

Working Together

In Times of Need

April 2020



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Foundation Awards 375 Laptop Scholarships

Yale University + Gateway = Perfect Match

Yale University has pledged a matching gift to the Gateway Community College Foundation's Laptop Scholarship program. The Foundation moved quickly to secure additional funding from community partners to award 375 laptops, an investment of \$150,000. Now, more Gateway students have access to online distance learning and support services. According to Thomas Coley, Ph.D., Gateway's Acting President and CSCU Regional President, Shoreline-West, "Yale's generosity during students' shift to distance learning exemplifies the remarkable community partnerships Gateway and its Foundation have forged."

"This action reflects Yale University's ongoing commitment to education and to the community's needs in this time of crisis and challenge," says Lauren Zucker, Associate Vice President for New Haven Affairs and University Properties at Yale. "We are pleased that this match will double the impact of what the Gateway Foundation and its donors are doing to help Gateway students as they distance learn during the pandemic."

Community Partners Make the Difference

"We're grateful for Yale's extraordinary commitment to Gateway students," notes Paul McCraven, GCC Foundation Board Chair. "Putting more laptops into students hands means they can continue their educational journey during this difficult time."

Laptops Change Lives



For 51-year-old Meredith Barone, switching to online learning was challenging, not only because that wasn't how she was "taught to learn," but because she prefers "face-to-face interaction" with fellow students and instructors. That, coupled with an old, painfully slow, home computer that wouldn't save documents, threatened to derail her becoming a psychiatric nurse specializing in mental health/substance abuse treatment.

The shift to distance learning came after Meredith completed most of her non-nursing electives – she needs 12 credits to complete a General Studies associate degree – and was accepted into Gateway's Nursing program. (Her career goal is to one day open her own mental health/substance abuse agency along the Shoreline.)

The New Haven resident, a part-time student since 2008, works full time to support herself, but living "paycheck to paycheck" meant she couldn't afford a new computer. "This scholarship relieved a financial burden that was weighing heavily on me," Meredith wrote in an email from her new laptop. "It will allow me to be better prepared, and I'm truly grateful. I appreciate the hard work, time and money your Foundation puts into helping students overcome financial burdens to meet their educational goals. Your generosity will change my life and help me change other lives one day."

Laptop Scholarships Community Partners



Yale University



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Scholarship Committee Update

Ruby Melton, Chair, Gateway Foundation Scholarship Committee, reports that the scholarship application deadline closes on April 24. The 50-member Review Committee will begin its work on May 1. This year's Donor Scholar Luncheon has been cancelled. The GCCF Board approved the luncheon funds be used to award Laptops Scholarships.

Foundation website: gatewayfdn.org

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