

Foundation Focus

ACC Foundation awards over \$500,000 in scholarships

Did you Know?

- Fall 2010 saw a 9.6% increase in enrollment.
- ACC has 44,000+ credit students.
- Over 1300 students applied for scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year.
- There was an 18% increase in the number of scholarships awarded from the previous year.
- The Round Rock Campus opened with capacity enrollment.
- You can donate online at www.austincc.edu/foundation

Due to the generosity of our wonderful donors and friends, the ACC Foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarship funds for the 2010-2011 school year. These funds will be used by 338 students—the most recipients in a single year since the Foundation started awarding scholarships in 1996. In the past three years, over 850 scholarships totaling over 1.2 million dollars have been awarded to ACC students.



Recipients of the ACC Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) Scholarships

Eighteen new scholarship programs were created in this year alone. Two of those—St. David's Neal Kocurek ACC Scholarship and the Activision/Blizzard C.O.D.E. Scholarship—are highlighted in this newsletter. The increase in scholarships has happened at a very pivotal time for Austin Community College. There are 44,100 students enrolled at ACC for the Fall 2010 semester, which is a 9.6% increase from one year ago. Over 22,000 of these students have applied for financial aid to attend school. The new Round Rock Campus opened at capacity level with more than 5,000 students, and Elgin and Hays Independent School Districts joined the ACC District on November 2nd. Enrollment increases seem to be in the future for ACC in the years to come.

Continued growth in the ACC Foundation scholarship program is very important to the success of students at ACC. Not only do scholarships financially assist students, they give them a sense of pride, confidence, and commitment to completing their degree in order to graduate or transfer. In addition to investing in students, scholarships also help the local economy, as recipients graduate and join the local workforce. If you would like to create a scholarship to meet the needs of the increasing number of ACC students, please call the Foundation at 512-223-7719.

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Message from : ACC Foundation Board Chair



Edwina Carrington

I am greatly honored to serve as the Chair of the Austin Community College Foundation and look forward to continuing the momentum begun by Tom Gallagher. His leadership has moved the Foundation to a new level. In just the last two years, the number of scholarships awarded has increased by 23% and 11 new members have joined the board.

The ACC Foundation is in its final year of its \$1 million scholarship campaign and is on target to meet that goal and exceed it. The stories I hear about the individuals who have been affected by these funds are inspiring - the single mother who is on her way to becoming a nurse, the veteran who has given so much for our country entering ACC's gaming program, and the student who received her GED, pursued a business degree at ACC, and is now on the Dean's List at UT.

You made the difference. Lives have been changed because of your generosity and commitment to education.

The Austin Community College Foundation is on Facebook.

Become a friend and stay informed.

Donor Spotlight— Neal Kocurek Scholarship

established by the St. David's Foundation

The St. David's Foundation donated \$50,000 to establish scholarships in memory of Dr. W. Neal Kocurek. Twenty-five \$2000 scholarships were awarded to ACC Health Science students for the 2010-2011 school year.

Dr. Kocurek served as president/CEO of St. David's HealthCare System for six years. He was passionate about creating a health-care structure for the uninsured among regional providers and addressing the root causes of health problems in Austin. Dr. Kocurek also served as a member of the ACC Foundation Board of Directors. He passed away in 2004.

"We are pleased St. David's Foundation has chosen to partner with

the Austin Community College Foundation. Many students face incredible barriers just getting to college, and the cost can easily be a deterrent. This scholarship program is a lasting tribute to Neal Kocurek's passion to further education, which in turn will provide quality healthcare for our region." said Cassandra Wiggins, ACC Foundation board member.

The St. David's Neal Kocurek ACC Scholarships were funded at a critical time. With the opening of the new Round Rock campus, the Associate Degree Nursing, Surgical Technology, Radiology, Cardiac Sonography, and Medical Laboratory Technology Programs were able to increase enrollment. These students incur more expense for their education than a

traditional college credit student. In addition to tuition and fees, these students must purchase uniforms, receive immunizations, obtain background checks, and pay testing fees.

Due to the clinical commitment required for Health Science programs, few students are able to work once they are accepted. Scholarships are vital to the students' success. As one scholarship recipient stated, "Thanks to the generosity of the St. David's Foundation, I will be able to focus on my studies in the Nursing Program and not worry so much about the financial strain that fulltime academics can place on a single mom."

Activision/Blizzard C.O.D.E. Scholarship Created for Veterans

In 2010, the Labor Department announced a 21.1% unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. This is almost double the national average. Activision Blizzard Inc., a leading video game development company, created the Call of Duty Endowment (C.O.D.E.) to help alleviate this problem. Through job placement, education and training opportunities, C.O.D.E. helps veterans adjust to civilian life and establish new careers.

The Call of Duty Endowment has generously donated \$50,000 to the ACC Foundation to create the Activision Blizzard Call of Duty Endowment Scholarship. Four \$2500



scholarships will be awarded each year over the next five years to veterans pursuing an associate degree in the Game Development Program.

The recipients for 2010-2011 are Navy veterans Joshua Carr and

Jesse Henderson, Army veteran Lucas Braun, and Marine veteran Daniel Stevenson. The scholarships will allow these students to incorporate the skills they learned through their military service into new careers in the game development field.

Lucas Braun, one of the recipients, would like to create a portable device that could be used in the training exercises of military personnel. Activision Blizzard Inc. Call of Duty Endowment has given these students the financial support to pursue a career in a rapidly growing field and it may one day benefit the military with new training equipment.

Student Profile— *St. David's Student*

Jennifer Jefferson is a recipient of the St. David's Neal Kocurek ACC Scholarship. We asked her about her experience at ACC:

Why did you choose to attend ACC?

I chose to attend ACC because of the high quality education provided by the superbly encouraging faculty, flexible class times that accommodate nearly anyone's pre-existing schedule, and the low cost as compared to other colleges and universities.

What led you to your major?

There are numerous factors that led me to choose nursing as my major. After 12 unfulfilled years of working in two separate industries that neither interested me nor provided me with the stability that I desired, I decided I needed to explore the various opportunities available. The biological sciences have always been a fascination of mine and helping others in any way possible brings me an enormous amount of joy. Combining the concepts of career stability, biological sciences, and serving others ultimately led me to the field of nursing.

What impact have your clinical rotations had on your educational experience?

My clinical rotations have had a positively profound impact on my educational experience. I fulfilled my first semester rotation at St. David's South Austin Medical Center. I learned so much from that experience. The staff at St. David's not only provided the most excellent care to the patients, they were incredibly helpful and informative to me. I found that my experience with them solidified my desire to become a registered nurse.

What are your career goals?

My short-term goals are to graduate from ACC, obtain my nursing license, and begin my career at the entry level. As I gain experience as a Registered Nurse, I plan to pursue my long-term goal, which is to earn a master's degree in order to become a Nurse Practitioner.

What was your reaction when you received your scholarship award letter?

At first, I was in shock, then I cried because I was so overjoyed. I felt it was a true honor to be chosen as a recipient. It gave me encouragement and a boost of determination to continue to strive to be the best person, student, and nurse that I can be. It also inspired me to someday be in a position in which I can assist others to fulfill their dreams of obtaining a college education.



Jennifer Jefferson

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The Austin Community College Foundation was established in 1991 to expand higher education and training throughout the Austin Community College District. Its mission is to raise funds to ensure student success and develop community support for the college. The Foundation is led by a volunteer board of business and community leaders whose dedication to education supports and allows for the growth of College initiatives. An established set of values guides the Foundation in its actions and a shared vision with ACC yields well-articulated strategies for these actions. Members of the board of directors share an inspired passion to assist ACC in achieving excellence, which, in turn, will impact our community, students, and employers. Over \$7 million has been raised through the Foundation to support college programs and scholarships.

www.austincc.edu/foundation

Austin Community College Foundation

5930 Middle Fiskville Rd.
Austin, TX 78752

Phone: 512-223-7719

Fax: 512-223-7847

E-mail: aschuber@austincc.edu

Golf Scramble Raises \$24,000 for Emergency Needs

Emergency situations occur on a daily basis, but in the life of a student the expenses incurred can derail their education.

The student emergency fund was established to help ACC students who face unexpected financial setbacks.

In August, more than 100 golfers teed off at the Riverside Golf Course for the 5th annual ACC Golf Scramble, raising \$24,000 for the student emergency fund.



The following are stories about a few of the students who received assistance from the fund last year:

John* was struck by an uninsured driver as he rode his bike between campuses. He incurred large medical expenses.

Amy* was in the last semester of her medical program and had to un-

expectedly move to San Antonio. She needed funds to cover the transportation costs. She was able to graduate at the end of the semester.

Jack's* eyeglasses broke and he needed funds to replace them so that he could attend his classes.

The 2011 ACC Golf Scramble will be held in October to take advantage of cooler weather. Get a team together and come have some fun while you help ACC students.

* Names have been changed.

*Expanding higher education
and training throughout the
ACC District*