

CONGRATULATIONS

'The Greatest Gift I Have Ever Received'**HCC Foundation awards \$210K in scholarships**

HOLYOKE, MA – After Doris M. Kemble died in 1990 from cancer, her mother, Abbe, established a scholarship in her memory through the Holyoke Community College Foundation. Kemble had been a beloved member of the HCC nursing faculty, and her mother wanted to make sure her daughter's legacy continued.



Alexandra Clark

It does.

Since 1998, more than 60 HCC students have been awarded the Doris M. Kemble Nursing Scholarship. This year, one of three annual recipients is Versaviya Okhrimenko of Westfield.

"The scholarship means I can go another year at HCC and focus more on my studying and nursing skills rather than worrying about my financial status," said Okhrimenko. "It means I can finish my nursing degree and reach my dream. It is honestly the greatest gift I have ever received."

This spring, the HCC Foundation awarded nearly \$210,000 in scholarships to 200 incoming, current and transferring HCC students and will set a record for the number of scholarships it distributes for

the 2020-2021 academic year, 233.

Because of COVID-19, students need the money more this year than ever, says Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional and executive director of the HCC Foundation. The number of applications for scholarships this year increased 22 percent, from 391 to 479.

"HCC students are always remarkable, but they have demonstrated incredible resilience this semester," Sbriscia said. "Many are working, but some have lost their jobs. Still, they are raising children, planning to transfer to four-year schools, changing careers, and blazing a path that for some no one in their family has taken before. When so much of our students' world was unknown as a result of a global pandemic, it was important to ensure they could still count on the HCC Foundation for scholarship opportunities that would inspire them to continue working toward their educational goals."

Over the years, the HCC Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of the college, has provided more than \$3 million in student scholarships while also investing in classroom equipment and technology for select academic and student support programs.

Typically, the Foundation hosts a scholarship reception in May where scholarship recipients can interact with the donors responsible for their awards. But this year, of course, the reception was cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Instead, students were invited to record personal videos that were sent directly to donors.

"Thinking that someone is trusting me and investing in my career – thank you so much for that," Okhrimenko said in her video. "Through this award, you're helping a plain girl like me to become a nurse and save lives."

Below is a list of HCC Foundation scholarship recipients for 2020-2021:

Agawam: *Christine Briggs, Mary Diaz, Danielle Eickelberg, Taylor Provost, Fereshteh Yousefi, Alina Yovenko.*

Amherst: *Fathima Amaniyah, Marley Friedrich, Tyler Page, Margaret Schwartz, Xinhong Wu.*

Attleboro: *Shawn Viveiros.*

Belchertown: *Kathreen Collado, Katrina Griffin, Garret Hussey, Terice Kelly, Jonathan Mahaney, Laura Marks, Shelbi Moore, Joshua Morrison, Samantha Teschke.*

Bondsville: *Annalee Clough.*

Brookfield: *Johanna Bosen.*

Chicopee: *Lauren Bailey, Alexandria Bombardier, Cynthia Burgos, Evelyn Cruz, Joni George, Melissa Jenkins, Sumeyye Kirca, Tugce Kuruca, Felicia LaPointe, Nakkita MacDonald, Jordan Maroon, Sabrina McCullough, Jennifer Perez, Michael Polanco, Adam Randolph, Jacob Raymond, Brandon Ricardo, Annalisa Rizzo, Christopher Royster, Natalie St. George.*

Easthampton: *Noelle Fournier, Maya Grindrod, Sylvan Knight, Isabel Navarro, Melissa Rodriguez, Tai Schutz.*

Enfield, Conn.: *Jenelly Baez.*

Feeding Hills: *Ashley Ugolini.*

Florence: *Brent Blazej, Enette Claxton-Toliver.*

Granby: *Andrew Brunelle, Tianna Dwinell, Pegah Motazed, Hannah Sudsbury.*

Hadley: *Andrew Gnatek, Kimberly Russell.*

Hampden: *Brittany Brideau.*

Hatfield: *Leah Wilson.*

Haydenville: *Alexandra Pinschmidt.*

Holyoke: *Annamarie Arduino, Leonie Barkakati, Santyane Chen, Jolene Christmas-Chase, Sharon Copes, Chamile Cruz, Nicole deJong, Erik Duni, Zachary Erwin-Stevens, Cate Boram Ha, Michael Kane, Emma Kane, Ellie Langlois, Jeannette Gia Mendez, Miren Neyra Alcántara, Diamar Oliveras, Sage Pasquale, Caitlyn Paul, Erick Rivera-Gonzalez, Naiomi Robles, Adelaida Rodriguez, Juan Rodriguez, Adelaida Rodriguez, Monica Rosa, Haley Saltares, Samacha Sam Marvin Santiago, Emma Schlegel, Bethany Serrano, Gladys Suero, Edgardo Torres, Deyanira Trujillo, Nathan Wyrtrwal.*

Huntington: *Alexandra Clark.*

Indian Orchard: *Danielle Bailey.*

Leeds: *Vanessa Oquendo.*

Ludlow: *Jade Blake, Audrey Pilon, Krystal White.*

Monson: *Dawn Rogers.*

Northampton: *Alia Alabsi, Todd Cummings, Maxwell Faytell, Elisabeth Laudone, Avery Rae Maltz, Aundrea Marschoun, Kya Stillson.*

Palmer: *Jenna Baruffaldi.*

Russell: *Kaitlyn Conway, Jordan Cooper, Lynn Mann, Jodie Paradis.*

South Hadley: *Mark Brown, Daniel Conway, Haley Dusseault, Maxim Ferdman-Hayden, Annalese Guerin, Rachel Irzyk, Matthew Lajoie, Matthew McLennan, Corinne Moskal, Zoe Moynihan, Sarah Poirier.*

Southampton: *Ashley Dalessio, Shelley Mather, Suzanne Surgen.*

Southwick: *Rachel Diamond.*

Springfield: *Safiyah Bey, Kyra Brown, Samantha Calvao, Heidi Cheng, Kayla Colby, Melanie Correa, Alison Coulombe, Yannelis Cruz, Daniel Cumba, Aniely Figueroa, Tyla Gervais, Joelle Gilliam, David Gonzalez, Jacqueline Johnson, Jessica Krolicki, Nanelle Le, Nelson Luciano, Alexis Martinez, Gabriella Miranda, Nusaiba Mohammed, Lindsey Place, Joseph Ramos, Nachaly Reyes Santos, Jennyliz Solis, Zadia Valenze, Alexandra Wallace, Coriann Willingham, Vanessa Wilson.*

Thorndike: *Jennifer Mason.*

Three Rivers: *Salina Aguilar, Samuel Farinloye.*

Ware: *Morgan Orszulak, Natasha Sawabi, Margaret Sullivan.*

West Springfield: *Lisette Antonmarchi, Chelsea Bergeron, Michael Bonafilia, Christian Castillo, Banen Mustafa, Maurice Ramogi, Mollyann Ryder, Melina Tzambazakis, Kristen Tzambazakis.*

Westfield: *Kara Adamites, Tania Alvalle, Nicole Argiro, Grace Cannady, Caleb Curd, Iesha Davila, Maksim Gelmudinov, Michael Gottardi, Zipporah Irari, Jaime Mason, Versaviya Okhrimenko, Kiley Pellegrini, Svetlana Shalygo, Dana Shambo, Olivia White.*

Westhampton: *Jessica LaFortune, Isabella Sacharczyk.*

Wilbraham: *Elizabeth Busker, Veronica Machuca, Piper Smythe, Destiny Watkins.*

Worthington: *Ann McGinley.*