

Transforming Lives



"There is nothing more compelling than our students' stories. When you hear them, you want to help in some way."

Dr. Mark Erickson
President



Northampton
Community College
Foundation

From Our Faculty and Staff

Northampton faculty and staff witness every day the life-changing effects when students with scholarships can stop worrying about paying for their educations and instead, can focus on their coursework. A record number of employees donated to this year's Faculty and Staff Campaign. Our students thank you, and we do, too!

\$235,500
donated by
349 employees



A Remarkable Resource

The new R.K. Laros Foundation Resource Center at NCC's Fowler Family Southside Center will be a dynamic first point of contact where prospective and current students and visitors can learn about the college's diverse educational offerings, career assessment tools and financial aid resources, thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the R.K. Laros Foundation, Inc.



Mark Erickson, Laura Bennett Shelton, Diane Donaher, Lauren Loeffler, and Bob Bilheimer.

Cheers to 10 Delicious Years of Student Support!

What's the secret ingredient to the biggest and best Food & Wine fest in the Lehigh Valley? Everything tastes better when it's for a fabulous cause!



For the festival's 10th anniversary, we are celebrating more than \$1.5 million dollars raised for student scholarships by bringing the most exciting party in the country to Bethlehem. This year's Lehigh Valley Food & Wine Festival, May 31 – June 2, will transport Mardi Gras flair and New Orleans fun to the festivities at the Sands Bethlehem Event Center. The festival supports over 200 scholarships annually. Sponsorships and tickets are still available at www.lehighvalleyfoodandwine.com.

Dual Enrollment Scholarships through EITC

Studies show that high school students who participate in dual enrollment programs are more likely to earn college degrees. For students who have the means, it is possible to earn college credits while still in high school. For students with need, this is out of reach, since state dollars no longer offer support.

That's where generous organizations like Wayne Bank, Embassy Bank, Lafayette Ambassador Bank, First Keystone Community Bank, and

MEBS Holdings, LLC., have stepped in to help high school students get a head start, by making an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) contribution to the NCC Foundation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your company can help high school students while receiving tax credits, too. For more information, please contact Sharon Beales, vice president of Institutional Advancement, at sbeales@northampton.edu.



High school students who participate in dual enrollment programs are more likely to earn college degrees.

Eligible EITC companies can receive up to a 90% tax credit of their donation to NCC.



NCC Monroe Campus Dean Matt Connell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wayne Bank Lewis J. Critelli, and Dr. Andrew A. Forte, NCC Board of Trustees, NCC Foundation, and Wayne Bank Board of Directors.

“We are so pleased that this contribution will provide Monroe County high school students the opportunity to expand their education with college-level courses through NCC’s Dual Enrollment program.”

— Lewis J. Critelli, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wayne Bank



Florida is filled with Spartan Pride!

Dr. Mark Erickson, NCC president, Sharon Beales, vice president of Institutional Advancement, and Catherine DeHart, director of principal gifts, took a trip to Florida to visit with alumni, friends and retired faculty and staff to let them know about all the great things that have been happening at the college. Among the people they visited with were a member of the first

graduating class of the funeral service program, and the first male graduate of the dental hygiene program, who is now a dentist. Everyone was excited to hear about the growth of NCC, the success of our students, and all the wonderful initiatives and projects that are happening. The trip leaders report back that Florida is filled with Spartan pride!

Transforming Lives Here and Now

NCC scholarships have the power to allow students to realize their dreams and change the trajectories of not only their own lives, but their families' lives, too. Keep reading to learn how incredibly important scholarships are to our students, in their own words.

Transforming the lives of our students and the people who live in the communities we serve is not just a lofty goal for the future; it is also something that is practiced daily at Northampton. It is all thanks to the gifts of friends and supporters like you, who enable students to continue their educations, despite the hardships they encounter.

A LIFE
TRANSFORMED

Adrieana Diaz Nancy B. and William A. Foltz Scholarship



"I come from a very low-income background, where no one really makes it out and goes on to do big things," says Adrieana Diaz. "I'm originally from the Bronx, New York, where most of my family has either been killed or never been given a chance at all."

When her father abandoned his family, Diaz and her mother became homeless, struggling every day to figure out how they would eat and where they would sleep. As she grew older, she realized that she could take herself far if she worked hard for it so that she and her family would never have to eat and sleep on the streets again. "I made a promise to myself that I'd go to college and never quit, because I don't have the luxury to quit. I have to take care of my family."

Diaz plans to major in nursing, with the ultimate goal of becoming a doctor. She looks forward to saving lives. She is particularly motivated to focus on cancer, since her grandmother died of the disease.

She is thankful for her scholarship.

"You have made a dream of mine come true! This scholarship comes as a beacon of hope."

"I graduated from high school in 2007, right into the recession. I had to put my plans for college on hold so that I could work to help keep my household above water. A car accident in 2013 left me with a broken patella and years of physical therapy and recovery. When I decided to go back to school, the cost of my books alone was daunting, but when added to tuition and my travel expenses to and from campus, it was overwhelming. I jumped for joy when I received my scholarship. I cannot stress how much this scholarship helps!"

MELISSA BENZINGER MCGLYNN
RUTH AND ROGER DUNNING SCHOLARSHIP



"I was worried about how I would pay for my education. I work two jobs, in a grocery store and at a law office. My scholarship has made paying for my education less of a challenge. I am truly honored and blessed to receive this scholarship."

BRANDON W. HARRISON
PALMERI ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP



“My scholarship is truly a blessing. Now I can take out fewer loans, work less overtime and set myself up for success as an adult and a parent.”

KADESHUR STRICKLAND
DARLA R. FRACK ANNUAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

“I was talking to a coworker stressing over the fact that I wasn’t sure how I was going to be able to pay for college when, two hours later, I received a phone call telling me that I was being awarded a scholarship. As a single mother living on my own, this couldn’t have happened at a better time. I am truly thankful and grateful for my scholarship!”

KIERHA DONNELLY
THE J.G. PETRUCCO COMPANY, INC., VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP

“Because of family issues, I had to leave home and pick up a third job to afford independent living. I was promoted at one job, giving me the opportunity to cut down to only two jobs and finally return to school. I am truly thankful for your generosity, and this scholarship gives me the opportunity to not only continue my journey, but to excel in it.”

CARLY CECCATO
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



Ariana Reid

Hecht Family Scholarship Endowment



“I was born on the little island of Jamaica ... and moved to the little town of Bethlehem.”

One of three children in a single-parent family, Reid has had a recent family crisis: her grandmother’s diagnosis with stage 4 breast cancer. “My household has not been the same since the news,” she says.

Reid has always had a passion for others, and for this reason, she has chosen nursing as a major. She currently works in the Transitional Open Heart Unit at Lehigh Valley Hospital Network. She also works with patients with respiratory distress and with lung and vascular diagnoses. “I find my job fulfilling because every smile and cheerful encouragement

gives patients comfort to know that someone cares about them.” Seeing people living in poverty early on strengthened her determination to help. For example, when she was only nine, she cared for an older, sick woman who needed assistance preparing food, and preparing water for a bath and other activities of daily living. “I will always remember the little noises she made at night and wanting to do something about her pain, but couldn’t, because I wasn’t a doctor or a nurse.”

Since then, she has promised herself that she would become a nurse or a doctor. “I would love to have my own facility where I can help individuals recover from life happenings, sicknesses and the inability to do everyday tasks.”

Reid is “ecstatic” for the opportunity her scholarship gives her.

Would You Help Us Transform Lives?

Many more student success stories are waiting to be written. With your support, they will be.

If you have not already made your gift, visit Northampton.edu/transforminglives or call Sharon Beales, vice president of Institutional Advancement, at 610-861-5451.

Joseph Rogouski

Air Products Engineering & Technology Scholarship



Joseph Rogouski became fascinated by chemical and structural engineering during his nine years as a military intelligence officer with the United States National Guard, in which he enlisted after high school. "While there, I learned many things - discipline, drive, ambition, and the value of camaraderie." In particular, he got to watch engineers and found what he wanted to do in life.

After his military career, Rogouski worked in the medical production field.

Now 27, he is putting himself through college while living on his own. He chose NCC for

his first degree because of its affordability, academic reputation and proximity to his home. He plans to continue his education at Lehigh University or another institution, where he will finish his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

"I cannot begin to
express my gratitude
for this award."

"There was a time in my life I was homeless. I barely graduated high school. Northampton gave me access and let me become somebody."

TIM SEMONICH '13
STABLER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Restaurant Store

NCC students are motivated and engaged in their fields of study. That's why Clark Associates Companies, parent company of The Restaurant Store, started an annual scholarship through its foundation with NCC. The Clark Associates, Inc. Charitable Foundation Annual Scholarship supports hospitality and culinary students with financial need.

The Foundation has been giving to the college for the past two years, with four \$2,500 scholarships awarded per year. With stores located across North America, Clark Associates, Inc. aims to give back in those communities.

"We want to nurture and support students from one of the best community colleges in our nation. This isn't just your run-of-the-mill community college. Students become leaders in the community," says Joel Hough, the regional manager of The Restaurant Store, a store under the Clark Associates umbrella.

The Restaurant Store in Bethlehem, PA, provides over 150,000 products, including commercial kitchen equipment, tabletop supplies, disposables, food products, furniture and more, to keep culinary and hospitality businesses running smoothly.

"Over the years, and with the addition of Chef Francine Marz, director of the culinary arts program at NCC, the experience students get is so well-rounded and down to earth. They know exactly what they're getting themselves into upon graduation. When they get into the workforce, they'll have all the tools necessary to be successful. We think that's incredibly valuable," notes Hough.



Building your Estate Planning Tool Box

Q&A



Christopher Gray, head of Myers, Brier & Kelly Attorneys-at-Law Lehigh Valley practice, sat down with Catherine DeHart, NCC director of principal gifts, to talk about the ins and outs of estate planning.

Catherine: When I talk with my donors about estate planning, they always ask me why it is important for them to have a will.

Chris: A lot of people believe if you don't have a will, the government will get all you leave behind. This is not true. Pennsylvania law will make assumptions about how to dispose of your estate if you die without a will. Depending on your circumstances, this means some assets might not go to the people you want, so it is better to have a will where your wishes are clear.

Catherine: Another question I get asked a lot is what the difference is between power of attorney and an executor.

Chris: The simple answer is death. After you die, an executor takes over to manage your assets and to make decisions. Before you die, an agent under a power of attorney can manage your assets and basically do anything legally for you that you had been able to do for yourself when you were healthy and able.

Catherine: Another common theme I hear is that, once people make a will, they put it in a file and never look at it again.

Chris: I recommend people review their will every five years. If you have a lot of wealth, then every two years. Not only do laws change that impact taxes, but family situations change, too. Beneficiaries you named may be deceased or require special needs planning, or you may have new family members.

Catherine: When giving to NCC, we talk about the option of including a gift to the college in estate planning. Can anyone do this, no matter how big or small the gift is?

Chris: No matter the size, the gift can be included in the will, naming the college as the beneficiary. If you have an existing will, it's just a revision or a codicil. If you are putting your will together for the first time, you would simply name a specific asset or an amount of money to go to NCC or the charity of your choice using their legal name. Many times, charities would like to be notified when this takes place. Catherine, what would you tell someone who is thinking about a gift to NCC in their estate?

Catherine: I am more than happy to talk to anyone about bequests to NCC. If you have already included Northampton in your will, we would like to thank you and include you as a member of our Heritage Society, so please let us know. For donors who already have something established at the College, for example, a named endowed scholarship, they should make sure that the name of the scholarship is included in their will.

I'd also like to point out that making gifts to NCC during your lifetime could have tax advantages for not only your income taxes, but your estate planning, too.

The NCC Foundation offers a series of educational programs throughout the year. "Life Insurance: What Do You Have and What You Can Do with It" will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 8:30 a.m. If you would like an invitation to this event or future programs, or more information about including NCC in your will or estate plan, please contact Catherine DeHart, director of principal gifts, at 610-861-5449 or cdehart@northampton.edu.

"I recommend people review their will every five years. If you have a lot of wealth, then every two years."

Christopher Gray
Head of Myers, Brier & Kelly Attorneys-at-Law

Transforming Lives

Bethlehem Campaign

Committee Members

Honorary Chairs

Andy and Carolyn Daub
John and Jane Malloy
Chris and Diane Martin
Bill and Denise Spence

Working Chairs

Steven and Jeanne Follett
Bruce and Judy Palmer
Chuck and Wendy Stehly

Committee Members

Mark Erickson
John Eureyecko
Arif Fazil
Dennis Feeley
Curt Hoyak
Eric Luftig
Mike Molewski
Rick Principato
Andrea Weismiller

Monroe Campaign

Committee Members

Honorary Chairs

Chuck and Joan Hannig
Karl and Ann Weiler

Working Chairs

Bruce and Trudi Denlinger

Committee Members

Gina Bertucci
Mark Erickson
Andy Forte
Paul Schuchman

"It has always been my dream to go to college. It means so much to me to know that there is someone helping me with my education. I want to thank the O'Grady family 1,000 times for this scholarship."

BESSIE DOUGOURIS
CECELIA M. O'GRADY SCHOLARSHIP