

## Beyond the Classroom

A donor-supported grant unlocks unique opportunities for students

Sometimes, the most memorable educational moments happen outside of the classroom. SUNY Broome has recognized this with our long tradition of travel and learning courses. Over the years, students and their professors have explored the Florida Everglades, National Parks, London, and more.

Many of these courses have been supported by the generosity of donors to the SUNY Broome Foundation's Beyond the Classroom grant. This

funding also enables students to travel to conferences and competitions. Here are some examples of donor dollars unlocking once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for students.

### American Culinary Federation Competition

Justin Yap (CULI '22), a recent graduate, represented SUNY Broome in the American Culinary Federation (ACF) competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. This competition recognizes culinary arts students with passion, professionalism, and talent. Winners of regional areas compete for the National Winner championship at the convention.

Before the competition, Justin practiced with incredible dedication. His hard work paid off and he was awarded a silver medal for "Student Chef of the Year."

During the fierce competition, Yap was required to prepare an amuse bouche (a single bite appetizer), as well as an entrée that had to be made using a bone-in pork loin.

### Civil War Conference

On April 30, 2022, five individuals sat behind nameplates, glasses of water, a

**Collage of three photos: Justin in the SUNY Broome kitchen; Justin with his award and medal; Justin's amuse bouche.**





**(above) SUNY Broome students on the plane headed to the Civil War Conference (below) and standing together at the Syracuse Airport.**



**(left)**  
**Photo collage of Dr. Call and the SUNY Broome students at the conference and at the airport.**

single microphone, and a table clothed with SUNY Broome’s logo. The students faced an educated audience of scholars, historians, professors, and military history aficionados. As panelists at the Society for Military History (SMH) Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, they were about to give a presentation and Q&A based on their Fall 2021 Civil War course.

Dr. Steven Call (LA’ 78) was nervous. The SUNY Broome history professor had taught the students’ initial Civil War course. He’d watched them prepare, do a presentation dry-run in March, and guided them through airports and hotel check-ins. Now it was time for the “big show.” After the presentation, he admitted, “I needn’t have worried: they gave an excellent presentation.”

The students confidently displayed their knowledge, depth of research, and preparation as they bounced the lecture between teammates.

“I was exceptionally impressed watching their organizational skills, the teamwork they displayed throughout, and the camaraderie they generated within the group. Both the public presentation itself and the behind-the-scenes preparations reflect the greatest credit upon themselves and the college,” said Dr.

Call. He recounts, “hundreds of [conference attendees] were keen to talk to our students...Our group held up their end of the conversation with knowledge, insight, and most of all, confidence, and poise. I expected some to feel intimidated when talking with persons who they knew had much more education. Yet, even our “notoriously shy” member conversed like a seasoned scholar and an experienced interlocutor.”

As Dr. Call shepherded this opportunity, he searched for funding for the SMH conference trip. Ultimately, the Beyond the Classroom grant from the Foundation stepped in.

Looking back on the experience, Dr. Call remarks, “[Our students] highlighted the exceptionally effective academic excellence to be found here at SUNY Broome, as well as the inspiration they find here. I wish more of the public – nationally,

in New York, and in our local community – could see how valuable community colleges are and what they offer our students in terms of inspiration, broadening, and individual growth.”

**(below) SUNY Broome faculty-members, Dr. Kennie Leet and Professor Jason Smith, stand with two students with the Fagradalsfjall volcano erupting behind them.**



## Studying in Iceland

SUNY Broome faculty Dr. Kennie Leet and Professor Jason Smith were in Iceland with two independent study students when the Fagradalsfjall volcano began erupting after an 8-month hiatus.



**(above) SUNY Broome group toasting the eruption with the classic Icelandic candy bar, Hraun, which translates to lava.**



**(above) The Fagradalsfjall volcano eruption with a pyrocumulus cloud forming from the volcanic gas and steam.**

A fissure opened up in the Meradalir valley to the northeast of last year's eruption.

The group made the 4+ hour trek to the eruption under the guidance of the Icelandic Search and Rescue authorities to safely view the eruption. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these students and made possible with generous support from the SUNY Broome Foundation.

SUNY Broome plans to host a faculty-led travel program in Iceland in Summer 2023.

**(below) The Fagradalsfjall volcano.**



## 2022 Student Awards Recognition Reception

Recognizing excellence, donor generosity, and the most scholarships awarded in SUNY Broome Foundation history



After cancellation in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, the Student Awards Recognition Reception returned to life on May 10, 2022. Approximately 600 students, friends, family, scholarship donors, college faculty, and staff gathered for the reception. The traditional event celebrates the philanthropy of countless donors and the academic excellence of SUNY Broome students.

[View photos of the 2022 Student Awards Recognition Reception.](#)

Three hundred and twenty-three schol-

arships were awarded to students during this event — the most scholarships given to date. Scholarships can be worth hundreds or thousands of dollars, with a few covering the total cost of tuition.

The SUNY Broome Foundation, which raises money from those invested in SUNY Broome's mission, provides over \$1.5 million in student support each year. In total, the Foundation contributes approximately \$2 million annually to financially bolster students, assist

faculty development and programming, improve the campus experience, and otherwise support the college.

In a speech at the reception, Richard Allman, SUNY Broome Foundation President, noted that from the very beginning, “the Foundation’s main priority has been to raise private support from alumni, faculty, staff, and our community to ensure the success of our students.” Therefore, the scholarship reception, he added, is a marvelous blend of “recognizing the hard work of our students while also congratulating and thanking our gener-



**(above) SUNY Broome Foundation President Richard Allman speaks at the scholarship reception.**

ous donors, dedicated faculty and staff, and our student’s families and friends for their support.”

For many donors, funding a scholarship is a way to create a positive legacy for a loved one. A scholarship established in tribute to someone honors their name,

creates an opportunity for their story to be retold and assists a worthy student with higher education.

## A Brand-New Scholarship

One notable scholarship, given for the first time this year, is the Antonio & Domenica Dream Scholarship. Antonio and Domenica immigrated to the United States with a dream of a new life for themselves and their children. Despite having little formal education, the couple believed faith, hard work, and education would unlock their success. The scholarship, established by their family, is for international students who dream of a better future for themselves and work hard to achieve their goals.

Mary Macharia, a recipient of this scholarship and a nursing major, told her supporters that she plans to intern at a local community center after gradua-



**(above) Dr. Drumm stands with Mary Macharia and Francia Beriguete as they hold their Antonio & Domenica Dream Scholarship certificates.**

tion. After that, she has ambitious goals back in her home country of Kenya. Mary says she wants to “be a voice for the women and girls facing female genital mutilation. My nursing degree is a tool needed to equip me with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to teach my community to abolish this act and offer counsel to the affected individuals. I want to focus on being an effective advocate and empower women to stand and fight for their rights and to abandon FGM.” She thanked her donors, adding, “Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope, one day, I will be able to fulfill my dream of helping vulnerable women, children, and students achieve their goals... just as you have helped me.”

Francia Beriguete, the other Antonio & Domenica Dream Scholarship recipient, is also a future nurse. She said, “this scholarship is going to allow me to focus more on my schoolwork because [the scholarship’s donors] have reduced my financial burden. [This] generous and thoughtful gift will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming an RN.”

### **SUNY Broome student launches her career in the Air Force**

Another noteworthy scholarship recipient is Dani Bryan. The engineering science major graduated just this spring.

“I have a passion for military service,” Dani remarked, “but also for encouraging more women to enter the field of engineering and the military.” Dani combines these loves with her passion for aerospace and airplanes. She said, “I grew up going to airshows with my family. We also frequented air and space museums across the country, and I have always enjoyed them. I am fascinated by the technological leap in aircraft through World War I and World War II.”

Dani received two scholarships from SUNY Broome, the BCC Foundation Scholarship for Excellence in Math and the Francis and Lillian Paul Transfer Scholarship. Yet, another significant and unexpected award also arrived at the scholarship reception. Mrs. Goodwin, a surprise visitor to campus, honored Dani with acceptance into the United States Air Force Academy.

She was one of 900 applicants for a position in the Air Force Academy. Dani had been nominated for both the Navy and Air Force academies. Yet, with her love for aircraft, Dani’s choice was easy.

Dani points out that SUNY Broome helped her find this path. Because of her scholarships, she’ll start at the academy with fewer loans and be able to pay for textbooks, technology, and uniforms.

She adds, “getting rewarded for my academic achievements also gives me another level of confidence in my ability to succeed.”

“The leadership experiences and education I received at SUNY Broome helped bolster my resume. As a result, I was offered an appointment to the Air Force Academy for the Class of 2026,” Dani said. She added, “My goal is to serve as an officer in the Air Force for at least the required five years after the academy.”

**Stories of Scholarship Winners**

Every scholarship recipient has a story of perseverance and dreams to share. Here are just a few of them.

Errica Samuels, a single mom with an 8-year-old son, was awarded the Bacca-laureate Scholarship. With a heart for wayward kids and adolescents in foster care, Errica hopes to have her own practice to help them one day. “I am so humbled and thankful to you all for this amazing chance to earn a scholarship! It is the first time for me [to win a scholarship], and I am so proud of myself for how far I have come in regard to my education,” she says.

Claudia Chermak received the Jack Sherman Toyota Presidential Scholarship. Claudia is an aspiring healthcare



**(above) Samuel Ward receives one of his scholarship certificates.**

professional, working on two degrees at SUNY Broome, and is considering medical school. She is also the captain of the college’s inaugural women’s track and field team. Claudia told her donors, “With this extra financial assistance, I feel better prepared to explore my options and pursue ambitious educational and career goals. Winning this scholarship also affirms that I am on the right track academically, which boosts my self-confidence.”

Samuel Ward says that, as a non-traditional student, “trying to knock the



dust off my brain has been challenging, but also invigoratingly fun!” He plans to jump into a career as a computer technician after he graduates. He says, “My deepest gratitude to the donors for their assistance in allowing me to achieve a second wind in life.” Samuel was honored with the Dr. Leopold Eckler Award for Excellence in Computer Studies and the Bruce R. Schermerhorn

Veterans Appreciation Scholarship.

The college is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our Hornets.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship, contact the [SUNY Broome Foundation](#). If you are a student looking for scholarship information, visit the [scholarship website](#).

## SUNY Broome recognizes a record-breaking 19 students as Presidential Honors Scholars



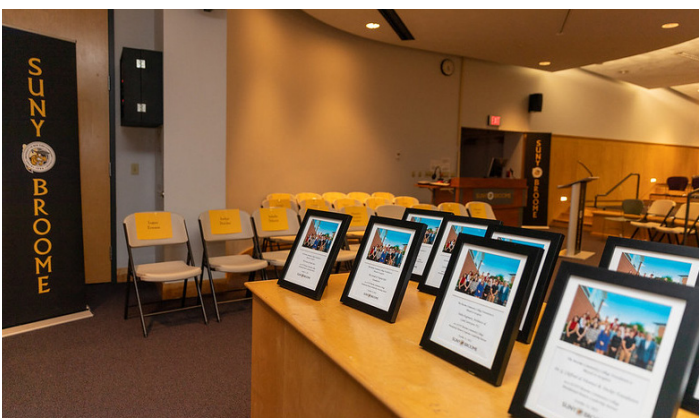
Every October, a select group of parents and students move into the Klee Center of the Decker Building and split up. Parents enter the tiered rows of chairs to sit in the audience. Students head to the front of the room to find their names taped to chairs that faces the crowd of family and donors, and nervously wait for the Presidential Honors Scholarship (PHS) Reception to begin. One reason

this year's event, held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, was remarkable was the number of waiting chairs for the PHS students.

[View the 2022 PHS Reception Photos.](#)

"I had to figure out how to make the space work with as many chairs as were needed. We've never had so many PHS students before," remarked scholarship coordinator, Foundation Executive Assistant Amy Englehart.

Sydney Velez Mattiace, a Maine-Endwell High School graduate, told her donors, "This scholarship is extremely important to me because it will greatly help me to achieve the goals that I have worked so long and hard for. I value knowledge



and have known from a young age that college was the path for me.” She hopes to become an environmental engineer one day. “I believe this field will bring me happiness and also allow me to add value to the modern world by bettering the physical world we live in.”



**(above) Sydney Velez Mattiace receiving her certificate from Dr. Drumm.**

Zoe Gifford Deposit High School graduate Zoe Gifford said, “Not only do I feel absolutely blessed not to have the financial burden of paying for all of my college tuition, but I am extremely proud. I cannot wait to become a registered nurse and serve the community that I love so much. My mother and grandmother are both alumni of the SUNY Broome Nursing



**(above) Zoe Gifford and Dr. Drumm**

program. I am so excited to be entering the same program!”

SUNY Broome chose nineteen PHS students from approximately forty-five applicants from Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Tioga county high schools. These Hornets were selected because of their hard work and leadership, evidenced by their position in the top 10 percent of their graduating class and their extracurricular activities. Along with the prestigious title of Presidential Honors Scholar, SUNY Broome awarded students a certificate and, more importantly, a full-tuition scholarship for their two years at the College.

It also comes with responsibility – PHS students are expected to excel in leadership positions on campus, volunteering, and being active in clubs and other on-campus options.

## A PHS Recipient Looks Back

The reception’s guest speaker was previous PHS recipient Nicholas Hayko (ES '19). He brought up the idea of

balance between academic and personal excellence as he looked back on his time at SUNY Broome.

[View a video of the remarks of Nick Hayko \(ES '19\) at the reception](#)

As a high-achieving college student, Nick learned a vital life lesson. “It was the third semester at SUNY Broome, a very vigorous semester in the engineering science program. I was determined to earn another 4.0 GPA in my second year.” He recounted asking his micro-processor class professor about his grade before the official report card came out. “It was a wonderful class, but I got an A minus. ‘Oh no. My streak of perfection is over. The world is going to end,’” he joked, looking at the group of new scholarship recipients.

“I got so upset. And for what? An A minus is still an excellent grade,” he said. He continued, noting that – despite the ‘low grade’ – it had been a class where he had spent long nights in a workshop

with his dad and worked alongside his friend Brandon to build his own pinball machine. “I got so caught up in the grade that all of my wonderful memories of building a successful pinball machine went ‘poof’.”

After receiving the grade ‘bombshell,’ Nick went to tell his “tragic news” to Engineering Science & Physics

Chair Robert Lofthouse. “He just smiled and said, ‘Doesn’t it feel better?’ The inner nerd and perfectionist in me couldn’t understand what he was trying to say. Professor Lofthouse went on, ‘You got it out of the way. You’re no

longer perfect. Can you imagine the pressure you would put yourself under if you made it out of here with a 4.0? You would have wanted to do the same thing at your transfer school, and that would have been impossible.’ He was absolutely right,” Nick said.

He also encouraged students to take the time to apply for scholarships. “My



**(above) Nick Hayko speaking to the PHS recipients.**



mom always said, ‘Nicholas, you could potentially get paid a thousand dollars to write for an hour or two.’ It’s hard to argue with that logic.”

In his remarks, SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm notes that the PHS program is a great way to reward academic hard work and hopefully retain more local talent in the community. He said, “Our graduates – including the young scholars who are here today – become the future employees, business leaders, parents, and engaged citizens of Broome County and Upstate New York. I have no doubt that every single one of you here today will do your part to make Broome County a great place to live and

work.”

## 2022 PHS Recipients

The new recipients are:

- **Mohammad Ansari, Johnson City High School**
- **Olivia Avery, Seton Catholic High School**
- **Dominique Boyce, Whitney Point High School**
- **Andrew Buckler, Windsor High School**
- **Alejandro Chavarria Gonzalez, Windsor High School**
- **Katiana Dallard, Union-Endicott High School**
- **Isabelle Dithrich, Chenango Valley High School**
- **Jordyn Dutcher, Chenango Forks High School**
- **Logan Everson, Susquehanna Valley High**

## School

- Natalie Gagnon, Binghamton High School
- Zoe Gifford, Deposit High School
- Abigail Lyon, Harpursville High School
- Cecilia McDonald, Binghamton High School
- Georgia Novitsky, Chenango Forks High School
- DeLaney Painter, Vestal High School
- Audrey Schurter, Candor High School
- Ashleigh Turnbull, Newark Valley High School
- Delaney Vascoe, Waverly High School
- Sydney Velez Mattiace, Maine-Endwell High School

Mohammad Ansari Mohammad Ansari, a Johnson City graduate, told his donors, “I would like to thank SUNY Broome so much for accepting me as a student and providing me with this scholarship. I am the first generation in my family to go to college, and I want to work hard and complete my education.”

The Presidential Honors Scholarship program has supported 194 scholarships since its launch in the fall of 2007.

If you want to learn more about SUNY Broome scholarships, please get in touch with the Foundation at 607-778-5182 or [foundation@sunybroome.edu](mailto:foundation@sunybroome.edu). Graduating senior students from Broome, Chenango, Delaware, or Tioga County high schools who are interested in applying for the next round of Presidential Honors Scholarships may contact

the Foundation.

## Supporters of the PHS Program

At the reception, SUNY Broome also recognized the founding donors and corporate sponsors. Without their dedication to the College and leadership-level generosity, the PHS program would not be possible.

## Founding Donors

- Anonymous
- The Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation

## Leadership Partners

- Estate of Emil Calice
- Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation
- Delta Engineers, Architects, & Land Surveyors DPC
- William H. Lane, Inc.
- LeChase Construction, LLC
- Matco Electric Corporation
- Mirabito Holdings, Inc.
- NBT Bank & NBT Insurance Agency

“This support is truly an investment in our community, not just SUNY Broome; I want to commend each of these organizations for being generous visionary partners,” Cheryl Kurosky (SC’ 76), Immediate Past President of the SUNY Broome Foundation, remarked at the event. She added, “Your belief in this program demonstrates your dedication to making our community a better place.”

## SUNY Broome Celebrates the Dedication of the Dr. Francis Battisti Reflection Area



Past and present faculty, staff, administration gathered on campus on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. to attend the dedication ceremony of the Dr. Battisti Student Reflection Area. This tranquil, outdoor space, which was designed for members of the campus community to use as a spot to rest, converse, and reflect, is situated between the Natural Science Center and the Calice Advanced Manufacturing Center. The pergola and surrounding area are named in honor of Dr.

Francis L. Battisti and his unfailing devotion to SUNY Broome, which lovingly spanned over 50 years.

Dr. Francis L. Battisti retired from his position as the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of SUNY Broome in October of 2019. In honor of his decades of service to the College, fellow colleagues, family, and friends collaborated with SUNY Broome's Foundation to create a space for students bearing his name. The College's facilities staff spent months designing and constructing the Reflection Area to craft the ideal outdoor spot for students.