

SUMMER 2018

IMPACT

A MAGAZINE OF THE ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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MISSION To maximize access to an exceptional education that will improve lives and strengthen our community.

VISION We seek to enable dreams for all by generating resources that will provide effective learning experiences. We will maximize our impact through the strength and leadership of our board and close collaboration with the college and community.

VALUES The core principles and beliefs that guide our work are Excellence, Integrity, Respect, Collaboration, and Accountability.

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ON THE COVER

The support of Purses with Purpose members and the passion of ECC's faculty and staff allowed Aimee Padilla to plan her transfer to the University of Illinois at Chicago to pursue her STEM education and career goals.

**Thank you to our
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Become an ECC Foundation Premier Sponsor and enjoy 12 months of top-level benefits including:

- Brand promotion and recognition at ECC Foundation events.
- Premier Sponsor listing and recognition in program booklets for two major events.
- A table for eight at the annual Founders' Day Celebration (next scheduled February 17, 2019).
- A golf foursome and one-hole sponsorship at the annual Golf Classic (next scheduled June 17, 2019).

For information about premier and other sponsorship packages, please contact Sheri Lacy, manager of annual giving and scholarships, at 847-214-7596.

Sponsor recognition benefits are subject to change.

**Purpose and
Passion**

After high school, Aimee Padilla did not know what she wanted to do, so she came to Elgin Community College to explore. She took classes she liked, including biology and math, hoping to find her passion.

"You can tell ECC's instructors care because they also want to help you grow as a person outside the classroom," Aimee said. From encouraging students to apply for internships at highly regarded organizations, like Fermilab and the National Science Foundation, to applying class concepts to real world issues, ECC's faculty inspired Aimee.

A recipient of the ECC Foundation's **Purses with Purpose Scholarship**, Aimee was inspired again. "Getting to know the Purses with Purpose members let me see how amazing these women are as people, beyond being generous donors." The scholarship also enabled her to have the time, in lieu of a job, to concentrate on school and help her family by caring for her younger sister.

With focus, Aimee discovered both opportunity and passion. Medical school is her long-term goal. In planning how to get there, she recalled the appeal of something one of her math instructors said: engineers solve problems. Aimee anticipates being able to better solve patient problems by studying bioengineering beginning this fall at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She acknowledges that these fields will require hard work and she knows ECC and *Purses with Purpose* prepared her well.



Purses with Purpose Scholarship

Since 2012, members of the ECC Foundation's *Purses with Purpose* giving circle have empowered 38 women whose commitment to advancing their potential through college education transformed their lives and strengthened our shared community. At the giving circle's recent Fifth Anniversary Celebration, Sandra Hoston received the inaugural

Carol Broeker Impact Award that recognizes the achievements of a **Purses with Purpose Scholarship** recipient. Carol's fellow steering committee members established the award in her memory through the ECC Foundation to honor her impassioned commitment to *Purses with Purpose*.





(Left to right) Back row: Phil Pardun, Nicole Scherger, Terri Martin, Kristen Campbell, Greg Wheaton, Marco Annoni, Linda Wade, Dan Kernler, Dave Lawrence, and Chalyce Deterding.
Front row: Katherine Fletcher, Michelle Kershner, Catherine Moushon, Ken Beynon, Abigail Bailey, Vicki Walker, and Will Doty.

CARRYING FORWARD THE LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT

ECC's math faculty members have always been an entry point for students considering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pathways. In every math course, instructors help students build problem-solving skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, and analysis. Along with supporting students' needs, math faculty members often recognize potential and encourage students to grow and explore.

All of ECC's associate degrees for transfer, and many career and technical education credentials, require credit coursework in math. With this in mind, student success is at the heart of everything ECC's math instructors do, and have done, for decades.

The department has a long-standing commitment to excellence and collaboration that also extends to a shared philanthropic spirit. Current and retired math faculty members make a difference by sharing their problem-solving expertise as volunteers in their communities, professional organizations, and with the ECC Foundation. Before the ECC Foundation was established in 1984, math faculty members took up an annual collection to make their own informal awards to students.

Since then, members of the Math Department have always participated generously in the ECC Foundation's Annual Campus Giving Campaign, which continues today. In just the past five years,

12 students received awards from three scholarship funds initiated and supported largely by the math faculty. The funds include: the **ECC Math Excellence and Improvement Scholarship**; the **Donald Holstrom Scholarship for Excellence in Math**; and the **Math, Science, and Pre-engineering Scholarship**. Upon graduation, several of these scholarship recipients transferred to four-year institutions with full scholarships to complete their bachelor's degrees.

Today's department members continue to embrace philanthropy and impact students in meaningful ways that will surely inspire the same for those who follow in their footsteps.

"Even though I was an older student in the 1970s, my math professor saw my potential. Thanks to his encouragement and life-changing advice, I had a fabulous STEM-related career and was able to support my children as a single mother."

— ECC alumna Jennifer McSorley-McLaughlin

Motorola Solutions STEMs the gap

Elgin Community College and Motorola Solutions have two core values in common: diversity and equity. This alignment creates opportunities and promotes student success in fields like emergency services and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

For decades, many organizations have encouraged students to pursue STEM-related careers. However, many STEM fields still employ disproportionately fewer women and underrepresented populations. The "STEM gap" persists.

Recently, increased scrutiny of the STEM gap clarified that there is an economic impact for businesses. Multiple studies concluded that diversity increases the creativity and innovation that drive above-average profits. A STEM-skilled workforce can strengthen a community's economic competitiveness.

Microsoft, Harvard University, and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) recently analyzed the gap. They identified complex circumstances for women and underrepresented populations that can negatively affect choices about STEM

studies and careers. Exposure to STEM is not enough; different tactics are needed. The SWE State of Women in Engineering 2018 Report proposed that community college pathways could be key to increasing diversity in engineering.

Motorola Solutions, Inc., a leader in mission-critical communications for public safety and commercial enterprises, has been a pioneer in supporting the community college pathway for STEM and emergency services fields long before the cited research was available. Historically, the company has focused funding on supporting programs that advance STEM education for the next generation of innovators, especially women and other underrepresented groups. In 2017, the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the company's charitable giving arm, awarded more than \$9 million in grants impacting 3 million students and first responders in 37 countries.

That impact reached ECC and its students. A \$15,000 grant established a new scholarship through the ECC Foundation for women and

underrepresented groups who are studying technology, engineering, or emergency services programs at ECC.

To strengthen its connection with the scholarship recipients, Motorola Solutions hosted the five scholarship recipients for a day that included a facility tour, informational conversations, and endless inspiration.

Students experienced what it can mean to be in a STEM-related career. Romail Bhatti saw connections between STEM and the real world. Omar Flores saw diversity. Sarah Oshana saw support. Ivan Roman saw possibilities. Madison Colado saw role models in the encouraging employees. Lives were forever changed.

What comes naturally to employees at Motorola Solutions for engaging with Elgin Community College students is exactly what studies recommend as the "new" innovative tactics to close the gap.



(Left to right) Back row: Romail Bhatti, Ivan Roman, Madison Colado, Sarah Oshana, Omar Flores, and Rigo Sanabria.
Front row: Vishad Patel, Abby Walsh, and Jim Companik.

Integrating Interests



People often treated Pietrek Kubasak differently when they learned he was homeschooled—it was usually in a good way. “A veterinarian explained biology and surgery to me. An HVAC specialist described how a system worked,” Pietrek recalled.

Experiences like those reinforced his boundless love of learning. Pietrek is pursuing a degree in welding and recently learned about micro-welding through a job-shadowing experience. But he also wants to explore his other interests, like music and math.

Extremely competitive, he knows he’s good at math. But even he was surprised when his fall 2017 Integration Contest first-place win was earned without any errors. He had placed second in the previous semester’s contest. Pietrek’s math and welding instructors at ECC recognized his unique talents and inspired him to research and consider welding engineering. The field joins his extraordinary skills in the career and technical education area of welding with his outstanding academic achievements.

“While I’m still deciding what’s next, the ECC Foundation’s **Welding Scholarship** and the **Industrial Manufacturing/Maintenance Technology Scholarship** are a huge relief from the stress of paying for college.” Pietrek realizes he “doesn’t fit in a box,” so he’s appreciated the attention, support, diversity, and opportunities at ECC. “Coming here was a great decision—and with my scholarships, it was affordable for me and my family.”

Integrating Innovation

Predicting the spread of information through social networks, aiding in the design of traffic flow, and testing models to solve problems are just a few of the tasks possible because of calculus. Simply stated, calculus is a framework to understand, describe, and predict change.

ECC’s math faculty members know it helps to be innovative when teaching calculus, because many students are intimidated by it.

Kristen Campbell, assistant professor of mathematics, pursued a department-wide effort to raise student confidence and reduce achievement gaps. She researched best practices, including the Integration Bee at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and then launched a similar version at ECC.

The ECC Integration Contest is an outside-the-class learning event where students compete head-to-head in timed rounds for correct solutions. “Together, students gain proficiency in problem-solving while improving their skills in critical thinking, reasoning, and strategy,” said Ken Beynon, assistant professor of mathematics and current contest lead organizer.

“Stable funding from the ECC Foundation **Resources for Excellence Mini-Grant** created the opportunity for the contest to grow under Ken’s leadership,” Kristen remarked. Funding for event costs and student incentives helped to attract nearly double the number of participants and increased involvement.

ECC Foundation scholarship recipient Pietrek Kubasak won first place in the fall of 2017. “I entered the contest because I love math, but winning an iPad® was a great reward,” said Pietrek.

Celebrating the pursuit of academic excellence and rewarding success positively affects the culture and reputation of ECC. Kristen recalled, “Past winners earned prestigious internships at Argonne National Laboratory and the National Security Administration. Another transferred to University of California, Los Angeles with a full scholarship.”

Participation and meaningful student impacts continue to grow. The Integration Contest is proof of the absolute value of this and other ECC Foundation **Resources for Excellence Mini-Grants**.



MARKING A MILESTONE: The 20th Annual Founders' Day Celebration and Luncheon

Thank you for being part of something special at ECC—the story of supporting student success. You created extraordinary possibilities for students by raising funds for the **ECC Foundation Resources for Excellence Annual Fund** at the 20th Annual Founders' Day Celebration and Luncheon, held on Sunday, February 18.

The event raised over **\$47,000**

With gratitude, event co-chairs Caren Nickelsen and Mike Lee recognized the many contributions of guests, sponsors, donors, event committee members, and volunteers. Throughout the day, inspiring messages from award winners, speakers, and leaders in the ECC community expanded the list of reasons why we are all "Proud to be ECC."



1



2



3



4

1 Premier Sponsor Lundstrom Insurance representatives and their guests: Carl Lundstrom, Kay Lundstrom, Bashar Danial, Michelle Danial, Rachel Lundstrom, and Brett Lundstrom.

3 Elgin Community College Faculty Association representatives and their guests: Mary Elfring, ECC student Paola Pedroza, Steven Wood, Clark Hallpike, and Brittany Barber.

2 Premier Sponsor Shales McNutt Construction representatives and their guests: Trecia Shales, Marlene Shales, Mike Shales, Donna McNutt, John McNutt, John Shales, and Shelly Shales.

4 Elgin Community College Pension Plan Participants generously volunteered as hosts for the coat check. Thank you to Micaela Banks, Rick Green, Marilyn Westerhoff, Jessica Carpenter, Susan Spengler-Abell, and scholarship recipient Andrew Pratt.

HONORING THE 2018 AWARD WINNERS

The 2018 award winners added to the brilliance of this year's milestone occasion. Join us in celebrating the contributions, successes, and accomplishments of this year's honorees.

Elgin Community College Distinguished Alumni Award
Ronald Krivosik '84
Julie Lichtenberg '80

Elgin Community College Friend of Education Award
Polly Nash
Jack Weiss, EdD

Exceptional Friend of the Elgin Community College Foundation Award
Carolyn Kirk-Likou
Jack Shales and
Shales McNutt Construction

Lasting Impact Award
The Dumoulin Family
Brett Lundstrom
Carl Lundstrom
Eleanor "Ellie" Mackinney



1

1 From left to right: Jack Weiss, Polly Nash, Eleanor "Ellie" Mackinney, Carolyn Kirk-Likou, Julie Lichtenberg, Ron Krivosik, Brett Lundstrom, Carl Lundstrom, David Sam, and Patricia Dumoulin.



2

2 From left to right: John Shales, Mike Shales, Ian Lamp, and John McNutt.

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The Elgin Community College Foundation is grateful for the support of all who contributed to the success of the 20th Annual Founders' Day Celebration. Together, we are improving our region and the lives of our students.

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Miguel Valdivia

ECC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:



JENNIFER RAKOW

Jennifer Rakow values Elgin Community College and the countless ways it enhances learning and improves lives in our community. Inspired by her experiences as a parent of ECC alumni and as a business leader, she decided to get more involved. In 2017, she was elected to the ECC District 509 Board of Trustees and serves as the trustee liaison to the ECC Foundation.

For Jennifer's sons, Julien and Daniel, ECC was a high-quality, affordable option and a wise investment of time and money. When they graduated from ECC, they felt well-prepared to excel in their higher learning pursuits.

"Before becoming a trustee, I saw firsthand the positive impact ECC has on our community. As ECC students, my sons experienced growth while defining their interests and career paths.

Employees that I've hired gained valuable workforce skills through ECC's programs," Jennifer said. "It is a privilege for me to help shape the future of the college and the ECC Foundation."

Born and raised in Elgin, Jennifer attended U-46 schools and graduated from Larkin High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University. While she has spent most of her life in or near Elgin, she worked in Europe for 10 years, which increased her appreciation for cultural diversity.

Jennifer is the human resources director for IHC Construction Companies, LLC in Elgin. She is a member of the Elgin Area Leadership Academy's Alumni Steering Committee and serves as a board member for the United Way of Elgin and the Fideliter Club.



ROBIN SEIGLE

Robin Seigle views Elgin Community College as integral to the community's economic, educational, and cultural success. The West Dundee resident and ECC alumna is honored to serve as a member of the Elgin Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

"Since attending ECC, I have watched the school become an important part of our community," Robin said. "Participating with the ECC Foundation is a perfect way to help future generations of our community's students, and I look forward to providing more opportunities for these students to succeed."

Robin graduated from Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville. She attended ECC for one year and transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she earned a bachelor's degree in art education.

Robin actively supports several organizations in the greater Elgin area. She has served or currently serves on the boards of the Community Crisis Center, Elgin Symphony Orchestra League, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, Frontenac Homeowners Association, and Suzuki School of Elgin. She is involved in many different capacities at her synagogue, Congregation Kneseth Israel, and volunteers at Food for Greater Elgin and Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) of Elgin. Robin and her dog have volunteered for over 10 years in the Animal-Assisted Therapy Program at Advocate Sherman Hospital.

She has been married for almost 35 years to Mark, and they have two grown children, Margot and Joel, who both live in New York.

STUDENT PROFILE: TYSON JENKINS

Life lessons from STEM camps and snake handling

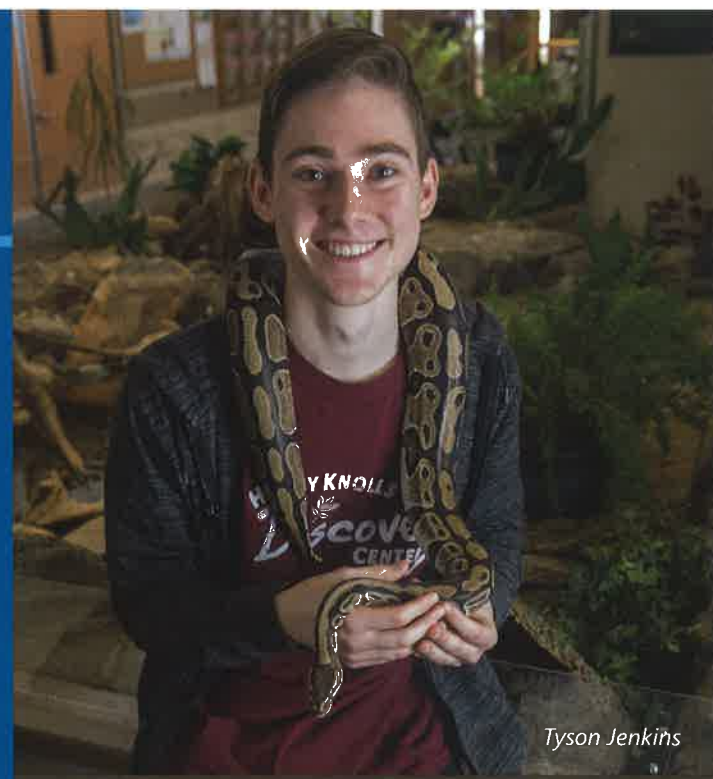
For as many summers as recent St. Charles North High School graduate Tyson Jenkins can remember, he attended the St. Charles Park District's STEM summer camps at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. At 16 years old, he was hired as a summer camp counselor and year-round snake handler to care for the facility's resident reptiles. He learned at an early age that a job doesn't feel like work if you are doing something you enjoy.

Numerous studies show that creative, hands-on, informal learning experiences in STEM can spark interest in college STEM majors. That is exactly what happened for Tyson, until the reality of high college costs required a difficult decision to decline acceptance to the University of Illinois (U of I) engineering program.

Tyson reconsidered his alternatives and enrolled at ECC to study engineering.

"Attending ECC was a great decision. Learning to connect with people who have so many different perspectives sets me up for success now and later in the workplace."

Tyson's exceptional academic performance in high school, along with his participation and leadership in clubs like Team Polaris, earned him an **ECC Board of Trustees Top 10 Percent Scholarship** plus the ECC Foundation's **Nick Kotwas Memorial Scholarship**. "Because of my ECC Foundation scholarships, I'll be able to afford to transfer to the U of I to study bioengineering after graduating from ECC," Tyson said. He plans to pursue graduate studies in bioinformatics, a new interdisciplinary field that combines mathematics, biology, and computer science to analyze data, such as the human genome. STEM camps certainly charmed this snake-handler and future engineer!



Tyson Jenkins

Nick Kotwas Memorial Scholarship

A recipient of the **ECC Board of Trustees Top 10 Percent Scholarship**, Nick Kotwas gave back to the ECC community as a student leader and volunteer. Nick's parents, Liz Kotwas and Mike Barry, saw him flourish at ECC. Nick graduated from ECC with high honors, ready to make the world a better place. Sadly, Nick passed away suddenly in 2010. Liz and Mike established the scholarship to celebrate Nick's life. To date, Nick's fund has brought 11 ECC scholarship recipients closer to achieving their dreams.

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SOME *Dreams* JUST NEED A LITTLE HELP

SAVE THE DATE

21st Annual
ECC Foundation
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Celebration
February 17, 2019

Elgin Community College
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STUDENT PROFILE: SARAH OSHANA

Scholarship is more than dollars

Sarah Oshana's parents always encouraged her to explore her interests. She initially considered nursing, but realized that physics and engineering were her true calling. At ECC, Sarah learned about herself through her successes and her failures, which she used as opportunities for growth and change.

As she applied these lessons, Sarah's grades continued to rise. The rewards of her hard work led to the **Motorola Solutions Foundation Scholarship**, which she sees as more than dollars. It is a strong signal that companies and real people want to bring more women and minorities into STEM fields. Sarah is aware that a gender imbalance continues

to exist in engineering, but the scholarship inspired her to face that challenge head on. After receiving the scholarship, she became more confident in standing up for herself, especially in her engineering classes.

Sarah graduated in spring 2018 with an Associate in Engineering Science degree with high honors. Transferring to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) to study electrical engineering became possible because the ECC Foundation scholarship kept her college expenditures and student loan debt low. With a multi-year scholarship from IIT to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees in an accelerated program, Sarah is determined to join the ranks of successful female engineers.

Motorola Solutions Foundation Scholarship

Motorola Solutions, Inc. creates innovative, mission-critical communication solutions and services that help public safety and commercial customers build safer cities and thriving communities. The new **Motorola Solutions Foundation Scholarship** was established in 2017 through a grant from the company's charitable giving arm, the Motorola Solutions Foundation. Sarah Oshana was one of five ECC students to receive the scholarship. See page 5 to learn more about how Motorola Solutions, Inc. and this scholarship support ECC students who are women or from underrepresented populations, and are enrolled in technology, engineering, and emergency services programs.