

## Supporting Student Success

The Oakland Community College Foundation takes a three-pronged approach to helping our students through the struggle of paying for their education.

First, we help our students connect. They often do not know about the resources available to them through government and non-profit agencies. The Foundation underwrites the printing of an Agency Brochure that identifies a partner agency near each of our campuses, as well as our regional referral system, 211. A team of faculty volunteers identified the key organizations, developed the content, and drafted the design. Faculty can discretely share the tri-fold with their students who confide in them. The brochure is also available at locations where students are likely to seek help.

Second, we help our students in crisis. The Student Success Fund is the Foundation's rapid response when a student faces a crisis. It provides immediate help for enrolled students facing a financial emergency beyond their control, once all other resources are exhausted. Faculty and staff refer students to Counselors, who evaluate the situation, connect the student to external resources for long-term help, and recommend the appropriate support from the Fund. Removing an unexpected financial barrier helps these students through the semester.

Third, we help our students complete. The Foundation's scholarships focus primarily on financial need, helping students who could not otherwise cover the costs of tuition, books and other academic expenses. Scholarship sponsors – including many current and retired faculty and staff – currently fund 101 endowed and 65 annual named scholarships, which help over 250 students. The review process aims to identify and select the applicants most in danger of interrupting their education due to a lack of funds.

In these three ways, the Foundation directly supports the educational goals of our students. It accomplishes its work through the generosity of donors and the participation of faculty and staff throughout the College. Ultimately, the students we help go on to fill important positions at businesses throughout Oakland County and beyond, enriching our whole community.

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