TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

HONORING OUR DONORS
AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
George R. Mosher, Jr., OCC’s Charter Board Chair who was dubbed the “Father of OCC” for the central role he played in establishing Oakland Community College in 1964, passed away early this year at the age of 98.

In the early 1960s, Mosher and his late wife, Doris, became involved in the effort to establish Oakland Community College. He was elected chair of the OCC Charter Board of Trustees in 1964, a position he occupied until 1970. Mosher was reelected in 1966 and 1972, resigning in 1976 to concentrate on his career as an attorney.

In recognition of Mosher’s many contributions to the College, the Board named the Auburn Hills Campus Library in his honor in 1977.

“George was a visionary and set a goal of creating, in his words, ‘the best community college’. He was a driving force for OCC to become what we are today,” said OCC Chancellor Peter Provenzano, Jr.

“The first board meetings were actually held in the Moshers’ living room. That just speaks to their dedication and can-do attitude. The Moshers’ legacy lives on in the students and community members who have benefited from the College.”

The Charter Board successfully negotiated the purchase of three campus sites in Oakland County within a year. In fall 1965, OCC opened its doors to an enrollment of 3,850 students – a national record for newly-established community colleges at the time.

Although Mosher left the OCC Board of Trustees in 1976, he remained involved with the College’s progress, including leading independent citizens’ committees in 2002 and 2010 that successfully advocated for millages critical to OCC’s future.

In 2000, the Moshers established the George & Doris Mosher Endowed Scholarship, now among the OCC Foundation’s largest endowments. The scholarship helps students in financial need to cover tuition and other educational expenses.

Mosher was a graduate from the Columbia Law School and eventually moved to Birmingham, Mich. to join the legal staff at General Motors. After retiring from GM, he took a position with the law firm Brooks Kushman in Southfield, where he continued to work into his nineties.
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**GREETINGS**

*By Richard Berkfield, Chair, Foundation Board*

Today is a new day for all of us as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. But, we do have reason to celebrate! Through the generosity of our donors, the OCC Foundation has supported 300 students this school year and their dream of a college education.

While we don’t have the luxury of celebrating in person, we have a shared belief in an accessible and affordable education. As a Board member for the past eight years, I have witnessed how transformative scholarships can be for both the student and the donor. In 2017, my wife and I established an endowed scholarship because we both value education as a way to change a person’s life for the better. Education is a means to enhance literacy, raise personal expectations and create prosperity.

It is our hope our scholarship will ensure students are successful in their careers, positively influencing the communities where they live and work. This is the power of giving - it not only changes the lives of the recipients and the donors - but inspires others to a call of action. To our donors, we hope you continue to answer the call and to our recipients, when you are able, we hope you will do the same.

In the pages of this program booklet, you will find our active scholarships listed with the benefactors and recipients for the 2018-19 academic year. Please take special note of our newest scholarships, which are marked with an asterisk.

Please also take special notice of pages 29 and 30 in the program, where you will find information about our Legacy Society. The Legacy Society recognizes donors who have provided for OCC in their wills. If you have provided for OCC in your will, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! If you haven’t informed the Foundation of your decision, please let us know. If are interested in doing so, please reach out to us.

Thank you for your support and I wish you and your families good luck and good health until we meet again.
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS’ REMARKS

By Dawn Hughes, past recipient

I am an OCC alumnus and was a recipient of the Doris & George Mosher Endowed Scholarship 10 years ago. I was saddened to hear that Mr. Mosher had passed away. At the time I received the letter notifying me of his passing, I was listening to *Big Magic*, a book by Elizabeth Gilbert, on creative living beyond fear. She was describing the creative life and how it has become scarcer; yet our founders, our leaders, and our innovators throughout the history of our country had practiced it. This reminded me of Mr. Mosher and without the assistance of the Mosher endowment, I could not have afforded the tuition at OCC, which has allowed me to live my creative life.

Being a new mother while pursuing my degree meant I was most likely looking at a low wage job with a dead-end future in the landscape or green industry, which was riddled with job discrimination and harassment. The scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies and I earned a degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Landscape Horticulture, as well as a second Liberal Arts degree, Summa Cum Laude, with a small business management focus. This, combined with prior work experience and professional certifications earned while attending school part-time for 10 years, allowed me to walk away from abusive situations and take control of my own life and destiny.

Thankfully, my years spent attending the Landscape Horticulture program at OCC empowered me. It took me years of searching, along with attending OCC, combined with various work and life experiences, to discover my passion and meaning as an Arborist. Through that indirect journey on my untrodden path, I saw an unmet need and an opportunity within the urban forestry for organic and holistic tree care and permaculture, performed by an educated professional. In 2008, I started my own tree health care business, Urban Arbor Care. I am still at it today, and I not only employ others, but I also mentor new arborists in the field. I have been able to provide my son, who wants to pursue a career in cybersecurity, a good home and everything he needs, because of my education.
I think you will find that it is almost as if the universe will conspire to help you make it happen, no matter how hard the times get, or how dark those low hours may seem. I have done some amazing things since graduating from OCC and now that women seem to be more truly free to pursue their dreams, I feel I am only just getting started. Surely, this is largely due to the empowerment of education.

May God bless the Mosher family for their foresight, thoughtfulness, effort, love for others, and all that this scholarship opportunity has brought to my family and me. I am truly thankful. I will carry on their legacy, in my own way, and I will not let them down. I will continue to give love to the trees and our community.
I am currently completing my last year at Oakland Community College before graduating with an Associate degree in Culinary Studies, as well as a Pastry Certification. Originally, I was pursuing a career in politics and consulting at James Madison College of MSU. My goal has always been to help others and to serve. I struggled to make that a reality with my first career, so I turned to my love of cooking and serving. Hospitality is a staple in my identity and the Culinary Studies Institute was eager to train me. The dedication of the staff has been essential to my education. It was daunting returning to college, and I am still young enough to remember how much work it was the first time!

The culinary world is very difficult to master, and the fact that I am legally blind made it even more complicated. However, I have never been one to let my disability keep me from accomplishing my goals. That being said, having the support of others around me is essential to my success. I have had nothing to worry about in that regard at OCC. I have been supported from every angle, from my instructors to the administrators. Everyone here is so dedicated to education, no matter what your background or challenges. The Garden Party Vocational Scholarship is just another example of the assistance OCC provides to students - one that I am grateful to receive.

My partner and I have been funding my education on our own, so the scholarship has helped us immensely. It has kept us from accruing substantial student debt and allowed me to work less and focus more on my education. As a result, I am a better student and, consequently, a better professional.

Scholarship assistance for someone pursuing a degree in Culinary Arts can be a bit complicated, because it is often classified as both an art and a trade. Many scholarships and grants for the arts exclude us, as well as funding for the trades. It is nice to have a group of donors who appreciate our industry, our corner of the educational world, especially as we face a shortage of labor in this market.
Many of my fellow students work several jobs while going to school. It is no secret that many jobs in the hospitality industry are not that lucrative. We work long hours, do dirty jobs, and generally do not have weekends. The benchmark of our industry is grit, tenacity, and often not receiving any acknowledgement for our hard work.

We do it gladly because we love what we do and our focus is serving others, but when others appreciate the work we do, it is a nice expression of gratitude. The vote of confidence reflected by this award confirms that our industry, our struggle, and our education is respected and valued here.

I would like to thank all the donors for assisting with the cost of our classes, textbooks and uniforms, but more importantly, thank you for having our backs. That is something that will keep us going when our classes are over and the days of buying textbooks and school uniforms are behind us.
With gratitude and pride, the OCC Foundation acknowledges our scholarship sponsors for their generosity, and our students for their achievements.

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Laura was an integral member of the Scholarship Committee and led the implementation team, which transitioned the scholarship process from the cumbersome paper application to the online scholarship process we use today. Her strong work ethic, dedication to students, and resourcefulness is how her co-workers and peers will remember her.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Patrick Buck and Nancy Huey
(OCC Student Financial Resources and Scholarships department)
For their support in the awarding of Foundation scholarships.

IN MEMORY OF

Laura Summerfield

Laura was an integral member of the Scholarship Committee and led the implementation team, which transitioned the scholarship process from the cumbersome paper application to the online scholarship process we use today. Her strong work ethic, dedication to students, and resourcefulness is how her co-workers and peers will remember her.
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“Ego Wheel”, 2015 – Bobby Leo Veresan, Jr., OCC Alumni
Detroit City Skyline, 2014 – Everett L. Jackson, OCC Graduate

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