



# COLLEGE FUND OF PINELLAS COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 673 • Clearwater, Florida 33757

April 2019

Greetings!

Thanks to the support of many the College Fund experienced a successful 2018. We are currently supporting 65 terrific Pinellas County students as they pursue their bachelor's degree at colleges and universities both in and out of Florida. I hope all of you realize how important your contributions are to the significant work that we do.

We all know and hear how college costs continue to rise and far outpace inflation. What you may not realize or at least it's not always front of mind are the many hidden costs in pursuing that college degree. We think of college cost as tuition, and room & board but what about such things as: books & supplies, fees expected and unexpected, computer/cell phone, travel from school to home & back, clothing & other personal needs, laundry, food/meal plan, joining an on campus club or other student organization, joining a Greek organization, dorm furnishings, student activities such as sports games, wardrobe for job interviews & for some the expense of a car (campus parking ouch!). I bring this, far from complete, list to your attention to say the financial need is great. A recent article warned of these hidden costs saying to parents and students "please understand these hidden costs exist and may prove to be quite problematic."

With your aid we at The College Fund of Pinellas County can help with these hidden costs and more. Thank you so much for your past support and we hope we can count on you for more going forward.

Sincere Thanks,

***Britt***

Britt Hart – President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## RECOGNITION FOR THE COLLEGE FUND

**Best College Reviews**, an organization "dedicated to enabling aspiring students to make informed decisions" has named the College Fund of Pinellas County as number seven among the 15 best scholarship programs in Florida. Their review says: "In order to assist students in financing their tuition, companies and foundations offer scholarships to promising students. The ones listed below are among the 15 best Florida scholarships. We have selected a wide range of opportunities and special interest areas, most of which you can still apply for in 2019."

**"7. COLLEGE FUND OF PINELLAS COUNTY, INC.** College Fund of Pinellas County has a \$4,000 scholarship, which is distributed in \$1,000 installments through four years of college. This award assists strong students with financial needs, especially those who demonstrate leadership qualities. Once the award is given, the recipient is expected to maintain solid grades throughout the recurring payment period."

## Our Students at the 2018 Holiday Party



## What is the College Fund?

The College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. provides grants to county residents who require significant financial aid in addition to a Pell Grant to remain full-time undergraduate college students. Grants are typically \$1,000 per school year (\$500 per semester) for up to four years; however, retention in the program is dependent upon a review of student grades, course load, and financial need after each semester.

College Fund directors remain in contact with student recipients to monitor their academic progress and support them in their educational pursuits. In our 54 years of service our all-volunteer, tax-exempt organization has awarded over 1.1 million dollars in scholarships to 789 county residents, enabling them to attend accredited colleges and universities.

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. More information about the College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc. can be found on our website:

[www.collegefundpinellas.org](http://www.collegefundpinellas.org)

## College Fund Offers a New Service

A complimentary service for our scholarship recipients will be provided by Talinsight LLC, a Clearwater-based human resources consulting firm specializing in using personality assessments to help companies screen candidates and develop their employees. The intent is to help students select careers and choose a curriculum. The focus of the service will be to enhance student self-awareness by helping them better understand their assessment-based talent pattern and how that pattern operates in personal, educational, and business environments.

The Talinsight assessments include the evaluation of three personality-related styles: Motivational Style, Thinking Style, and Behavioral Style. Participating students complete the assessments online and are sent a comprehensive 30-page personal report and a debrief presentation. The student is asked to review the report, after which a 90-minute virtual personal interpretation is provided by conference call. The process is designed so that the student can ask questions and understand how the results relate to their particular needs and interests.

Curt Engelmann, Managing Director of Talinsight, LLC and a College Fund Board member, will be providing this service free-of-charge to College Fund grant recipients.

## \$16,000 Awarded to Pinellas County Students

On December 20, 2018 thirty-two college students from Pinellas County were presented \$500 checks at the holiday luncheon. The luncheon, held in a hall provided by Anona United Methodist Church, is an annual event that continues the semester-by-semester scholarship support provided by the College Fund. Our students are selected based on scholastic achievement, financial need and a personal interview. Each student's grades were reviewed by College Fund directors Sheila Keller, Shirley Lorenzo, Regan Musgrove and Sharon Coil and then Treasurer Sherry Rankine wrote the checks.

In addition to the students and the College Fund board of directors, the luncheon was attended by family members of the students and several of the College Fund's donors. The program, which included the introduction of each student, gave donors the opportunity to meet the students they are supporting.

Several students were asked to take a microphone and offer advice to their fellow students from the lessons they had learned. Our featured student speaker was Hannah Palm (pictured). A recent graduate of Southeastern University in Lakeland, Hannah shared her experiences of the transition from college to employment.



Students who were unable to attend the holiday party received their checks by mail. The College Fund awarded \$58,500 in student grants for the fall 2018 – spring 2019 school year.

## December Graduates

Grant recipient **Kamryn Shapero** graduated from the University of Florida in December 2018, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology. She will attend Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Grant recipient **Erin Sheenhan** graduated from the University of Florida Online in December 2018 where she studied Social Work.

Grant recipient **Ana-Katrina Stanic** graduated in December 2018 from the University of Florida with a major in Journalism. She will attend graduate school at UF Hough Business School pursuing a Masters in Info Systems & Operational Management (Business Analytics.)

Grant recipient **Sharon Tong** graduated in December 2018 from the University of South Florida with a degree in Cybersecurity.

*“Thank you so very much for your continued support in my college endeavors. The University of Tampa continues to provide opportunities for me to learn and grow, but I could not be here without you.” --Alaina Butler*

### **College Fund Elects New Officers**

The College Fund held its Annual Meeting Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the Seminole Community Library. This event kicks off the organization’s fiscal year; officers were elected, goals were set for fundraising, and the student selection process was updated. Our guests for the meeting were Lynne Wolf and Sue Kubler of St. Petersburg College. Their presentation shared information about Academic Advising and Career Services and focused on the value of self-assessments in student decision-making, defined “soft” skills and explained the “Career One Stop” student guidance process.

Britt Hart remains President of the Board of Directors for another year. Jim Cordea was elected Vice President (student selection), Loretta Laws Vice President (finance), Sheila Keller Vice President (public relations), Sharron Rankine Treasurer, Timothy Owens Assistant Treasurer, Kay Thompson Recording Secretary, and Regan Musgrove Corresponding Secretary.

### **Meet Our Officers**



**From left to right: Sharron Rankine, Jim Cordea, Kay Thompson, Sheila Keller, Tim Owens, Loretta Laws**

### **David Lumbard Named Director Emeritus**

David Lumbard joined the Board of Directors of the College Fund in 2010 and served as Chair of the New Ideas Subcommittee. In addition, he assisted in the Board member selection and arrangements. Because of health and mobility issues he has decided to retire from the Board. We thank him for his years of service in our efforts to support deserving students in our county and have recognized his contributions by awarding him Emeritus Member status.

### **Sharon Coil Retires**

We recognize Sharon Coil as she moves from Board Director to Advisory Board status for the College Fund. In 1994, Sharon was the Director of Women on the Way for St. Petersburg College. She was introduced to our organization by Audrey Scheidenhelm, who believed that women in this program could be eligible for our scholarships. Sharon began attending Board meetings, was invited to become a Director and for the next 25 years continued working with Audrey as part of the Student Selection Committee. When Audrey retired from the Board in 2015, Sharon was selected for leadership of the committee. She has served our students with dedication, a loving heart and a beautiful smile. We are fortunate that Sharon will continue to give advice and comfort to the Board.



**Vice President Jim Cordea  
Congratulates  
Retiring Board Member  
Sharon Coil**

### **Pinellas Community Foundation Selects College Fund for Grant**

The Pinellas Community Foundation (PCF) selected the College Fund of Pinellas County to receive \$5,000 for student scholarships. The College Fund is honored by this donation and will use the entire amount to fund students selected this summer. The story of one of our students funded by PCF, Christopher Keith, was selected to be featured in their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication.

This is Christopher’s story:

Christopher Keith is a freshman at FAMU majoring in accounting. He graduated from Gibbs High School with a 3.98 GPA where he was part of the BETA program. He was dual-enrolled at SPC where he received 30 college credits and a 3.3 GPA. He also participated on the football and wrestling teams, and the fishing club, was in the National Honor Society and a member of the 5000 role models. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and was also a volunteer for Parks and Recreation and worked at Bay Vista 6 hours a week. To earn money for college, he worked 40 hours a week at McDonalds. In his interview, he explained the difficulties of striving to achieve the goal of attending FAMU where his mother attended. He had a large financial need in excess of \$8000 and was applying for scholarships in addition to maintaining his grades, volunteering,

participating in sports, working and caring for his siblings. He attended the holiday party in December where he presented his excellent grades (all A's and B's) for the 16 credit hours he earned, and a check for \$500 was given to him.



**Christopher Keith and Mr. Duggan Cooley of the Pinellas County Foundation at the Student Holiday Party**

**In Memoriam**

**Dr. Marvin Lee Ivey**  
**January 17, 1932-April 5, 2019**

**Friend      Mentor      Patron**

**College Fund Director**  
**2007-2019**

**Always in Our Hearts**

*"I received your scholarship check today and want to thank you so much for your belief in and support of my future. I'm excited to finish out my semester and thank you for partnering with me. It means so much."*  
 --Claudia Palm

### In Recognition

Many thanks to the following people who have given a gift in memory of (IMO) or in honor of (IHO) a relative, friend or colleague:

- Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hoopes IHO Audrey Scheidenhelm
- Mr. and Mrs. James Lott IMO Don Blanchard
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Moore IMO Robert M. Moore, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn J. Musgrove IMO Doris & Bill Breuning
- Mrs. Pamela Blanchard IMO Don Blanchard
- Mrs. Judith Blanton IMO George Blanton
- Mrs. Nancy Cappo IMO Patricia Seibert
- Mrs. Eileen W. Cohn IMO Dr. Regina Fitzgerald
- Mrs. Kay Thompson IMO Oscar & Hazel Hopkins
- Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Berger IMO Deloris Byers  
 and Linda Jones
- Mr. Robert Sololowski IMO Don Blanchard

### Mentoring

The College Fund of Pinellas County offers mentoring to our grant recipients along with their first check. Students who respond are assigned one of our directors whose education is similar to that being pursued by the student. Current grant recipient **Xhulia Fiku**, a junior at the University of Florida majoring in Business is mentored by College Fund director Loretta Laws. Current grant recipient **Sofia Poulos**, a junior at Stetson University majoring in communications is mentored by Director Lynn Craske. Current grant recipient **Taylor Perko**, a senior at Florida State University majoring in Business is mentored by Director Connie Mustipher. Taylor has been awarded a 2019 Anniversary Scholarship for \$4,400 from the FSU International Program for summer study abroad. **Julie Hardaker**, a junior from Florida Southern College majoring in Marketing, is mentored by Director Curt Engelmann. **Erin Kerrigan**, a junior from the University of South Florida majoring in Nursing, is being mentored by Director David Barclay.

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