



Raritan Valley
Community College Foundation
Report to the Community
2015-2016

MAKING CONNECTIONS

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Dear Friends:

The Raritan Valley Community College Foundation is all about connections.

First we connect to you - - our individual donors, local businesses and corporations, and area foundations - - and listen closely to what matters to you. Then we connect you to our students and faculty, who, in turn, inspire you to help them do their best work.

Your support of academic programs, technology, and capital projects ensures that RVCC flourishes as a vibrant and dynamic center for learning that promotes intellectual curiosity and critical thinking.

Your generous support for scholarships strengthens our unwavering commitment that all members of our community deserve access to a quality college education, regardless of their socio-economic status, heritage, or previous academic experience.

When you make an investment in the lives of RVCC students, you are also investing in our collective future.

The great American author Herman Melville, once wrote:

*"We cannot live only for ourselves.
A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men;
and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads,
our actions run as causes, and they come back
to us as effects."*

The RVCC Foundation's **2015-2016 Report to the Community** illustrates the many ways we are connected to our community - - connections that yield extraordinary outcomes. We are honored to acknowledge your generosity and kindness in the following pages.

Thank you!

Warmest regards,



Donna LoStocco
Chair
RVCC Foundation



CORPORATE SUPPORT

BELIEVING IN THE COMMUNITY

“Why does Sanofi support Galileo Scholarships? We believe in our community. Sanofi is located just around the corner from the college. It’s important for employees to know and understand that we support the community where they live and work. It’s important for us as good corporate citizens.

“We’re a pharmaceutical company....a healthcare company. We believe in STEM education. That’s critical to us. We need to train people to enter the fields that are so critical to improving the lives of patients, discovering new drugs, finding solutions to problems for health care that don’t exist. You are the ones who are going to discover how we improve the environment. You’re going to be the ones to discover the next big drug. You’re going to be the ones to find solutions to math problems that nobody else can solve.

“But it’s the thank you notes from RVCC students that remind me why Sanofi supports Galileo Scholarships; these notes make me understand why it’s important that we give. Here are just a few excerpts from the notes I have tonight.

“The first is my favorite: ‘As you may have been able to discern from my handwriting, I’m a math major. I will be transferring to Rutgers after graduation with honors from RVCC.’

“Here’s another: ‘A few years ago I ran into a serious issue with depression, and I had to drop out of school. After struggling with myself, I was able to regain my confidence and return to school. I’ve been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA average and join Phi Beta Kappa. The scholarship means a tremendous amount to me because it symbolizes that I am now back on track.’

“So for me, our support is important because of the impact that we have on individuals. These letters are powerful reasons. Each one is more compelling than the next. I salute you students and thank you for providing me with the opportunity to be enriched by your stories. I walk away feeling great satisfaction to be a part of this.”



John Spinnato, Vice President, Sanofi North America Corporate Social Responsibility, shared remarks at the RVCC Foundation’s Scholarship Reception on April 12, 2016.



"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and weavings of individual threads, from one to another, that creates something special."

Justice Sandra O'Connor

RVCC students Sebastian Galvez and Melanie Martin shared their stories at the RVCC Foundation's Scholarship Reception on April 12, 2016. Excerpts follow.

My family and I were born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States when I was just four years old. We joined my extended family, and all eight of us crammed into a single apartment with two rooms. My dad had to work 80 hours - plus a week for us to have all we needed. My mom's day would start at 4:30 in the morning and didn't end until 9:00 or 10:00 at night.

"My parents always wanted me to have the very best education, so I could make a good life for myself. And that is why I worked three jobs, close to 70-hours a week, for months, to raise money to pay for college.

"That is also why I stay up late at night to perfect my class papers. That is why I have such a passion to help the world. To bring help to those that need it. To fight for those that are powerless. To give back to those that have so little.

"Thanks to scholarship support from the United Way of Northern New Jersey, I stopped having to work 70-hours a week. I don't have to wake up a 5:30 AM and get home at 10:00 PM to do homework. I can focus all of my efforts on school. I can focus on what it will take to create my own business and to become the best man I can be, in hopes of one day helping as many people as I can.

"It took a lot of people to get me here, and I could have never done it without them. So I encourage you all, to give when you can. To help when you can. To love when you can. **Because you never know how far a single act of kindness can go or how greatly it may affect someone's life. It may be as small as making it possible for someone to eat tonight or as large as helping someone earn a college degree.**"

Sebastian Galvez

Business Administration Major

Part-time employee at QuickChek; Intern at Johnson & Johnson



SCHOLARSHIPS

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES

The United Way Women's Leadership Council provides ALICE Scholarships to support students from ALICE families who deserve a chance to reach their full potential. A United Way acronym, ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) represents the one-in-four New Jersey households that earn above the poverty level but not enough to afford the basics. United Way research shows that more than 27,000 households or 24 percent of Somerset County households are ALICE.

Melanie Martin '16

Associates Degree in Science – RN



"I dropped out of high school when I was a junior in high school and later earned my GED. Soon after that, I enrolled at RVCC. I was accepted into the nursing program, but the timing wasn't right. I didn't have the confidence to pursue this rigorous course of study. It would take a few more years before I made my way back to Raritan Valley.

"With financial aid from an Ethicon Nursing Scholarship and the Phebe and John Falcone Scholarship, I was able to pay for my tuition and educational expenses for the clinical nursing program. The College not only provided financial support, but it also gave me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and overcome my social awkwardness. The most rewarding experiences have been my involvement as the President of the Biology-Chemistry Club and as the VP of Information and Media for the Student Government Association. These positions enabled me to grow both socially and professionally and gain more confidence.

"I plan to continue my education, complete my BSN, and pursue my dream of becoming a certified nurse midwife, ultimately earning my doctorate in nursing practice. I will always be grateful to RVCC. **RV is a place where anybody, regardless of their background, can come to improve themselves and find a new path through education and community involvement. For me and for many others, Raritan Valley has given us a second chance.**"

"Thank you so much for sending me the recording of Melanie's speech. I never felt so good. I can't believe a \$1000 can do so much good."

John Falcone, Donor

TRANSFORMING LIVES

BELIEVING IN OUR STUDENTS

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”

Maya Angelou



Jim and Jill Gibson honored at RVCC.

On August 30, 2016, the RVCC Foundation honored community leaders Jim and Jill Gibson for their leadership gift of \$500,000 in support of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs. RVCC President Michael J. McDonough acknowledged the Gibson’s extraordinary generosity and remarkable investment in RVCC’S inspiring students.

“We are a *community* college,” President McDonough said, “and I am so very honored to note that you are a vital part of our community – not just because of the scale and impact of your gift, but because of your belief in our students, your certainty that this College transforms lives.”

The gift will support three pillars of teaching and learning:

- Ⓡ Early intervention programs that will provide pathways for nontraditional and under-represented students to meet the rigors of science, technology, engineering, and math programs at the College and achieve academic success.
- Ⓡ Undergraduate research and in-the-field projects that will enhance student research and deepen learning through innovative pedagogy.
- Ⓡ New academic programs in engineering and advanced manufacturing technology and in environmental sustainability that will lead to sustainable earning opportunities for RVCC students.

INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP

LEADING TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



“I have been a faculty member at RVCC for well over a decade, and one of the things I love most about being a part of this college is being surrounded by people who share a fundamental belief that access to a high quality education is crucial to the health and vitality of a community. I am particularly proud to be a part of this Science and Engineering Department, where my colleagues are constantly reimagining and redefining what it means to get a high quality STEM education.

“Our Environmental Science faculty are exploring the possibility of creating a Water Quality Testing Lab in the Science Center that will enable future students to provide a valuable resource to local residents and environmental organizations. These students are learning how to be scientists and engineers by BEING scientists and engineers. It’s this kind of innovation that will help to ensure that RVCC remains a leader in both environmental stewardship and academic excellence.”

”And, thanks in large part, to donations like the Gibsons’ generous gift, our students are not just sitting in our beautiful new classrooms listening to us talk about science. They are in the labs doing independent research projects. They are working in teams to solve problems and design new products. They are doing field work in our local forests.



*Professor Sarah Imbriglio
Chair, Science and
Engineering Department*

FOUNDATION EVENTS CONNECT OUR COMMUNITY

WINE, GOLF AND OUTREACH

RVCC President McDonough delivers remarks at wine-tasting event.



The RVCC Foundation hosted *An Evening of Elegance for Education* wine-tasting fundraiser on March 10, 2016 at The Ryland Inn in Whitehouse Station, where more than 200 guests tasted 70 hand-selected wines from regions around the world. Special guest George M. Taber, the only American journalist to cover the famous Paris Wine Tasting of 1976, gave a talk and signed copies of his book, *Judgment of Paris*. Sponsors included Roman Jewelers, Affinity Federal Credit Union, The Bernstein Rosen Group at Morgan Stanley, Betsy and Steve Knapp of Martinsville, ConnectOne Bank, The Michelle Klug Team, Santander Bank, and Washington Wine Cellars.

The RVCC Foundation raised over \$159,000 at its 12th Annual Golf Classic, held July 13, 2015 at the Stanton Ridge Golf and Country Club in Whitehouse Station. The Foundation then topped that amount at its 13th Annual Golf Classic, held July 11, 2016 at the Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater, raising \$166,000. Net proceeds raised from both golf outings and the live and silent auctions support scholarships, science and technology programs, the College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, enrichment grants for students, professional development grants for faculty, and capital projects to enhance the learning experience of thousands of students. In 2015, Provident Bank provided major funding as the Title Sponsor, and in 2016, Pave-Rite, Inc. was the Title Sponsor.

Bagpiper Sean Dalgauer calls golfers to play.

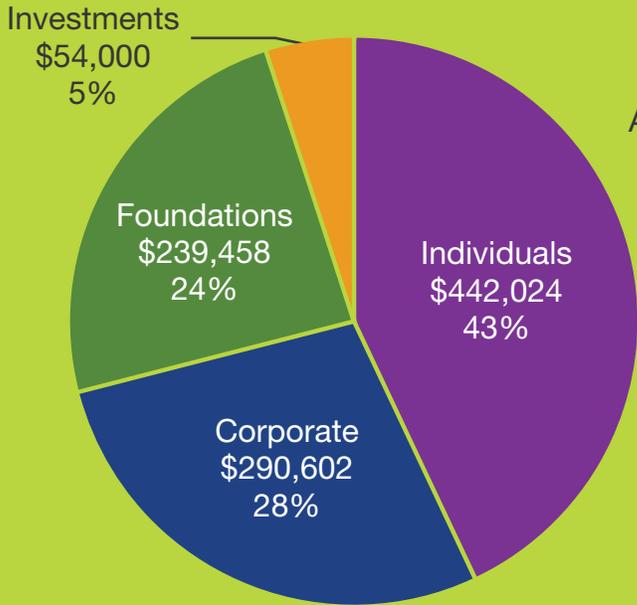


Bound Brook High School students participating in Primed for College Success.

With a generous grant from the TD Charitable Foundation, RVCC continued its partnership with Bound Brook and North Plainfield High Schools to implement its highly effective college-readiness program Primed for College Success. This early prevention initiative helps juniors and seniors in the two high schools overcome academic, economic, and social barriers that may preclude them from higher education, and prepares them for college-level work and completion. Initially launched in 2012, the Primed for College Success program has achieved significant success, enhancing students' math readiness skills and increasing their confidence in their mathematics abilities. A number of the students have been so successful, they have enrolled in advanced math classes and have earned transferable college credits in mathematics.

UPHOLDING SOUND STEWARDSHIP

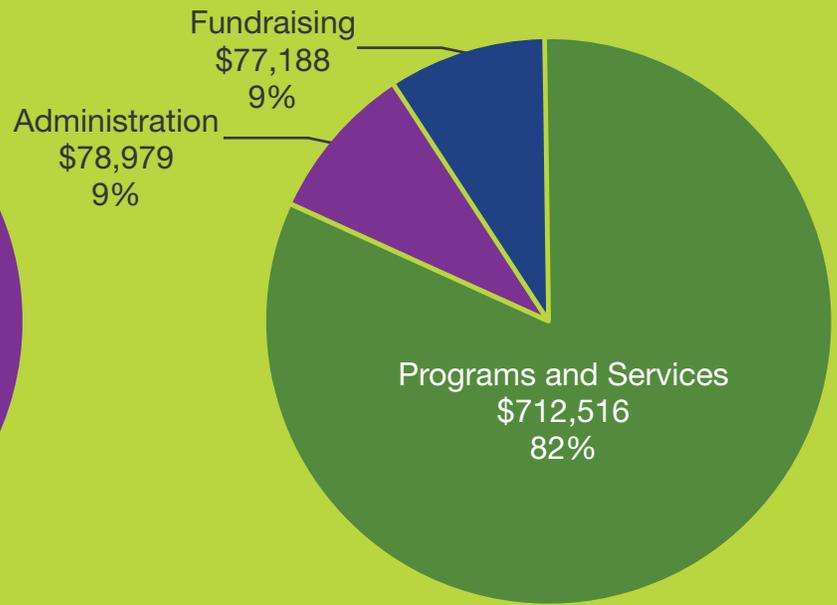
FY 2016 Revenue: \$1,026,084



Investments Individuals Corporate Foundations

NOTE: These are unaudited figures. The total revenue presented here recognizes the first \$100,000 installment of the Gibson's five-year pledge of \$500,000. It also includes donations to the capital campaign that remain in the Foundation's account and are transferred to the College as needed.

FY 2016 Expenses: \$868,683



Fundraising Administration Programs & Services

NOTE: In FY '16, the College covered the salaries and benefits of two Foundation employees, and the RVCC Foundation covered the salary and benefits for the third employee.

Expenses for programs and services, totaling \$712,516, represent transfers made to the College for scholarships, the Honors College, the Theatre at RVCC, the Planetarium, enrichment grants to faculty and students, and a multitude of other programs, as well as payments due for the Ray Bateman Center for Student Life and Leadership.



Officers from RVCC Student Government visit Washington, D.C.



Members of RVCC's women's soccer team on the field.

"Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship."

Brené Brown, Ph.D.

In 2015-2016, more than 750 individual donors, foundations, corporate partners, and local businesses contributed \$972,084 to the RVCC Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge our loyal donors, who made the following gifts to the Annual Giving Campaign, and the Ray Bateman Center for Student Life and Leadership Capital Campaign from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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From top to bottom: Donor Dr. Richard Wellbrock and Melanye Nunez '16; RVCC student Maria Gomez and donor Betsy Knapp; RVCC Foundation Board members.

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The late Senator Ray Bateman always enjoyed his time with RVCC students.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

THE CIRCLE OF CONNECTIONS

Dear Friends:

I have always been inspired by the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In one essay, Emerson imagines the unlimited influence of the individual: *"The life of man is a self-evolving circle, which from a ring imperceptibly small, rushes on all sides outwards to new and larger circles, and that without end."*

Surely, this generous and optimistic metaphor best describes the uniquely transformative power of Raritan Valley Community College.

Our College – always a beacon of access and opportunity - creates circle upon circle of connection.

We connect students and their families to affordable excellence; our students embark on career and transfer pathways that will transform their lives. More circles without end.

We connect our communities and our residents to the richness of our campus. Third graders are inspired by the sublime wonders of our cosmos in the Planetarium. High school students are challenged to own their futures. And people of all ages are entertained by the magic of our theater.

Our inclusive campus connects elected officials, employers, and community leaders – all united in their efforts to strengthen our communities.

And we connect passionate, generous donors to deserving, grateful students.

Together, we create ripples without end - circles that multiply, that bind us together in the promise of an ever-expansive American Dream.

These connections shape our mission and drive our values of access, equity, and excellence. As Emerson so eloquently insists, it is *"without end."*

Cheers,



Michael J. McDonough
President
Raritan Valley Community College



RVCC President McDonough visits with RVCC students.



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