Foundation awards scholarships for 2019-2020 academic year

The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded a record 233 scholarships to incoming, current and graduating students for the 2019-2020 academic year, totaling nearly $250,000.

The college community recognized the awardees, along with the donors whose generosity makes those scholarships possible, at a May 9 reception in the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation.

Longmeadow resident and alumni donor Gregory S. Schneider, a member of the Class of 1990 who is co-founder and chairman of 3BL Media in Northampton, and scholarship recipient and graduating art major Catherine Carija, of Deerfield, were the keynote speakers.

"I had been out of school for 34 years," said Carija. "Lucky for me I found my way to HCC. I was greeted so warmly by faculty and staff, and without the generosity of donors and HCC Foundation scholarships - all that belief in me - I wouldn't be graduating now and going on to Mount Holyoke College."

The annual "Scholarship Meet & Greet" provides an opportunity for students to interact with the donors responsible for their awards.

Over the years, the HCC Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of the college, has provided nearly $2.8 million in student scholarships while also investing in classroom equipment and technology for select academic and student support programs.

"The community is so invested in the foundation and in the college. It's quite impressive," said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of institutional advancement. "People are passionate about our mission and the work that we do, and that translates into life-changing financial support."

This year's scholarship recipients, by hometown, include:

Agawam: Aviella Abramchuk, Sumeyra Baskoy, Christine Briggs, Brianna Couture, Amber Gray, Brandon Moore, Monica Peterson, Laura Tuckell and Savannah Vezina;

Huntington: Alexandra Clark, Bryanna Fellows and Meaghan Therrien;

Westfield: Cara Judycki;

Southwick: Rachel Diamond, Joseph Impoco and Niko Stathis;

Support:

Sbriscia, Maurice Ojwang, Molly-anne Ryder, Diana Savitskaya and Christiane Sheldon; and