

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION



I AM GRATEFUL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This past year we've all experienced higher costs for gas, groceries, dining-out and much more, yet there is something that is costing less – a community college education.

Thanks to two recent scholarship programs, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Michigan Reconnect program, students and their families are finding community colleges more affordable than ever.

Each of these programs can help lower college tuition costs by thousands of dollars per year. High school graduates from Michigan can receive up to \$5,500 starting in Fall 2023 from the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. And Michigan residents who are at least 21 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and have not yet earned an associate or bachelor's degree, are given free scholarships through the Michigan Reconnect program.

This is great news for College Foundations as well. It means our funds can stretch even further to help more students. It also means we can help with other needs like books, independent certification testing fees and required class equipment as well as housing and transportation costs.

The ability of the Foundation to cover these kinds of costs helps to remove the barriers students experience on the path to higher education and, as a result, better career opportunities.

This is why we still need your help. The impact of your donations not only removes barriers beyond tuition cost, it also reduces the stress and worry students feel and allows them to focus on their studies for now. Someday, these will be the people paying it forward by donating to meaningful causes because they'll know how good it felt to have a hand-up when they really needed one.

Give to the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation and be that helping hand.

Phyllis J. Youga, President '86



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GRATITUDE IN ACTION:

How Donor Support Transforms Lives

They come from different communities and have varied interests and career goals, but they have in common their gratitude for Glen Oaks Community College Foundation scholarships and the quality education they are receiving at the school.



Gabriella Broderick - pursuing her Associate of Arts

Second-year student from Colon

"I wouldn't be attending Glen Oaks if it wasn't for the Freiburger-Keller Families Scholarship and all the other scholarships"

Broderick hopes to attend Adrian College for its film program. Her high school drama club piqued her interest, and she noted "I love movies and want to create my own." She appreciated that Glen Oaks was a school close to home, and said "everyone is so nice, inviting, sweet, and helpful."

Emma McMillan, pursuing graphic design toward tattoo artistry

First-year student from Schoolcraft

"I've been able to continue my education and focus more on my studies"

After looking at the cost of other schools, Emma chose Glen Oaks, and earned the Dr. George R Hoekzema Business Studies Scholarship. McMillan also earned a Dean's Scholarship and a TRIO Scholarship. Emma is grateful for the community at the school that is super flexible, and the kindness of their professors. A resident of the Devier Student Suites, McMillan loves how quiet it is and how much more easily they can get to their classes. Having roommates was a new experience McMillan enjoyed. "It's not for everyone, but it's a good place for me," Emma said.



Emilee Wisk - pursuing nursing

Second-year student from Constantine

"I would not have been able to attend Glen Oaks if I hadn't gotten scholarships and help paying for books."

She was awarded two scholarships from the Foundation, the Mary A. Hoffine Nursing Scholarship and Ernest R. Graham Memorial Scholarship. She used them to help pay for her tuition and fees. She used her Dean's Scholarship, TRIO Scholarship, and Michigan Nursing Professional Fund to buy textbooks and scrubs.

Emilee came to Glen Oaks via high school dual enrollment her sophomore through senior year, and likes her classes, especially the field experience her nursing professors have and the friendliness they've shown. After graduation, she plans to start working and get her bachelor's degree in nursing.



Jordan Bloom - pursuing nursing

First-year student from Reading

there has "not one thing negative about my Glen Oaks experience."

She received her bachelor's degree in psychology, but decided to pursue nursing instead of a master of social work. Her father's colleagues spoke highly of Glen Oaks; a visit with her mom to the college sealed the deal. Professor Karen Goodman explained about the lab, and was available to answer questions. Bloom received the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation Scholarship, which is helping her pay for books and out-of-pocket items as she continues down her desired path to become a psych nurse.



GRATITUDE IN ACTION:

How Donor Support Transforms Lives



Casandra Bercaw - pursuing nursing

Second-year student from Bronson

"The counselors are amazing, whether helping with stress management or helping with resources"

Bercaw grew up in the area and initially attended Glen Oaks years ago, eventually returning to pursue an associate of science in nursing. She received the Freiburger-Keller Families Scholarship. She appreciates the support she has gotten at Glen Oaks, particularly from the support staff. Her future plans are to continue on toward a bachelor of science in nursing, and ultimately work at a trauma center.

Kylie Sattler, pursuing nursing

First-year student from Coldwater.

"Receiving (a scholarship) has taken a financial burden off my shoulders"

Inspired by her mother's work with the domestic violence coalition in Branch County, she wants to become a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner). Sattler became familiar with the Glen Oaks campus while on a tour her junior year with the Branch Area Career Center, where she participated in the health professions program. She learned that Glen Oaks nursing students had a 100 percent pass rate on the licensing exam, and enjoyed the chance to converse with Sara Birch, the associate dean of health sciences. Her mother worked hard to support their family, but didn't have extra money to put toward her schooling, so Sattler was working at Walgreens "saving every penny toward school."

With her first year of nursing school paid for thanks to her Jaffee Nursing Scholarship and Richards Family Memorial Scholarship, she could redirect her money toward her rent, car expenses, and a future bachelor's degree. She has also found her classmates, professors, financial aid, and student services personnel so welcoming.



Carter Blakely - pursuing business

Second-year student from Sturgis

"At Glen Oaks there are people who believe in me, and that convinces me to believe in myself."

He is grateful for the many things he is learning at Glen Oaks, especially the practical financial knowledge he gains from his classes. He received the Ernest R. Graham Memorial Scholarship and qualified for the Michigan Reconnect Program. With this support, he has been able to pay for school and continue to support his family. He works for Meijer and plans to transfer to its corporate center by the time he gets to Grand Valley State University; he has applied for a finance internship during the summer of 2025.

Shortly after giving a speech at a Foundation donor event where he shared his goals, he saw President Bryan Newton at the college's booth at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. To his surprise, Newton shared with Carter that he had met with Meijer executives and notified them that he had a student interested in working at corporate.

"It's amazing to put in the work and show people what I can do," Blakely said.



SCHOLARSHIPS:

TOTAL \$ AWARDED \$84,731.83
TOTAL STUDENTS HELPED 67

BARRIER GRANTS:

TOTAL \$ AWARDED \$36,463.99
TOTAL STUDENTS HELPED 91

MOCK LEGACY

Matthew Mock had a laugh and wit that endeared him to family and friends, and a humanitarian nature that led him to care for others.

Though the 1993 Sturgis High School graduate passed away in 2022, his legacy continues thanks to the Mock Student Relief Fund, a memorial endowment set up through the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation by his parents Stephen and Jean Mock. “Their main goal was to do something in their son’s honor to help young kids get a good start,” said Kelly Bibb, the Mocks’ EdwardJones financial advisor.



The Mock Fund exists to assist Glen Oaks Community College students “not just with scholarships but with life things that happen,” Bibb explained. Students may apply through the Foundation to receive funding for expenses such as auto repair, books, daycare, or medical bills. There’s not a lot of restrictions,” she said. Applicants must have successfully completed at least one semester with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and demonstrate financial need.

Matthew Mock, who took two classes at Glen Oaks, furthered his education at the University of Oklahoma and University of Michigan Law School. At the time of his passing, he was practicing law in Chicago, Ill.

Bibb described Stephen and Jean Mock as very giving people and staunch supporters of Glen Oaks. Jean taught business and computer science courses periodically between 1992 and 2008. Stephen, who passed away in March 2024, farmed in the Klinger Lake area for many years. Jean, a meticulous bookkeeper, kept track of the farm records, the taxes, and the finances.

They are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, enjoyed walking at the Doyle Center, and traveling abroad on trips with the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce.

Any students needing assistance through the Mock Fund should reach out to their academic advisors to begin the process.

Members of the public interested in donating toward the Mock Student Relief Fund, or in setting up an endowment fund, contact Vonda Marrow at the Foundation, (269) 294-4384 or vmarrow668@glenoaks.edu.



Glen Oaks Foundation Receives \$20,000 Grant from American Electric Power Foundation to Support Student Opportunity



Thanks to the belief and support of our community, the Glen Oaks Foundation is proud to announce the receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the American Electric Power (AEP) Foundation. Awarded as part of the "A Great Idea Powered by AEP Foundation" initiative, this grant is dedicated to supporting students facing barriers to their education.

To maximize the impact of this generous gift, the Foundation will strategically use the funds over the next two years to encourage matching contributions from community members and sponsors. This matching gift initiative will amplify resources available to students, furthering the reach and effectiveness of the original grant.

Matching funds will support the Foundation's Barriers Fund, which has been developed over the past two years to directly address challenges students face in their pursuit of higher education. By leveraging community partnerships, this initiative will not only provide immediate assistance but also create a lasting support network for students in need.

The Glen Oaks Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to the AEP Foundation for its commitment to making a difference in students' lives. We also invite the community to join us in this effort—together, we can multiply the impact and create meaningful, lasting change.

For more information on how you can contribute to the matching gift program, please contact Vonda Marrow, Foundation Director, at (269) 294-4384 or vmarroww668@glenoaks.edu.

Did you know that the Glen Oaks Foundation:

- Has a monthly newsletter featuring "A Focus On You" story about an alum?
- Awards 2 Distinguished Alumni Awards annually recognizing our amazing alumni?
- Hosts Viking Alumni Drop-In events to encourage reconnecting?

Use this QR code to learn more.

Know anyone who attended or graduated from Glen Oaks who would be a great "Focus On You" feature story? Contact Mary Fair Dechow '73 at MaryDechow@gmail.com. She chairs our alumni committee and would like to learn more.



UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS \$37,661.12
RESTRICTED DONATIONS \$203,627.00
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OF DONORS 119
ALUMNI DONORS 31



Glen Oaks Community College Foundation
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