Higher Education as "29 Who Shine" Recipient
Ernest A. Baird Honored by the Department of Higher Education at GCC

Students may be eligible for financial aid and career support, and participate in GCC’s STEM Starter Academy, which focuses on the skills and knowledge needed to qualify for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses. Participants will take part in summer STEM classes designed for high school students and ongoing activities that are free and open to the public.

Ernest A. Baird, Honored by the Department of Higher Education as "29 Who Shine" Recipient

Ernest A. Baird is a former student of GCC. He began attending GCC after dropping out of high school. He wasn’t ready for college, and did not receive the support of GCC’s faculty and staff. Ernie, 42, of Northampton, will graduate from GCC in May 2014 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He plans to pursue a career as a chemical engineer.

Ernie’s journey is one of privilege to have played a role in this student’s success. Associate Professor of Mathematics Ian Winokur, Ernie’s mentor, said, “Ernie is a superstar. He got what he needed when he needed it. From electronics class to the experiences he’s had here, he’s shown a great deal of focus and determination during his time at GCC. He’s so thankful to have been able to make it through college.”

Ernie received a STEM Starter Academy scholarship, which provides financial support to students who are transferring to GCC from high school. He received his scholarship because he was able to attend GCC’s STEM Starter Academy, which helps students transition from high school to college.

Ernie has realized math and science skills. "His journey is one of self-discovery and improvement. He has shown a great deal of focus and determination during his time at GCC. "I had never imagined belonging. I had never imagined welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie demonstrated great courage, grit and wisdom coming back to GCC to create a better life for himself and his family. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was welcoming and made me feel like I was a part of the community. Ernie has helped countless students achieve their math goals. Ernie appreciates the support he has received at GCC. He said, ‘I was 29 and very intimidated when I walked into my first class at GCC. The instructor, Ian Winokur, was warning..."