



**SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**

Established by Wilmington Women in Business

2015-2016 Annual Report



The Why: Understanding How Miracles Happen

Once again, with your assistance, we have helped to unlock doors, and provide opportunities for many remarkable and deserving Delaware women who have discovered their own greatness. We are honored to have been part of our scholars' journeys.

How does that happen, year after year, that generous people like you step up to influence and support these Fresh Start scholars? It's because stepping in answers their "Why." In his book, "Start With Why," Simon Sinek explains that our "why" is what inspires us to seek extraordinary results in our lives.

Fresh Start sponsors and donors: Their organizations "why" is giving back to their communities, improving neighborhoods, and empowering their employees to make a difference.

Fresh Start board members and volunteers: Their "why" is often to return the gifts they received when they, themselves needed help. They know that they can make a difference in the lives of our scholars.

For me, the "why" is simple: The more we give, the more we receive. Just ask our scholars who will frequently say were it not for my Fresh Start scholarship I would not have received my college degree.

At Fresh Start, miracles happen every day. Thank you for using your "why" to help make our scholars' dreams come true.

Rita S. Wilkins

Rita S. Wilkins, President



"Without my Fresh Start scholarship I would not have been able to attend school. I hope to someday be a mentor for another scholar and help them as much as my mentor has helped me."

Deanna Nardi, 2016 Graduate



The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation:

- Provides one-on-one mentoring to its scholars
- Has awarded more than \$740,000 in scholarships to 174 Delaware women
- Directs 97 cents of every dollar to the scholarship program
- Has no paid staff—all are volunteers
- Has achieved a 72% graduation rate
- Scholars have attained a current average GPA of 3.55

Improving the lives of women through education
www.freshstartscholarship.org

2015-2016 Fresh Start Scholars



Scholarships totaling over \$90,000 were awarded to 36 very deserving Delaware women. This number represented 18 returning scholars and 18 new scholars. They attended 7 different colleges and universities in Delaware representing over 15 different majors in the fields of education, healthcare, social services and business. Geographically, 61% were from New Castle County but all three DE counties are represented. Of the 36 scholars, 25 are mothers who are currently raising a total of 53 dependent children.

The scholars were recognized at the W/WB 35th Anniversary Celebration at the Hotel DuPont on September 23, 2015.

Name	Hometown	College	Major
Michala A.	Millsboro	Wilmington University	Nursing
Shanice A.	New Castle	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Amanda B.	Smyrna	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Angela B.	Newark	Wilmington University	Accounting / Human Resources
Kristine B.	Newark	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Lori B.	Lincoln	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Tiffany C.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Patti C.	Middletown	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Brigette E.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Radiology Tech - Allied Health
Monet E.	Middletown	Wilmington University	Legal Studies
Vickie F.	Dover	Delaware State University	Social Work
Danielle F.	New Castle	Delaware Technical Community College	Dental Hygiene
Elizabeth G.	Milton	Wilmington University	Organization Dynamics
Taylor G.	Rehoboth Beach	Wesley College	English Literature
Katrina G.	New Castle	Springfield College	Human Services
Stella H.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Kada H.	Newark	Wilmington University	Organizational Management
Shanae I.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
April J.	Felton	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Michelle J.	Newark	Goldey Beacom College	Psychology
Jane L.	Newark	Wilmington University	Nursing
Donna L.	Bear	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Heidi M.	Georgetown	Wilmington University	Mathematics Education
Leslie M.	Newark	Delaware Technical Community College	Diagnostic Sonography
Meaghan M.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Stephanie M.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Accounting
Deanna N.	Newark	Goldey Beacom College	Criminal Justice
Israelis N.	Laurel	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Lynette O.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Education Studies
Andrea P.	Dover	Delaware Technical Community College	Paralegal Studies
Nancy S.	Felton	Delaware Technical Community College	Early Childhood Development
Marcie S.	Dover	Delaware Technical Community College	Business
Tikima S.	Dover	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Amber S.	Newark	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Camelia V.	New Castle	Wilmington University	Business Management
Michelle W.	Blades	Wilmington University	Education/ Birth - 2nd

2016 Fresh Start Graduates



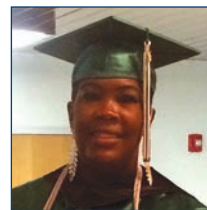
Kada Hill
Wilmington University – Bachelor of Science - Organizational Management



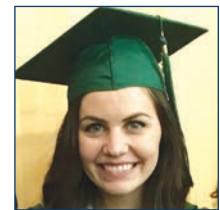
Shanice Allen
Wilmington University – Bachelor of Science – Elementary Education



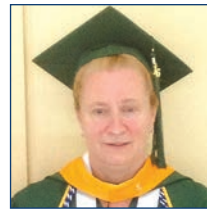
Ralandré Lacy
Wilmington University – Bachelor of Science – Elementary Education with a Certificate in Child Advocacy



Lori Brown
Delaware Technical Community College – Associate in Applied Science – Drug Alcohol Counseling



Meaghan McHugh
Wilmington University – Bachelor of Science – Elementary Education



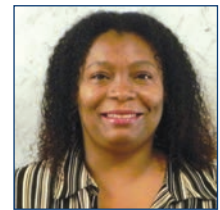
Angela Creppon
Wilmington University – Bachelor of Science – Behavioral Science and with a Certificate in Child Advocacy



Deanna Nardi
Goldey Beacom College – Bachelor of Arts – Criminal Justice



Brigette Esposito
Delaware Technical Community College – Associate in Applied Science - Radiologic Technology



Israelis Navarro
Delaware Technical Community College – Associate in Applied Science – Nursing

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Rita S. Wilkins	ASSISTANT TREASURER Evelyn Joyner	ADVISORY BOARD Fred Dawson Sharon Hake Maria Hess Jan Jessup Janis Julian Gregory Lavelle Grace Liu Claire McElwee Bonnie Meszaros Janice Seitz Claibourne Smith Jack Varsalona Peggy Vavalla
VP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Barbara Buckley	DIRECTORS Pauline Brittingham Dana Dobson Lynn Faulkner Sarah Kenney Jeanne Griffith Leslie Judy Lewis Mary Maloney Ex-Officio Aprile Parella Jaye Pedante Bonita Penn	DIRECTORS EMERITAE Joyce Koria Hayes Judith Powell Beverly Stewart
VP DEVELOPMENT Sandy Scheibe	VP COMMUNICATIONS Ann DiStefano	
SECRETARY Sherry Mouser	TREASURER Jenny Watson	



2015-2016 Mentors

2016 Survey Results from Graduates Confirm Life Improvement

Barbara Buckley, VP, Scholarship Program



Survey Results:

Surveys are sent annually to recent graduates to collect qualitative and quantitative data to compare and contrast their experiences "before and after graduation".

Highlights from 2014 and 2015 graduates include:

- 80% of graduates report an increase in self confidence as the result of having earned a degree
- 70% expressed an interest in pursuing further education
- 80% say their networking skills have increased
- 80% report professional or career-level employment
- 70% report an increase in income.

Survey Comments:

When asked to rate their overall experience with The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, the graduates responded with an average rating of 4.78 out of 5 (Excellent).

Highlights from our 2014-15 survey. To view the full survey please visit our website: www.freshstartscholarship.org

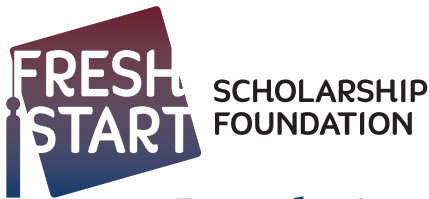
- "I am so grateful to have found such a great organization that helps women grow. Fresh Start has made a huge impact on my life, not only by reducing my financial worries and allowing me to focus on my studies, while supporting me personally."
- "Without Fresh Start, I would not be in school. I am eternally grateful for this program and the women involved. Thank you all for everything you have done to help me work toward achieving my goals."
- "I don't know what I would have done without my mentor. She helped me through some very difficult times."

Fresh Start Scholarship Mentor Program

By Jaye Pedante, Chair

The Fresh Start Scholarship Mentor Program has become an invaluable resource for our many scholars who have successfully reached their goal of graduation and beyond. A Fresh Start Mentor is someone who is willing to give some time to act as a personal coach to a woman as she reenters academia, usually juggling the demands of job and family while attending classes and completing coursework.

Our scholars overwhelmingly voice appreciation for the opportunity of having a mentor: *"My mentor is always in contact with me with ways to help me grow academically, personally, and professionally. She has made a great impact in my life."*



Introducing our new look!

To celebrate the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation's 20th anniversary, Symbiosys, Inc. refreshed our brand and updated our website.

"Symbiosys presented us with innovative concepts that captured the essence of Fresh Start, and then flawlessly executed our new branding and website".

Ann DiStefano, VP Communications

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

Our annual fundraising event raised almost \$50,000 to fund Fresh Start Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year. Called, "It's Showtime," the evening gala was held November 5 at The Waterfall in Claymont, DE. More than 350 guests enjoyed a raffle, silent auction, delicious food and entertainment. We are deeply grateful to everyone who volunteered, attended or donated.



Annual Cookout

Scholars, board members, family and friends gathered for a summer cookout. We congratulated our graduates, ate delicious food and played some games that proved to be harder than they looked!



Left to right:
Singer: Brandi Chavis
Tiana and Judy Lewis



Left to right:
Rita Wilkins
President Fresh Start
Scholarship Foundation
Fred Dawson
Advisory Board Member
Maria Hess
Advisory Board Member

Photos by Lindy Powers

2015-2016 Annual Campaign Donors

CHAMPION

\$2,500 and up

Jan Seitz

Winfred and Paula Massie

Patricia McGee

Bonnie Meszaros

Sherry and John Mouser

Mary and Richard Nenno

Justina Pedante

Bonita Penn

Brenda and Michael Pomianoski

Judy Powell

Suzanne and Don Proud

Marion Quirk

Diane Richardson

Linda and Michael Ritchford

Eric Sallee

Don and Andrew Shackelford

Jean and Frank Sobonya

Kelli Stranahan

Dr. Jack Varsalona

Jennifer Watson

Margery Windolph

BENEFACTOR

\$1,000-2,499

Fred Dawson

Great Dames

Janis Julian

Mary and Richard Maloney

(In Memory of Hua Davis)

PATRON

\$500-999

Barbara and Bill Buckley

Claire McElwee

Sandy Scheibe

Beverly Stewart

Jane Taylor

Rita Wilkins

The County Women's Journal

BOOSTER

\$250-499

Anna Lee Bachtell

Nancy and Jay Blumberg

Lynn Faulkner

Phyllis Feibus

Shakti Harris

Claudia Hughes

Jan Jessup

Claire Morse

Nancy Rose

FRIEND

up to \$99

Mary Akhimien

Kathleen and Robert Andrzejewski

Sheila Boyer

Pauline Brittingham

Mary Cannon

Carolyn and William Doyle

Brigette Esposito

Anthony Glomski

Tina and Ralph Goldrick

Melissa Gonville

Marilyn Hyte

Wendi Jacobs

Jeanne Griffith Leslie

Barbara Longyear

Terri Lamborn Manning

Scott Mason

Gretchen and Alfred Mayne

Elizabeth McDonough

Mary Ann Michael Lewiz

Nanci and Timothy Mihalski

Connie Parvis

Jane and Richard Pell

Kristen Petro

Frances Quayle

Mamatha Ratnam

Jean and Paul Stofa

Karen Weiner

Linda Whitehead

Helen Zumsteg

SUPPORTER

\$100-249

Jennifer Adach

Ann Bawa

Cheryl Carncross

Peggy and Richard Carter

J. Clampitt

Catherine Cloutier

Ann DiStefano

Dana Dobson

Moira Donoghue

Dr. Laverne Harmon

Sheila Hawkins

Joyce Hayes

Linda Heckert

Ruth and Gregory Lavelle

Judy Lewis

Marty Mand

GRANTS

Thanks to the following whose grants will be used to help fund the Class of 2016-2017.

Chichester DuPont Foundation \$10,000

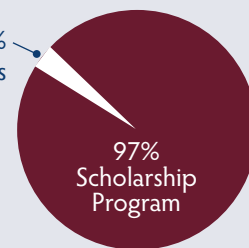
Christiana Rotary Club Foundation \$ 500

H. L. & D. C. Eliason Fund \$10,000

Hulsking Foundation \$ 3,000

Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation \$ 5,000

Less than 3%
Administrative Expenses



2015-2016 Financial Statement

INCOME

Annual Campaign, net	\$ 21,403
Signature Event, net	\$ 48,977
Grants	\$ 28,500
In-Kind Income	\$ 19,320
Total Income	\$118,200

EXPENSES

Scholarship Program	\$ 92,732
Administrative Expenses (see Note 1)	\$ 3,653
Total Expenses	\$ 96,385

Net Operating Income \$ 21,815

ASSETS

Cash	\$115,130
Prepaid Expenses	\$500
	\$115,630

Endowment Fund Balance (see Note 2) \$225,507

Total Net Assets \$341,137

NOTES

- Fresh Start's board of directors set a goal years ago to keep administrative expenses at or below 3% of income. The table below shows that we achieved this goal in 2015-2016.

2015-2016 Operating Income	\$118,200
Administrative Expenses	\$ 3,653
Percentage	3%
- In 2009, the board of directors of Fresh Start set up an endowment fund using GIFT (Global Investment Foundation for Tomorrow) model to assure the sustainability of our program well into the future. A portion of the earnings can be withdrawn in 2024.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Scholarships are funded by corporate and individual contributions to the scholarship program, fundraising events, grants and bequests to our scholarship endowment fund with the Delaware Community Foundation. You can help by sharing information about this scholarship program with others, encouraging candidates to apply, attending fundraising events and making contributions to the scholarship fund.

Checks should be made payable to the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., and sent to:

Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 7784
Wilmington, DE 19803

For more information, call 302-397-3440, or visit www.freshstartscholarship.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is the charitable arm of Wilmington Women in Business, Inc. Its mission is to provide incentive to adult women who face (or have faced) personal and economic challenges and are seeking to improve opportunities for themselves and their families through education. We award annual scholarships based on need and provide mentoring support through WWB members. Candidates must be enrolled in a two- or four-year degree undergraduate program at an accredited Delaware college or university.