at CCSU and one day become a physician that will do everything in my power to help serve those in need.”
“I cannot say thank you enough to the generous donors of this scholarship. Receiving this award proves to me academically that I am being recognized for my hard work and achievements both inside and outside the classroom. I am so grateful for this support which gives me confidence in my abilities and allows me to continue striving in the fields of Computer Science and Mathematics.”

Amy Lezon  
Double Major,  
Computer Science-Honors & Mathematics  

Brian M. O'Connell Fund
Michael Trinh  
Construction Management Major  

“With this scholarship I will be able to cover a large portion of my school-related costs and focus more on my professional, academic and personal goals. I am so incredibly grateful to be receiving support from those in the industry I study to make an impact in. As those that were kind and generous enough to award me with this scholarship have done, I will undoubtedly continue to support those who will come after me and support those that will make up the future of our industry. Thank you.