



Imagine the Possibilities...

News from the HCC Foundation, Alumni and Friends

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"This scholarship makes me feel like donors are my family whispering in my ear - "Do not give up, you can do it, you are almost there."

— Bianca, scholarship recipient



Executive Director's Message

Welcome to our inaugural HCC Foundation newsletter, ***Imagine the Possibilities***. This newsletter, published biannually, will highlight our donors, our students, and news pertaining to the college and its five campuses. Your comments are welcome to ensure this newsletter serves our audience in the best way possible. We also encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in the information provided.

As we embark on a new year, I ask you to reflect on the opportunities you were given in life that shaped the person you are today. Were you the first in your family to go to college? Were you forced into changing careers because of a job loss? Were you a single parent struggling to make ends meet? These are just some of the profiles of our HCC students who need your help.

Although the HCC Foundation has a robust scholarship program, we simply do not have the funding needed to provide scholarships to all deserving applicants. Sadly, of the 550 students who recently applied for a scholarship, funding was available for only 150 of them. Please help us close this gap. A contribution of \$313 will pay for a student to attend one class. Your generous gift of any amount can change the path of a student's life.

If I could share one thing with you, it is this... ***Imagine the Possibilities*** you would create if your gift is able to pay for two classes instead of one, or four classes instead of two! I am thrilled to share news with you of an exciting matching gift opportunity. Through the generosity of the William A. Gregory Jr. Foundation, we are able to double the value of your gift (see related article on page two).

For more information about this matching gift opportunity, or if you would like to provide feedback regarding the newsletter, please contact me at (813) 253-7114 or via email at sshear2@hccfl.edu. Your gift today will help students like Bianca achieve their dreams.

Thank you for your help.

Stephen C. Shear
Executive Director

P.S. Stay connected and learn more about us at hccfoundation.com.

Giving Inspiration:

Double Your Donation with a Matching Gift Opportunity

Wondering how you can make your donation dollars go even further in helping HCC students achieve their goals? Right now we have an exciting grant opportunity to match your donations.

William A. Gregory Jr. Foundation Matching Gift Challenge

Since 2013, the William A. Gregory Jr. Foundation has provided scholarships to nearly 30 students with diverse backgrounds, areas of study and needs. In addition to their annual gift, for the next two years, the William A. Gregory Jr. Foundation will match new annual scholarship gifts to the HCC Foundation dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000 annually.

For more information on ways to give, please visit hccfoundation.com.

Jennifer's Story

Growing up in a low-income neighborhood in Miami, Jennifer was one of 17 children in her family. She became a teen mother in 11th grade, yet went on to complete high school and enroll at her local community college. Jennifer struggled to keep up with her classes while working and raising her son. Soon she dropped out of college and moved to Tampa to live with her sister.

A few years later, Jennifer's world changed when she lost her vision. Determined to carry on, she sought help from the Lighthouse for the Blind, a nonprofit group that helped Jennifer learn to function with her disability. One day on a bus ride home, she met another visually impaired woman who attended HCC.

"She told me how she got around campus and the support she received," said Jennifer. "I said, 'I'm going to do this. I'm going to HCC.'"

Jennifer worked her way through the HCC enrollment process and completed a scholarship application, something she never dreamed she would actually receive.

"I was excited and grateful," she said. "Receiving the Gregory Scholarship gave me a motivation boost and strengthened my determination to succeed. I was able to focus on classes instead of finances. I made A's in 90% of my classes."

Now Jennifer has her AA degree from HCC and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work at USF. Her ultimate goal is to open a transition house for homeless families.

"When I lost my sight, I figured out who I really am and what I can overcome," she said. "Now I know what I'm capable of doing. I can learn anything if I put my mind to it."



Donor Spotlight:

An Interview with Tony and Carol Fernandez

World travelers Tony and Carol Fernandez wanted to share their resources with others close to home—and helping local students train for the jobs of the future seemed like a great place to start. The couple's research led them to HCC's Workforce programs.

I hear you both like to travel. Tell me about some of your experiences.

TONY: Carol and I travel as much and as often as possible! Our next trip is to Ecuador, with a couple of days in the Amazon. We also have plans to visit England, Scotland and Spain in the upcoming year.

CAROL: One of our favorite trips was Iceland—we went in the winter when the Northern Lights were at their peak; it was very cold, but magnificent.

TONY: Another spectacular trip was Antarctica. We left from Chile on an icebreaker that hit some ice resulting in a large gash on the side. We were stranded, but not really scared at the time. Later we were rescued by another boat. Going back through the Drake Passage, there were 70-foot waves. We didn't realize how dangerous it all was until we got home and read about this mishap in the newspapers.

CAROL: We love to travel and see the world; you meet such wonderful people along the way. We enjoy seeing the way other people live and learning their history.

What does charitable giving mean to you?

CAROL: If you're in a position to do something to help others, go for higher education and training; it's good for the future.

TONY: I feel it is a useful gesture, helpful for someone who needs a boost.

Tony, please share a little bit about your background and family history.

TONY: My grandparents were originally from Spain and both of my parents grew up in Tampa. My father attended Brewster Technical School in Tampa, where he learned the printing trade. He earned a good living and later worked at the Tampa Tribune. My mother learned to sew and did piecework in New York. Later on she learned to do drapes, tailored suits and gowns.

I was born in New York City and moved to Tampa at age one. My family moved again to New York when I was six and returned permanently to Tampa when I was 15.

I'm retired now, but enjoyed a successful career in sales. My very first job was selling ladies shoes at Baker's Shoe Store in downtown Tampa. I was in the wine and spirits business for 31 years. Towards the end of my career, I was traveling internationally for an Italian and Chilean wine producer and importer. My last field was real estate, a business in which I am now semi active.

Please tell me about your scholarship endowment to benefit HCC workforce students. Why is this a meaningful way for you to give?

TONY: Since specialized training gave my parents useful careers, I wanted to offer assistance to other people interested in training who could perhaps not afford it on their own. We did our research and came across HCC's Workforce programs.

CAROL: There is a need for today's students to learn new technologies, technologies which allow a worker to contribute to the infrastructure. Not everyone must have a liberal arts degree for success.

TONY: There is a major need these days for people to be trained in technical skills, but the monetary focus on scholarships seems to be with traditional four-year colleges. Without help, a lot of kids get lost. I was fortunate, so I wanted to offer a helping hand. An endowment or scholarship is a great way to pay it forward.





Alumni Network: Calling All Hawk Alumni



HCC employee and alumna Brenda Ford began school at HCC in the newly built Ybor City campus in 1974 and literally never left. She has been working at HCC for over 37 years in various administrative roles, mostly on the Dale Mabry campus. Recently retired, Brenda travelled to Europe and, upon her

return, was beckoned out of retirement to come back to her home away from home, HCC. When asked if she was restless in retirement she replied that she was not, but if someone is in need, Brenda said she is always there to help. Thank you Brenda for your almost four decades of dedicated service to the HCC community.

Did you know that HCC has more than 54,000 identified alumni living and working in the Tampa Bay area? We also have thousands of alumni who play important roles in communities around the world.

We want to hear from HCC alumni!

If you or someone you know attended HCC, please join our Alumni Network at hccfoundation.com/alumni. Membership is free, and you'll receive a variety of benefits, including invitations to community and campus events, and more. We can even help you connect with students and faculty in your field of study if that's something that interests you.

Contact HCC alumni relations at 813.253.7018 or visit hccfoundation.com/alumni to learn more.

Alumni in Action: Meet Josh Burgin, Graduate of HCC and Harvard



At age 37, Josh Burgin had an impressive résumé that included stints in Florida government and politics, along with years of work in Russia. But something important was missing: a college education. At his wife's insistence, Josh enrolled at the HCC Plant City Campus in December 2013. It took him just 12 months to complete his associate in arts degree and graduate with a 4.0 grade point average.

The next step for Josh was a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management from Polk State College. After earning his bachelor's degree in another whirlwind 12 months, he began to consider law school.

In a game-changing moment, Josh, then a governor-appointed member of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) board, asked a HART staff member for advice on applying to law school.

"He got really excited and told me I should go to Harvard. I explained to him that people like me don't go to Ivy Leagues," said Josh. "But he was insistent. So I made a promise that day that I would call Harvard."

While preparing for the LSAT, Josh did some research and spoke with an admissions counselor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. "She told me that my story was the kind the committee likes to read, and that I should submit an application," said Josh. "I got my acceptance to the Kennedy School in March 2015, and my family prepared for a move to Cambridge."

Josh completed Harvard's accelerated Master in Public Administration program in May 2016, a little more than three years after his first day of class at HCC. Now he considers his next career opportunity in public policy and politics.

"I'm grateful for so many people who helped me along the way and opened doors," said Josh. "My life's purpose is connected to public policy making. I look forward to the next chapter of my career."

EVENTS

Hawks, Line & Sinker Fishing Tournament Most Successful Ever!

The Foundation's annual fishing tournament put 40 boats and nearly 200 anglers and captains on the water for a great day of fishing on October 28. Thanks to presenting sponsor Charles Perry Partners, Inc. and dozens of other sponsors and underwriters, the tournament netted nearly \$80,000 to benefit the Foundation's workforce development scholarship program.



2016 Scholarship Partners Breakfast

The Foundation hosted a full ballroom of students, donors and other friends on November 18 at its 13th annual Scholarship Partners Breakfast. Always a highlight of the Foundation year, this event was especially heartwarming thanks to the remarks of alumna Patsy Sanchez who spoke of HCC's impact on her life as a Cuban immigrant. Now the USF Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Patsy related her personal story of her success thanks to the start she received at HCC. The breakfast ended with an exciting announcement of the Gregory Challenge by Christopher Taylor, trustee of the William A. Gregory Jr. Foundation. The Gregory Foundation will match new annual scholarship gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000 a year in 2016 and 2017. In making his announcement, Taylor told the audience, "I am personally making a gift that when matched will result in a full tuition scholarship" and, he issued a challenge for audience members to join him by making their own gifts.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017

February 22-25

Black, Brown & College Bound Summit
Tampa Marriott Waterside

April 3

Golf Classic
Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club

October 20

Hawks, Line & Sinker Fishing Tournament
Hula Bay Marina

November 15

HCC Presidential Showcase
Port Tampa Bay



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Resources for Excellence grants: **Providing HCC faculty and staff the tools to do more**

Last year the HCC Foundation created a new program called Resources for Excellence which awards faculty and staff grants to help broaden the scope of the curriculum, enhance the college experience, and improve student achievement. Made possible by the generous support of our donors, Resources for Excellence grants are designed to help advance HCC's mission and goals. Faculty and staff may apply for grants ranging from \$500 - \$2,500 to support projects that would otherwise not be covered by the College budget. Resources for Excellence Grants are awarded in the fall and the spring. ***For more information about this program and deadlines to apply, go to hccfoundation.com. From the "Our Impact" tab, click on "Faculty and Staff".***

To date, the Foundation has funded over ten Resources for Excellence grants to fund programs ranging from a common read for Honors Institute students and mentoring for first-time-in-college Hispanic students to the creation of a sustainable food wall and a Summer Dance Institute.

A Meaningful Gift

Are you looking for a special way to honor or remember someone close to you? Consider a donation to the HCC Foundation that can bring the gift of education, training and a better future to deserving students.

Use the enclosed envelope or visit hccfoundation.com and click on "GIVE."

Hillsborough Community College Foundation

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