

Community College Students Face Tough Tuition Hikes

Students attending Connecticut's local community colleges face a 5.2% increase in tuition costs for 2013-2014. This, coupled with the tightening of financial aid assistance being offered by state and federal governments, can be a difficult one-two punch for many Tunxis students.

"With tuition going up and financial aid also being cut, access to a college education may not be a reality for some students," said state Rep. Roberta Willis, D-64, and co-chair of the Legislature's Higher Education Committee in a Connecticut Post article, in which she called the action "inevitable" given repeated cuts to funding. In this environment, the role of the Tunxis Community College Foundation becomes

more important than ever to help students cope with tuition increases, costs for books and dealing with other emergency situations that arise.

Since the Foundation does not receive any funding from the state of Connecticut, all the good work that the Foundation does is a result of the generosity of local businesses, corporations and individuals that support students in their journey of attaining a quality education.

We thank all of our donors for their support in making the lives of Tunxis students a little easier through scholarships and other support.



The TCC Foundation Annual Economic Conference was held on October 1 at Farmington Gardens and was a wonderful success again this year!

Approximately \$54,000 in proceeds from the event will directly benefit Tunxis students through scholarships. We would like to extend a special thank you to our lead sponsor, ESPN, for committing \$20,000 over the past two years to our event. We also had two supporters at the \$5,000 level, Pratt & Whitney and Stanley Black & Decker. Thank you to all of our supporters— companies, individuals, board members and Tunxis faculty and staff—for coming together to support such an important cause and help the Foundation achieve its goals.



L to R: Chuck Pagano, ESPN; Cathryn Addy, Ph.D., president of Tunxis; Liz Claman, Fox Business Network; Timothy Fitch, president of Tunxis Foundation; Jennifer Destefani, executive director, Tunxis Foundation.

This year the Foundation was honored to have Liz Claman, Fox Business Network (FBN) anchor, as keynote speaker. Claman anchors "Countdown to the Closing Bell" and co-anchors "After the Bell" for FBN. She focused on how the "smart money" succeeds and shared insights she has gained from business world superstars. She fascinated those in the room with her accounts of exclusive interviews with Berkshire Hathaway CEO and legendary investor Warren Buffett, Intel CEO Paul Otellini, Ford CEO Alan Mulally, Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and others. Claman's down-to-earth personality truly engaged the room. On behalf of the Foundation, we thank Ms. Claman for taking the time to spend the morning with us!



"The Foundation helps Tunxis Community College in so many ways. Scholarship support is the most important and long lasting because those scholarship students go on to finish their education and reach their goals. But the Foundation helps in other ways as well by supporting various programs and special events, by being our political advocates when called upon, and by being wonderful representatives for Tunxis in the community at-large. The Foundation is everywhere, and we are so grateful for the support it generates."

-Dr. Cathryn Addy, President, Tunxis Community College



Tunxis Community College Foundation and Advisory Board, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization led by a 39-member volunteer board of directors made up of business and community leaders, including students, faculty and alumni. We accept donations and raise money to provide support for the students, programs and services of Tunxis.

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- Dr. Cathryn Addy (Ex-Officio)
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Spring Events at Tunxis Community College

- **March 4-April 4**
Gallery Exhibition: "Diverse Collections in Retrospect," a collection of approximately 50 oil paintings, drawings and hand-colored photographs by Laurie Tavino. Opening reception **March 4, 4-7 p.m.**
- **March 14 -7 p.m.**
Talk by **The New York Times bestselling author Amy Bloom** her books and the writing process. Book signing and refreshments, free. **Founders Hall.**
- **April 9-30**
Gallery Exhibition: "34th Annual Student Art Show." Opening reception is **April 10, 4-7 p.m.** in the Wallace Barnes and Barbara Hackman Franklin Art Gallery. Free. Refreshments will be served. For more information, **email asimoes@tunxis.edu.**
- **April 19 & 20, 7:30 p.m.**
Tunxis Stage Theater Production: "Dead Man's Cell Phone," with matinee **April 20 at 1:30 p.m.** in **Founders Hall Theater.** Tickets are \$5. Available online now at <http://tunxis-stage.brownpapertickets.com> for a small service fee. Tickets may also be sold at the door if the performance is not sold out. Call **860.255.3731** or **email gsebastian-coleman@tunxis.edu.**

Meet Matt Machowski. Unfortunately, his story is indicative of so many other students here at Tunxis, whose life plans have been foiled by unforeseen circumstances that force tough decisions to stay afloat.

Machowski was working as a commercial electrician until a life-altering injury changed his life. He was the victim of a cervical neck manipulation by a chiropractor that went terribly wrong. The injury caused Matt to lose his career, endure numerous surgeries and undergo invasive procedures on his spine. The injury cost Machowski and his family tens of thousands of dollars along with intense levels of stress, anger and depression. Matt was left to make decisions he never thought he would face.



He eventually decided the only way to move forward was to enroll at Tunxis Community College and to his surprise, he loved it. Matt met so many incredible people, students, staff and faculty alike. His renewed enthusiasm for education showed through his excellent grades.

As a result of his academic achievements, Matt received a Tunxis Community College Foundation Excellence Award Scholarship last year, which he said was simply a blessing. "The College and the Foundation helped me realize my dreams, build my confidence and offered support during my darkest days," said Machowski. "Because of them, I now want to continue my journey by giving back to my community in the future."

Matt plans to move on this fall to Central Connecticut State University where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in Construction Management. Tunxis helped Matt appreciate and love learning which, in turn helped him to begin his "journey of healing".

The idea of going back to school in his thirties and starting over was frightening for him. Matt also continued to struggle financially which was a major burden.

None of the good work done by the Foundation would be possible without the generous support of our donors. Listed below are the names of the people and the businesses that helped make dreams come true in 2012.

\$10,000 + Valedictorian Level
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Welcome Frank Luke

Giving back to the community is something Frank Luke stands by every day. Frank is currently the president of Stanley Access Technologies, a subsidiary of Stanley Black and Decker in Farmington and is one of our newest Foundation board members.



When Frank was approached to join the Tunxis Community College Foundation Board, he knew he believed in its mission immediately. Frank raved, "The value of community colleges is misunderstood. Community colleges are the best value for accomplishing basic courses, career training, receiving an associate's degree or transitioning to a four-year college. This gives students time to figure out what they want to really do with their life. I love the Foundation's vision and the value it brings to so many students that receive our scholarships and would otherwise not have the opportunity to receive a strong education."

Stanley Black and Decker has also been a great supporter of the Foundation. Stanley was a \$5,000 sponsor for the 2012 Economic Conference. The company encourages executives to give back to the community, and become members of local boards. Thankfully for Tunxis Community College Foundation, Frank Luke and Stanley have committed to give back.



When the economy began to decline a few years ago, Frank saw that Tunxis' enrollment was at its highest and they were at full capacity. He knew that Tunxis Community College strived to give local people, young and old, the opportunity to have a quality education and a chance for a positive future.