



**MERCER**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

*Moving You Forward >>>*

**OUR STORIES YOUR IMPACT**



THROUGH THE STUDENT SUCCESS  
STORIES PRESENTED HERE,  
MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION EXPRESSES ITS HEARTFELT THANKS  
AND ENDURING GRATITUDE TO THE HUNDREDS OF  
SCHOLARSHIP DONORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED  
DESERVING MERCER STUDENTS. GIFTS FROM THESE  
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS HAVE ENABLED  
MERCER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE WHAT OTHERWISE  
MIGHT BE THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM OF  
A COLLEGE EDUCATION.

## REGINA RITTER

### Majors

Illustration

Advertising + Graphic Design

### Recipient of

The Jim and Fannie Floyd  
Scholarship

*"As a visually impaired student, there are many obstacles to overcome, but the rewards outweigh the challenges. Going to college has given me a new sense of purpose. Without Foundation Scholarship support, my goal to go to college would have been prevented."*

After losing her vision in one eye due to an inoperable brain tumor, Regina decided to enroll at Mercer to learn new skills. Although returning to school as a non-traditional, visually impaired student presented unforeseen challenges, Regina is optimistic about her future.

Regina is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and her passion for creating handmade pattern designs and dimensional art inspires her to continue at a four-year college in pursuit of a freelance career in surface pattern design and printmaking.





*"Your scholarship will allow me to lead by example for my children and show them that it's never too late to accomplish a goal or a dream."*

Thaimi has been working towards her associate degree in Business Administration as a full-time student and working mom of two. She is one of many non-traditional students who had to temporarily put her college studies on hold out of necessity, rather than choice.

Thaimi is also a successful singer, songwriter and pianist, and hopes to use her degree to give back to the Trenton community by creating a music program for inner city youth.

Receiving Foundation scholarships has helped Thaimi get one step closer to completing her degree.

## **THAIMI CASTILLO**

**Major**  
Business Administration

**Recipient of**  
Robert Sydney Needham  
Scholarship

*Don Jones Memorial*  
*Scholarship*



## HANNESS COCCO

Major  
Business Administration

Recipient of  
*The Shelley M. Zeiger  
Entrepreneur's Scholarship*  
*Mercer County Freeholders  
Scholarship*



*"Your scholarship makes it possible  
for me to concentrate on my studies."*

Hanness grew up working at her mother's grocery store in Trenton, where she developed her work ethic and interest in business.

Now she is in her second year at Mercer, pursuing a Business Administration degree. She is an American Honors student and an active member of the Global Business Club, Student Government Association, and the International Student Organization. After graduating, Hanness plans to transfer to a four-year institution. Her goal is to open up a business in Trenton and give back by providing jobs to members of her community.

Receiving Foundation scholarships allowed Hanness to focus on her Mercer experience full-time, not only excelling in the classroom, but also fully immersing herself in extra-curricular activities.

*"Words cannot express my level of honor and gratitude to be receiving this award."*

Anthony was forced to put his education on hold to work full-time. He overcame stumbling blocks, yet struggled to find his calling. Today, Anthony is in his second year at Mercer, pursuing a degree in Photography and Digital Imaging. After graduating from MCCC, he intends to transfer to a four-year institution to obtain a bachelor's degree in Fine Art and Photography, and eventually a master's degree in Art Therapy.

While coaching competitive youth cheerleading, Anthony noticed the children he worked with were struggling with self-esteem, anxiety, and emotional conflict. Applying his artistic talents he would like to help them explore their feelings and reconcile emotional conflicts through creative outlets.

This Foundation scholarship has paid for tuition and supplies and has allowed Anthony to focus on completing his degree.

## **ANTHONY ROBINSON**

**Major**  
Photography  
and Digital Imaging

**Recipient of**  
*The Louis Draper Memorial  
Scholarship*



## RONALDO DESIDERIO

Major  
Architecture

Recipient of  
The David R. Fraytak  
Scholarship

The Jamil E. Faridy  
Architecture Scholarship

*"Awarding me this scholarship has lightened my financial burden and allows me to focus more on my studies. Thank you for your generous contribution to my education and for supporting Mercer County Community College."*

From a very young age, Ronaldo has been interested in architecture. Now, he is a full-time student pursuing a degree in Architecture.

In addition to being a high-achieving student, he is actively involved in his community. His goals are to further his education at a four-year institution, gain hands-on experience at internships and eventually become a licensed architect.

His financial challenges have taught him to utilize the opportunities presented and always pursue excellence.





*"I have a genuine desire to help people. While attending college I continue to serve the Trenton area community as a substitute teacher for local school districts."*

After falling on hard times, Mark decided to enroll at MCCC and better his situation. Enrolled full-time, working as an inner city substitute teacher part-time, and being actively involved in the Chess Club and International Student Organization, Mark is thriving. He has been invited to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Equipped with his associate degree in Electronics Engineering Technology, Mark will re-enter the workforce upon graduation. With a background in biology, his goal is to embark on a career in biomedical technology.

Mark's Foundation scholarships have allowed him to get a fresh start.

## MARK WILLIAMS

Major  
Electronics Engineering  
Technology

Recipient of  
The Jim and Fannie Floyd  
Scholarship

Tony Luce Endowed  
Scholarship



## JOHN MCCAUGHREAN

Major  
*Automotive Technology*

Recipient of  
*The PNC Bank Leadership  
Sponsored Scholarship*



*"Your generosity will assist in truly helping improve the lives of a combat veteran's family."*

John, an Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, struggled financially after returning from the Middle East. He and his family had difficulty finding a place to live, but John worked tirelessly to get them back on their feet and is now in the process of becoming a Master Tech in MCCC's Chrysler Automotive Program. He plans to transfer to Pennsylvania State University to obtain his master's degree in Business Management.

Because of the support and guidance John has received from MCCC's Veterans Services, he would like to give back by "helping other veterans find their way after serving in the military and nudge them across the line to graduation." He would also like to donate to various veterans charities that have assisted his family in their time of need.





[www.mccc.edu/foundation](http://www.mccc.edu/foundation)

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*For more information about making a gift to support student success please contact 609-570-3608 or [foundation@mccc.edu](mailto:foundation@mccc.edu)*

