

RowanAdvances

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Second annual reception celebrates impact made by generous scholarship donors

As more students reach for their dream of a Rowan University degree, scholarship support has become a critical factor in the ability for many to make this dream a reality.

Rowan is committed to providing quality education that is affordable and accessible. In addition to extensive institutional scholarship offerings, the Rowan University Foundation offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities, created through gifts from generous donors. In academic year 2015–16, 285 students benefited from 106 endowed scholarships.

To recognize those who have created endowed scholarships, the Foundation hosted its second annual Scholarship Reception in November. The event allows donors to meet their recipient(s) while also providing students an opportunity to express their gratitude.

The event included donors who have made a gift or pledge to named, endowed scholarships; have established a bequest for a scholarship; or have given \$25,000+ to a currently operating scholarship at Rowan or CMSRU, as well as corporate/foundation donors who support a currently

operating scholarship.

Donors are increasingly seeing the value in helping Rowan students realize their full potential through establishing scholarship endowments.

Rowan University Foundation Board member, David Burgin '82, m'02, and his daughter, Brighid Hoempler '12, a member of the Rowan University Alumni Association Board and College of Engineering Advisory Board, are one example.

The pair established the Burgin Leadership Scholarship to support passionate Rowan students in their junior or senior year, in an effort to alleviate the financial burden for those farther along their educational paths.

Created to benefit students who demonstrate leadership and volunteerism within their academic major, the University and surrounding communities, the scholarship supports both of the Burgins' fields of study, with recipients chosen from the College of Engineering and the College of Communication & Creative Arts.

"This is the third year our scholarship was awarded, but it was the first year with two recipients," said Brighid. "It's so easy to set up a scholarship; the Foundation takes care of all the details and then it just keeps growing, especially with a company match."

"We really wanted to ensure that the opportunity is out there for students with similar passions," added David. "Events like the Scholarship Reception are great because we want to know our recipients."

For many students, their education results in a heavy financial debt that limits their options upon

graduation. Gifts to create scholarships enable the University to recruit and support the best and brightest students.

“The University is indebted to generous alumni and friends who are deeply invested in making an impact in the lives of students in need,” said Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand. “Our scholarship donors help hundreds of students annually achieve their academic ambitions and ensure the dream of a Rowan education remains attainable for all students.”

Creating a scholarship is a rewarding experience that allows donors to choose certain criteria under which the scholarship will be awarded.

For donors Dante & Diana Germano, they wanted their scholarship to reward graduating seniors from Glassboro High School who demonstrate leadership characteristics and evidence of community service.

Their first recipient, Peter Hodson, a biological sciences major, found out about the scholarship after speaking with someone in Rowan’s financial aid office and was excited to apply. “I hope to be a geneticist one day and I’m beyond grateful to be awarded this help for the costs of tuition,” said Hodson.

“A long time ago, the Glassboro community and its school system made an investment in my future,” said Dante Germano. “I hope this scholarship shows my gratitude and continues to help students from Glassboro High School who may not be financially able to attend a university like Rowan.”