

COLLEGE FUND NEWSLETTER

October 2019



PLEASE RESERVE THIS DATE!

Thursday, December 19, 2019: Student Holiday Luncheon. College Fund supporters are invited to attend and meet our directors, advisors, current students and some of our past recipients from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at **Anona United Methodist Church**, 13233 Indian Rocks Road, Largo. Lunch will be provided.

College Fund of Pinellas County Approves \$19,000 in New Grants

PINELLAS COUNTY – Checks are being sent to 19 deserving Pinellas County college students. On August 3, 2019 after completing 16 hours of interviews over a four-week period, the Board of Directors of the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. selected 19 Pinellas County residents to receive \$1,000 per year grants to help with their college expenses. Board member Dr. Shirley Lorenzo of St. Petersburg called each new grant recipient to notify them of their good fortune, and \$500 checks for the fall 2019 semester were mailed out by Treasurer Sherry Rankine of Clearwater. A second \$500 check for the spring 2020 semester will be distributed to the students at a December holiday party after their fall semester grades are reviewed.

Students whose applications met the College Fund’s grade point average and financial need requirements were selected to be interviewed. Each interview was scored based on the student’s academic and financial preparations and their attitude about the college they were attending and the degree they were seeking. Limited by the funds available, students with the highest interview scores were selected to receive grants.

“The students we interviewed this summer give us great confidence that the future of this country will be in good hands; they were awesome!” said Board president Britt Hart of Seminole.

These new grant recipients join 41 additional students selected in previous years. Once selected, recipients are supported until they graduate – up to four years for freshmen – dependent upon a review of grades, finances and course load after each semester. All totaled the College Fund expects to pay out up to \$60,000 in student grants this fiscal year.

The 19 newly selected students are from all over Pinellas County. Seven are from St. Petersburg, five from Palm Harbor, four from Largo and three from Clearwater. All are well-qualified academically. Eleven of the new grant recipients are freshmen who combined had a 3.75 average high school grade point average (unweighted.) The eight sophomores, juniors and seniors selected had a combined 3.52 college grade point average. Most of the 19 will be going to colleges in Florida, but two are going out of state to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

In Memoriam
David Paul Lumbard
August 22, 1940-May 30, 2019

Intelligent Strong Caring

College Fund Director
2010-2019
We will miss you!

Our Mission

The College Fund of Pinellas County is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization run entirely by volunteers. Money is raised to help financially-disadvantaged Pinellas County residents who have excellent scholastic potential, but insufficient funds to obtain a bachelor's degree and thereby improve themselves, their family's living standard, and their role in the community.

The College Fund has no paid employees. The financial contributions from its Directors and Advisors exceed its administrative costs; therefore, 100% of the donations from the public are used to support students. Since 1965 the College Fund has awarded over 1.2 million dollars in scholarships to over 800 Pinellas County residents.

For more information about the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc., go to our website, www.collegefundpinellas.org.

It's Tax Free!

IRA owners who are 70½ or older can make a tax-free charitable contribution to the College Fund or any other qualified charity. The contribution must be paid directly from the IRA to the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. Charitable contributions must be made by December 31st to exclude that amount from taxable income. This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Reflections of a Recent Board Member: Interviewing Our Students

by David E. Barclay

For the past two years I've had the privilege of being a Board member of the College Fund. It is immensely interesting and rewarding, for all kinds of reasons; but for me, at least, interviewing student scholarship applicants represents a highlight of our various activities, and a fascinating variation on interviewing situations I've been involved with for a long time.

Although I'm a proud product of the Pinellas County public school system, I spent 43 years teaching history as a professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, a small, wonderful, and highly selective liberal-arts college founded in 1833. In that capacity I interviewed literally dozens

of PhD-level applicants for college teaching positions, while I myself was interviewed both for jobs (especially at the beginning of my career) and for grant applications. Now, after retiring from teaching and returning to my native state, I have the opportunity to interview exceptional young people who are poised to start their own life journeys and their own careers.

Serving on the Board of The College Fund has helped me give back to Pinellas County, the place that made my own life and my own career possible. It has enabled me, along with my fellow Board members and our generous donors, to help recent Pinellas County high school graduates attain their life goals, as I did mine. The deserving students we've interviewed since I joined the Board are at least as talented a group of students as any I encountered during all my years in higher education, with remarkable skills, remarkable insights, and remarkable life stories. They deserve our respect and our support.

Measuring Success

To provide our donors some reassurance that their donations are being well spent, we asked the question "Are the students we select to receive our grants succeeding in obtaining a bachelor's degree?" Each summer we conduct interviews to select the students most likely to succeed in obtaining a degree from among freshman, sophomore, junior and senior applicants. So, we went back and looked at the progress of the students we selected in summer 2014, since all of them should have graduated by now. We found that all but one of the 15 students we selected in 2014 have indeed graduated, a 93% success rate! We hope this encouraging result gives our donors some confidence in our student selection and monitoring process.

Grateful Students in Need

College expenses are increasing, and our students are very appreciative of the financial support our donors provide. Every one of our current grant recipients has a bona fide financial need and several have written us a thank you note. Here are some excerpts from a few of them:

From a junior majoring in Animal Science at the University of Connecticut:

"I want to thank everyone at the College Fund of Pinellas County for their continued support of my education. I have been selected as a recipient of the UCONN Idea Grant in which I will be studying the protective effects of probiotics on liver health and their cholesterol lowering abilities.

From a senior majoring in Elementary Education at St. Petersburg College:

"I am so very pleased, excited and honored to have been selected as a recipient of this scholarship. I thank you all for your time and hard work in coming to this decision, and I can promise you it will be put to great use as I continue my bright and exciting path toward becoming a Math teacher. I am facing some very serious and tough challenges along the way however, and this scholarship will be of such great assistance in getting me to that end goal of leading young minds to their own means, so I am extremely appreciative of this assistance."

"This fall is my final internship. I will be graduating with Honors this December with my BA in Elementary Education. Thank you so much for all of your help!

From a junior majoring in nursing at the University of South Florida:

"I just wanted to say thank you for being one of this year's recipients for the scholarship. Due to the generosity of this Fund I will be able to continue my education at the University of South Florida. Thank you for this opportunity to reach my fullest personal and professional potential."

From a freshman majoring in English/Writing at Florida College:

"Thank you so very much for all your help and support!! My first day is tomorrow and I've met with my advisor to discuss the best classes to work towards my English Major and degree. It truly means a lot. Thank you again!"

From a freshman, majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Florida Polytechnic University:

"I am very grateful for this scholarship. It will contribute a lot to my education, and I will make sure to make the most of it by progressing educationally with good grades. Once again, thank you for this fund."

Success in College

We monitor each grant recipient's school progress so donors can be assured their contributions are supporting industrious students dedicated to obtaining their bachelor's degree. We received these notes from College Fund grant recipients who recently graduated:

From a 2019 graduate in Psychology from the University of South Florida:

"I am moving to Indianapolis as I have been accepted to a neuroscience post-baccalaureate program at Indiana-Purdue University. I would like to thank the college fund of Pinellas for helping me achieve my goals. I will always be grateful."

From a 2019 graduate of FAMU who earned a Bachelor of Chemistry on a pre-med track:

"I will be studying for the MCAT. I applied for an internship and will be getting some more clinical experience in my time before medical school. Thank you ... for all your continuous support. It helped me in ways I couldn't imagine."

From a 2019 graduate with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida:

"I will be graduating in the summer of 2019. Thank you for your support over the last few years. Your scholarship has helped me to reach my goal of a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. I will be forever grateful."

From a 2019 Physiology Biology graduate of Florida State University:

"I have received acceptance to FSU's Bridge to Clinical Medicine Master's program. I'll be doing a 1-year Master's program then matriculating into the FSU College of Medicine in Class of 2024 next fall."

Career Success

Students we have supported have moved on to begin careers.

Heaven Taylor-Wynn graduated from the University of Florida in May 2019 with a degree in Journalism. She is working in St. Petersburg at the Poynter Institute as a reporter on their digital media literacy project, which teaches teenagers how to discern what is real and is not real online.

Simone Yuille graduated from the University of Florida in May 2019 with a degree in International Studies. She plans to use her foreign language skills to connect with people on a global scale, while traveling extensively to do so.

Donor Comments

Sometimes our supporters include a note with their donation. Here are a couple:

“Hello Folks Volunteering @ College Fund of Pinellas County. We want to thank you for all your fantastic work on behalf of our college-bound Pinellas County students.”

“Dear College Fund Friends, Thank you for all you do for the education of our youth. With great appreciation.”

Memorial Gifts

Many thanks to the following people who have given a donation in memory of (IMO) or in honor of (IHO) a relative, friend or colleague since our April 2019 brochure:

Ms. Maureen Allen IMO Marvin Ivey
Ms. Sandra Arrison IMO Marvin Ivey
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Athanson IMO Marvin Ivey
Ms. Pamela Blanchard IMO Marvin Ivey
Dr. and Mrs. David Barclay IMO Marvin Ivey
Mr. and Mrs. Ron C. Berger IMO Marvin Ivey
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Mr. and Mrs. Allan Titsworth IMO Marvin Ivey
Ms. Clara Wehrfritz/David Rogers IMO
Marvin Ivey
Ms. Nancy Wilson IMO Marvin Ivey
Ms. Debra Allen IHO Dr. Regan Musgrove
Mr. Frank P. Lavalla, Jr. IHO Britt Hart

Special Dates to Remember

Saturday, February 22, 2020: ANNUAL MEETING of the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. College Fund supporters are invited to attend and observe the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board as they review the annual report and elect new officers from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM the Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th Street, Seminole.

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