



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your gifts to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation continue to make a difference. In a year where we all learned to navigate a new normal, we are ever more grateful for our dedicated supporters. Together we make life-changing dreams come true on a daily basis.

Your financial support helps provide the highest level of educational opportunities for students. Your gifts help keep college affordable for more than 500 students annually. Last year, more than 42% of Kalamazoo Valley students received some sort of financial support. The Foundation's scholarship fund is one way the college works to meet student needs, provide necessary equipment to improve instruction and construct new facilities.

Your continued support plays an important role in our mission to advocate for and financially support Kalamazoo Valley Community College students and programs.

To make a gift to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation Annual Fund for student scholarships, you may send your tax-deductible donation to KVCC Foundation, P.O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003 by using the envelope provided or visit www.kvcc.edu/foundation to donate online.

MISSION

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation advocates for and financially supports Kalamazoo Valley Community College students and programs.

VISION

To remove financial barriers for all Kalamazoo Valley Community College students.

STUDENT PROFILE

MICHELLE BUSTAMANTE is a Santa Fe, New Mexico native who moved to Michigan 10 years ago. She is a 2015 Kalamazoo College graduate with degrees in Spanish and anthropology, and studied nursing at Kalamazoo Valley. After earning her bachelor's degrees, Bustamante said she "hit a crossroads" and decided not to take on more student loan debt by earning a master's degree. Instead, she took a brief hiatus and worked as a bartender before enrolling at Kalamazoo Valley.

“THE WORLD HAS A WAY OF GUIDING YOU. AT LEAST THAT’S HOW IT WORKED OUT IN MY LIFE.”

While the shift to online learning presented its share of challenges, Bustamante said Kalamazoo Valley's instructors were encouraging and engaged throughout her studies. While working at Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center, a co-worker helped her formulate a plan to continue her studies. "I've always been interested in helping people, but I just couldn't figure out the right angle," she said. When she was in 9th grade, she helped her Dad with her

ailing grandfather's care, which sparked her interest in the health career field.

Bustamante graduated from Kalamazoo Valley in May and works part-time as a patient care assistant in the general surgical unit at Bronson Hospital. "Seeing a variety of patients is fascinating to me," she said. "It's so gratifying to see patients transition into being healthier over time." She intends to transfer to Davenport University through the University Center at Kalamazoo Valley to finish her bachelor's degree in nursing.

With limited time outside of work and school, Bustamante prioritizes self-care. "It's important to make time for yourself and to find healthy ways to relax," she said. She gives credit to her sister and fiancé for their support and encouragement to keep moving forward.

“RECEIVING THE SCHOLARSHIP JUST TAKES SUCH A LOAD OF ADDED STRESS OFF. IT’S DEFINITELY NICE TO HAVE THAT STRESS ALLEVIATED.”

**MICHELLE
BUSTAMANTE**

Joann Nemecek Memorial
Nursing and Judith
A. Sullivan Nursing
Scholarship Recipient





“I PAY FOR MY CLASSES
OUT-OF-POCKET, AND
THE SCHOLARSHIP
HELPED ME GET
MY TOOL BAG AND
EVERYTHING I NEEDED
FOR CLASS.”

JALEN HOOPER
Foundation
Scholarship Recipient



STUDENT PROFILE

JALEN HOOPER is a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) student who admits that school wasn't always his top priority. He attended Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo before transferring to Portage Community Education Center's high school. "High school for me started out really rough," he said. "When I went to Portage Community Education Center (PCEC), I got it through my thick skull that I needed to do well in school." With individualized instruction through PCEC, he brought up his grades and set a plan for his future.


That led the 23-year-old to Kalamazoo Valley's HVAC program, where he's completing his second year of classes. While working full-time at Elias Corporation, a local door manufacturer, Hooper takes two classes per semester. He's enjoying his training and has urged his friends to consider a career in the skilled trades.

"I recommend that anyone my age get into the skilled trades," he said. "There's going to be an open market because all the people who've been in the field for 40 years are getting ready to retire. Getting into a trade is the best way to go, especially if you're a hands-on learner who doesn't want a conventional college education." Hooper received a scholarship from the KVCC Foundation and Federal CARES Act funding. "I pay for my classes out-of-pocket, and the scholarship helped me get my tool

bag and everything I needed for class. The Foundation money was a big help to me," he said. "I was also lucky enough to receive \$500 in CARES Act funding." Juggling work and school is a challenge for Hooper. "I'm tired 99 percent of the time," he said. "My girlfriend is supportive and it's difficult, but I know what I'm fighting for and the payout is going to be worth it."

Hooper said he is enjoying HVAC work so much that he considers it more fun than work. "When you're doing something you love, it no longer feels like you're working," he explained.

Hooper is happy to share his views with anyone who will listen. "I'm a hardworking individual who likes to get stuff done," he said. "And I might not look approachable, but I'm a big teddy bear."



“THE FOUNDATION MONEY WAS A BIG HELP TO ME. I WAS ALSO LUCKY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE \$500 IN CARES ACT FUNDING.”

DONOR PROFILE

SANFORD FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

ALYSSA MOSHOGINIS established the Sanford Family Nursing Scholarship to benefit nursing students at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She had finished college and was working in financial planning with her father, Todd Sanford, when a leukemia diagnosis changed her trajectory. Three years have passed since she underwent 109 cancer-fighting infusions and now the Hackett Prep High School and Miami of Ohio University graduate has completed her associate degree in Nursing at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and is working at Bronson Hospital on the General Medical Unit. She is also studying to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing through Western Michigan University.

While keeping up with school work was often tough, Moshoginis said she received plenty of encouragement, especially from her parents, her brother Brent and her husband Aaron. She also says she received excellent care at U of M and at the West Michigan Cancer Center in Kalamazoo, where she has follow-up appointments. "I was really inspired by my nurses, and due to everything I've been through, I knew I wanted to work with cancer patients," she said. "You can share your story and also share your faith, which in turn gives patients hope and something to hold on to during hard times."



ALYSSA
MOSHOGINIS
and her
husband Aaron

Because she's so grateful to have restored health and a new career on the horizon, Moshoginis has established a Kalamazoo Valley scholarship to benefit nursing students. "I really wanted to give back and the best way to do that is to help give people an education," she said. "I've been very blessed financially and I feel grateful every day to be here and to be able to share my story. I hope my scholarship inspires other students to do the same upon their graduation, given the opportunities we presented to them after receiving an education from Kalamazoo Valley."

"I REALLY WANTED
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ALYSSA MOSHOGINIS
Sanford Family Nursing
Scholarship Donor

DONOR PROFILE

NovaSTAR SCHOLARSHIP

FORMER KALAMAZOO Valley Community College students, Steve and Nancee Hofmeister, established the NovaSTAR Scholarship in 2015 to assist non-traditional students with full tuition.

Steve graduated from high school in 1975. After many attempts at higher education, he received his bachelor's degree in 2000 with nearly 200 credit hours in multiple majors from various schools. He calls it the "25-year degree program." During those 25 years, Steve worked mostly in sales. After earning his degree and teaching certificate, Steve taught for 11 years at Parchment School District.

Nancee attended Kalamazoo Valley from 1988-1992, taking prerequisite classes in preparation for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Since graduating from the Bronson School of Nursing in 1982, she has worked as a Registered Nurse and held many positions over the course of her career and is now a part-time case management nurse and clinical instructor for the Bronson School of Nursing.

Steve and Nancee believe so strongly in the power of higher education and appreciate the tremendous value community colleges offer, that they encourage others who have benefited from similar experiences, or



**NANCEE & STEVE
HOFMEISTER**
NovaSTAR Scholarship
Donors

succeeded financially in their own endeavors, to consider funding a scholarship of their own. "The satisfaction we receive by helping others is abundantly gratifying," Steve said. "Partnering financially with someone who might otherwise not be able to achieve their dreams and full potential is undeniably a gift worth giving."

"AN EDUCATION IS SOMETHING THAT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY, AND KNOWLEDGE IS EMPOWERING IF UTILIZED."

STEVE HOFMEISTER
NovaSTAR Scholarship
Donor

"Having benefited from the generosity of others and believing community colleges provide the most educational bang for the buck, we pledged an annual gift to the KVCC Foundation that would be the most meaningful and impactful. An education is something that can never be taken away, and knowledge is empowering if utilized," Steve said. "College, especially a four-year college, isn't necessarily for everyone, but the community college experience is relatively attainable for most."

“I USE MYSELF AS AN EXAMPLE
AND TELL PEOPLE THAT IF YOU PUT
YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU CAN DO IT.”

LESHIEKA WILLIAMS

Valley Cares Fund Recipient



“IF IT WASN'T
FOR MY COLLEGE
COUNSELORS,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN AS
SUCCESSFUL AS I
AM TODAY.”

PHI DUONG

Valley Cares
Fund Recipient

YOUR INVESTMENT GOES FURTHER HERE
 AN INVESTMENT IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT
 PAYS LONG LASTING DIVIDENDS



\$118.00

Kalamazoo Valley in-district tuition
 (per contact hour)



TUITION



FEES



BOOKS



TOTAL

1 Semester
 12 Contact Hours

\$1,416

\$156

\$720

\$2,292

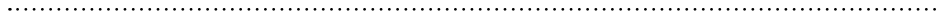
2 Semesters
 24 Contact Hours

\$2,832

\$312

\$1,440

\$4,584



For **\$354** you can invest in one student's
 three-contact hour class!

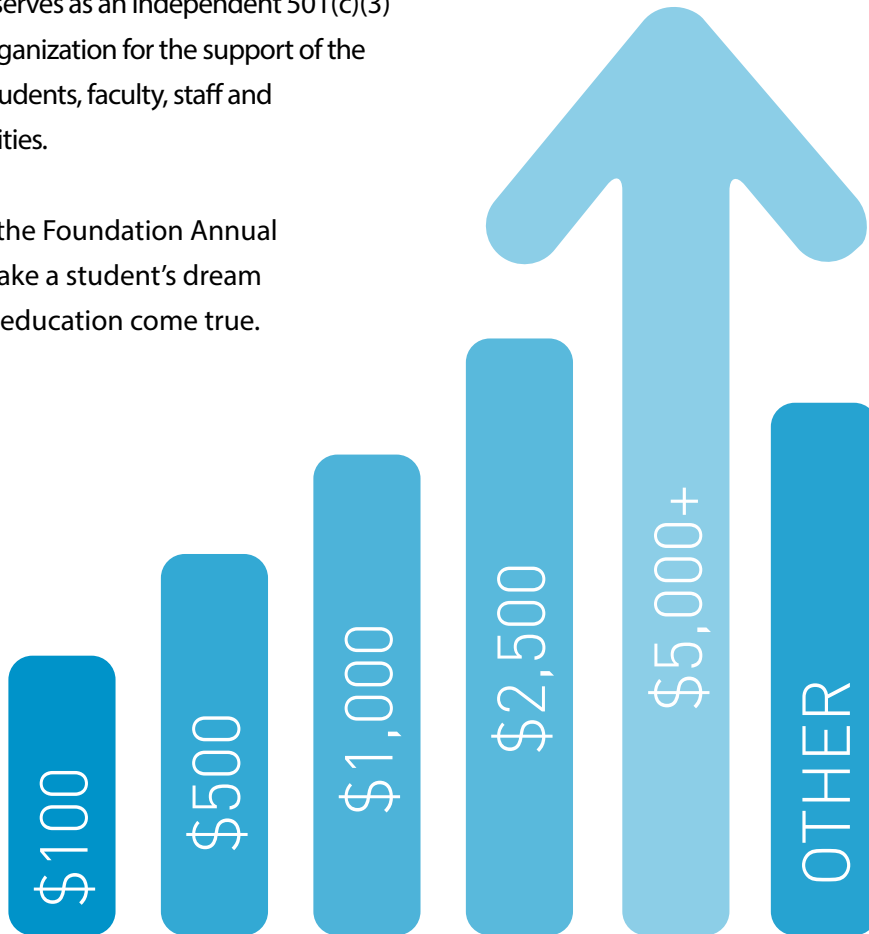
For **\$2,292** you can invest in one semester
 for a student!

For **\$4,584** you can invest in a student
 for one year!

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation serves as an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization for the support of the college, its students, faculty, staff and affiliated entities.

Your gift to the Foundation Annual Fund can make a student's dream of a college education come true.



Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation.

269.488.4821 | kvcc.edu/foundation

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
FOUNDATION 

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