Scholarship Continues to Provide Access for Community

By Mary McIntosh, ‘82

When Greenfield Community College says it is accessible to everyone and committed to student success, it means it in 2017, generous alumni and friends of GCC have established the Community Access Scholarship Fund to provide the financial support future students need to help overcome their personal circumstances and allow them to make a successful transition to college. In addition to financial support, the Community Access Scholarship Fund provides a network of services to GCC and in the local community which support student success and advancement. Since 2007, the Scholarship Fund has provided over $900,000 assistance to hundreds of students and for college support services.

“This scholarship fund was established to reach out to those with a low income and to help them succeed because they lack confidence or direction or both. Too many people of all ages in our community live without hope or direction. To help all these individuals so that they do not fail, we have developed this program to encourage them to continue the college education that they desire. We hope that they elect to continue their education and with others that believe "You do big, you can succeed."

Sarah Scarchilli-Jansen is the Academic Counselor for the Community Access Scholarship Fund. Along with assisting individual students, Sarah works with social services agencies to connect with potential students and continue them to succeed in college. Sarah said, “This Scholarship Fund supports a wide range of students: traditional college-aged students, people in crises, single parents, people living in shelters, and those who were once incarcerated. The Scholarship Fund helps those who are trying to patch together the finances to attend GCC as well as students who need one-on-one support to overcome their own barriers to college.”

Recently, Sarah helped 19-year-old Shawn England from Gill. In 2012, Shawn transferred to GCC from Tanners Falls High School via the College’s Educational Transitions Program (ETP), a program supported by the Community Access Scholarship Fund. The ETP allowed Shawn to finish his high school degree while completing his minimum year at GCC. Now in his second year at GCC, Shawn is majoring in Computer and Information Science.

In addition to the financial support from the Scholarship Fund, Shawn’s father’s former workplace allowed for pay for Shawn’s education, there isn’t money in the family budget to pay for Shawn continuing at GCC. This semester, Shawn started Comparative Politics with Janus at 413-775-1336. But didn’t know how he would pay for it. GCC’s financial aid staff offered Shawn a loan, but he wasn’t sure if he’d be able to pay back a loan. Shawn’s advisor, Bryan Smith, told him to talk to Sarah Scarchilli-Jansen. Shawn went to Sarah’s office and told her about his situation. Two hours later, Sarah emailed Shawn to tell him that through the Community Access Scholarship Fund, generous donors had paid his outstanding bill. Shawn said, “I was fantastically surprised that I would have had to drop the class. I was just overjoyed. I didn’t know how I would be able to pay. I was in shock. I’m excited. I’m going to get paid.”

Find out how to apply for GCC Scholarships on Monday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to Noon in Room C208 on GCC’s Main Campus. Come learn about what scholarships are out there, including our very own GCC Foundation Scholarships available at the time of our event. Learn how to apply to these scholarships to help fund your educational and career goals.

Contact Bryan Smith at 413-775-1203 or Email: smithb@gcc.mass.edu

Please Join Us

Elms College Information Session
Saturday, February 15, 2014, 11 a.m.-12 Noon
Mass Campus – East Building, Room E218
Elms college Elms College offers a 20 month bachelor’s degree in social work! The Elms GCC partnership is beginning again for a new cohort for fall of 2014. Deadline to apply has been extended to March 1. Please RSVP to Admissions and be prepared to talk about how you’re interested in social work.

Contact Abbie Jenks, 413-775-1127 or email: jenks@gcc.mass.edu

Gallaudet T tella TMonahan

Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 12 Noon-1 p.m.
Mass Campus, South Art Gallery
Artist Telia Monahan talks about her work, currently on exhibit in South Gallery. Please RSVP Admissions at 413-775-1801 or email: admissions@gcc.mass.edu

Coffee & Conversation: International Student Travel
Wednesday, February 19, 12 Noon
Mass Campus, C208
Join us for a FREE orientation and introduction to our Workforce Development class W.I.T.S. Personal Trainer Certification. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to craft a 5 minute story in preparation for the GCC/LANES Storytelling Conference: Sharing the Fire, March 28-30 at Umass, Amherst

Contact 413-775-1203 or Email: smithb@gcc.mass.edu

Foundation Scholarships! Learn how to apply to these scholarships to help fund your educational and career goals. Learn about the exciting travel opportunities available to GCC students. Elms College Foundation Scholarships are available to GCC students. Learn about how these scholarships are awarded. Please RSVP Admissions at 413-775-1801 or email: admissions@gcc.mass.edu

Contact Abbie Jenks, 413-775-1127 or email: jenks@gcc.mass.edu

Art Gallery Talk: Yola Monakhov

Main Campus, East Building, East 114A
Artist Yola Monakhov talks about her work, currently on exhibit in South Gallery.

Contact Abbie Jenks, 413-775-1127 or email: jenks@gcc.mass.edu

Join the GCC Alumni Association now at gcc.mass.edu/alum
Stay connected. Membership is free!

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