



City Colleges of Chicago Foundation  
**Scholarships**  
**End of Year Report**

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# A Message From City Colleges Of Chicago Foundation Leadership

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, donors, and friends, our students were able to persist through largely virtual learning, in the face of housing and food insecurities, technology needs, and unemployment – enabling them to move ahead in their education. Highlights from the past year include:

- A COVID-19 emergency fund disbursed more than \$800,000 for the immediate needs of students, and the \$2.3 million Chancellor's Retention Grant assisted more than 4,400 students to remain in school.
- The Black Equity and Excellence Fund was established to create a safety net for students and eliminate barriers to their academic success – helping to ensure an equitable space to flourish.
- The City Colleges of Chicago Foundation received the largest gift by any single donor when MacKenzie Scott donated \$5 million to Kennedy-King College, ensuring Black and Brown students have full access to higher education.

This report will demonstrate not only the extent and reach of the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation, but the ongoing need for continued growth in what we can offer our students through scholarships.

Our students have faced untold and unexpected challenges, and yet...they rise. They are persistent in reaching for something better, something greater—a future that holds economic prosperity.

We hope this report will prompt you to help them in their educational journey.

*On behalf of the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to each and every individual and organization that has made scholarships possible for City Colleges of Chicago students. Your incredible generosity has been critical to the success of so many students, especially in view of the unprecedented pandemic that many continue to struggle through.*

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When the need is met,  
our students rise.

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**Gary Rozier**  
Chairman



**Rhonda K. Brown**  
President



# A Message From City Colleges Of Chicago Foundation Leadership

Ambitious. Persistent. Determined. These are the students of City Colleges of Chicago. Overcoming obstacles, barriers, setbacks, homelessness and hunger to complete their education in pursuit of a brighter future. I am inspired and humbled by CCC students each and every day. On their behalf, and as Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago I am grateful for your thoughtful contributions to the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation student scholarship funds. Your support is meaningful. It can make the difference between completion of a credential and deferment of a dream.

With your generosity, the foundation has built a strong scholarship program that grants access to a City Colleges education that prepares students for a career in one of the many fast-growing, high-demand fields in Chicago. Our scholarships help students achieve upward mobility and join the diverse workforce that drives our city. They succeed because a scholarship gave them the means to realize their academic dreams.

Our applicant pool data, however, clearly demonstrates that CCC students want and need more. Last year, the number of students seeking scholarships outstripped our funds seven-fold. That is why we look to the continued – and increased – dedication and generosity of our supporters. It is through donor support that we are able to continue to connect our ambitious, persistent, and determined students to further college and careers.

This report shares the impact of scholarships and the need for continued funding. As one of Chicago's economic engines, City Colleges of Chicago looks to you to help us build a more inclusive workforce and a more prosperous city.

## **Juan Salgado**

Chancellor  
City Colleges of Chicago



## Maria Esther Lopez Executive Director For Scholarship Services

The COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll financially, academically, and emotionally on City Colleges of Chicago students. But challenges were pronounced in underserved Black and Brown communities - the same communities who had already faced barriers to entering and staying in school before the pandemic. Thanks to the scholarship contributions made by you, our donors, more than 1,000 City Colleges students received \$1.2 million in scholarships during the 2020-2021 academic year. Never before have scholarships – and your ongoing support of them - been as important.

Securing post-secondary degrees and credentials increases the probability of economic protection during economic downturns. A recent Federal Reserve survey on higher education and the pandemic revealed that level of education had one of the largest impacts on how people were doing financially. At the same time, interest in short-term credentials grew amid the pandemic. These credentials are the on-ramps to living wage jobs within high-demand fields, such as: logistics, automotive technology, advanced manufacturing, and information technology.

Unrestricted, need-based scholarships are the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation's highest priority for students to start, thrive, and complete their education. We are proud to have awarded more than one million dollars to 1,000 students in the last school year, but it barely began to address the need: the Foundation received more than 7,000 student applications. Unrestricted gifts provide the most flexibility to ensure support of students' most pressing financial needs.



We invite you to partner with the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation to provide students with life-transforming scholarship opportunities, allowing them to pursue a credential that will launch a career, secure employment with increased wages, and to propel them towards life-long success.

**Maria Esther Lopez**  
Executive Director, Scholarship Services  
City Colleges of Chicago

# The students of City Colleges of Chicago persist.



**77**

*Chicago  
neighborhoods*

**68,000**

*students  
come to our classrooms  
with their own unique  
stories*

*All learners are welcome—from recent  
high school graduates to adult learners  
looking to gain a new skill or credential.*

# CCC Students Represent the Diversity of the City of Chicago, they are:

**INDEPENDENT**

i.e. heads of households, single parents, married, and/or working full- or part-time jobs

**74%**

of the student body is Black or Latinx

**60%**

are first generation college students

**69%**

are between the ages of 18 and 24

**31%**

are 25 years of age or older

**27%**

are parents

## Some are missing a basic necessity:

**64%**

of respondents to the Real College survey report food or housing insecurity, sometimes extending to homelessness

**28%**

cannot make their full rent or mortgage payment

**27%**

cannot afford their utilities

**24%**

default on their credit cards or loans

## And yet these students have the potential to succeed. Consider:

**78%**

of students who reported food insecurity carry a GPA of 3.0 or above

**81%**

of students reporting housing insecurity have a GPA of 3.0 or above

**79%**

of students who report being homeless have GPAs of 3.0 or above



# The Impact of a Scholarship



## Mercy Ekpo

Mercy Ekpo never expected to be Salutatorian for Olive-Harvey College's Class of 2021. Then again, there was a time she never anticipated graduating, much less continuing on to working on her degree.

A move from Nigeria to Chicago found her struggling with the bureaucracy of having her high school credentials accepted and with improving her English. In order to be college eligible, she had to enroll in GED classes at Olive-Harvey. Once she had her GED, she decided to proceed with her education and enrolled in college classes at Olive-Harvey.

Over the course of her education, she battled personal setbacks including housing and food insecurities, but her commitment to her degree – and the support she received from City Colleges in the form of the Olive-Harvey College Scholarship and the Mother Rose Meatchem Scholarship – enabled her to push through.

“The truth is, I would not have made it without the scholarships,” she said. “The scholarships mean everything to me. They made it all possible.”

Having applied to several Chicago area four-year colleges, Mercy plans to continue her education, and ultimately wants to pursue a Master's Degree in Information Technology.

“I wouldn't be where I am without Olive-Harvey, and I certainly wouldn't be here without the support of the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation scholarships. It has taught me to pay it forward.”



“

The truth is, I would not have made it without the scholarships. ”





## Michael Sansone

With 12 years working in the culinary field, Michael Sansone was not expecting the furlough that came his way when the pandemic hit. The decision to pivot to a completely new career was not easy, but he chose City Colleges of Chicago's Harold Washington to pursue his Associate of Science. He had enough to cover living expenses, however wondered how he would gather enough funding to enroll.

Two Pell Grants were going to help, but it wasn't until he was awarded the Harold Washington College Scholarship and the Nancy C. DeSombre Scholarship in the Fall of 2019 that he was able to begin on his educational path towards a degree in engineering. He received the DeSombre Scholarship again in the spring of 2020, along with scholarship funds from The Friends of Harold Washington.

With funds in place, he was able to begin college full-time and accelerated his studies, using the funding he received from the scholarships to add to his course load. This, in turn, opened up the opportunity for an internship at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory. When he completed that, Argonne offered him a full-time job as a research aide.

“

None of this would have been possible without the support I received from the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation scholarships. ”

Graduating from Harold Washington in 2021, education remained his highest priority and he continues on towards his bachelor's degree in engineering while still working. He looks to the fall of 2022 to begin that next chapter, hoping to enroll at either the University of Illinois at Chicago or the Illinois Institute of Technology.

“None of this would have been possible without the support I received from the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation scholarships.”, says Michael.

# Scholarship Awards Overview

*In the last two years, the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation has made it possible for an increased number of students to access scholarships. Students whom otherwise could not continue their studies had financial barriers removed and they persevered.*

*Your investments ensure that more students are prepared to graduate with their associate degree, continue on to four-year institutions, and/or secure employment in high-demand fields.*

## 2019-2020

Term	Amount Awarded	Number of Students Awarded
Fall 2019	\$161,953.15	161
Spring 2020	\$588,592.62	533
	<b>\$750,545.77</b>	<b>694</b>

*Fall and Spring semester scholarship payments through June 2021  
Does not include CRG or Emergency Funds*

Gender	Students	Age Group	Students
Female	75%	18-19	3%
		20-21	10%
		22-24	19%
Male	25%	25-29	23%
		30-34	16%
Not Specified	0%	35-39	13%
		40-49	10%
		50-64	5%
		65-150	0%
		Not Specified	0%

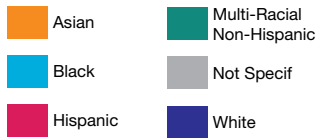
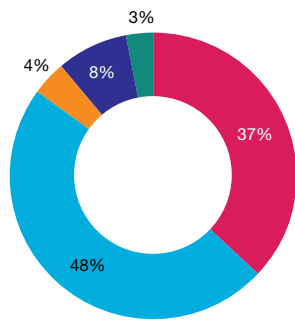
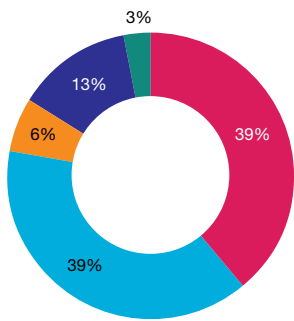
## 2020-2021

Term	Amount Awarded	Number of Students Awarded
Fall 2020	\$724,650	574
Spring 2021	\$499,244	459
	<b>\$1,223,894</b>	<b>1,033</b>

Gender	Students	Age Group	Students
Female	67%	00-17	0%
		18-19	15%
		20-21	14%
Male	33%	22-24	16%
		25-29	21%
Not Specified	0%	30-34	13%
		35-39	7%
		40-49	9%
		50-64	4%
		Not Specified	0%

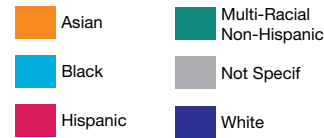
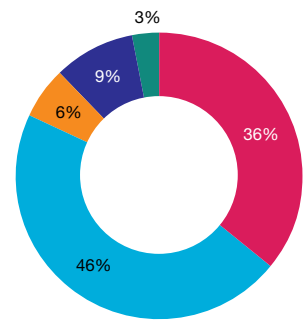
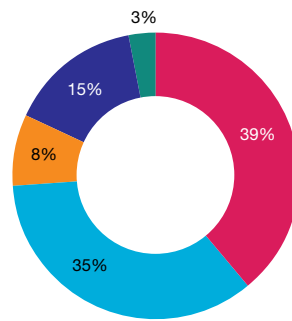
## Scholarship Distribution by Population

**Scholarship Dollars Distributed by Ethnicity 2019-2020**      **Scholarship Dollars Distributed by Ethnicity 2020-2021**

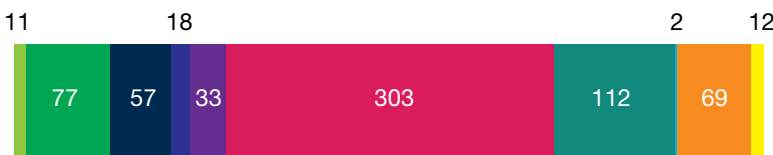


## Number of Students Awarded by Population

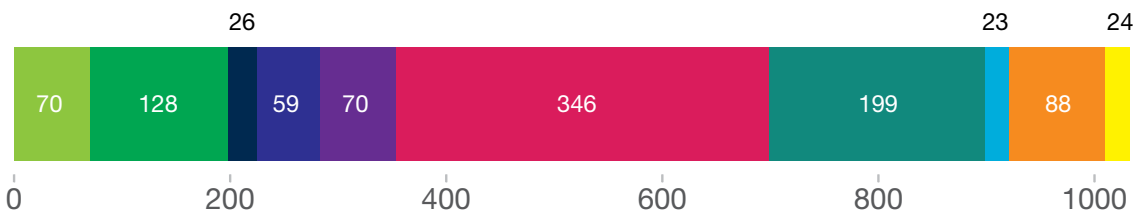
**Number of Students Awarded by Ethnicity 2019-2020**      **Number of Students Awarded by Ethnicity 2020-2021**



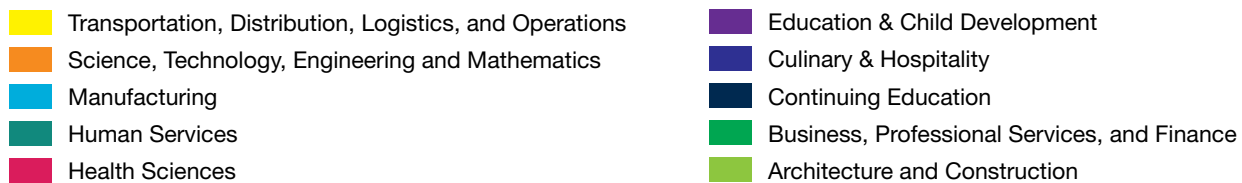
## Count of Awarded Students per Academic Focus Area



**Number of Students per Academic Focus Area 2019-2020**



**Number of Students per Academic Focus Area 2020-2021**



# Our Path Forward

*Students are at the heart of everything we do at City Colleges of Chicago and the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation. What follows are our current priority student support funds in which you might consider making a gift.*

*A meaningful, impactful, sustainable contribution to City Colleges of Chicago Foundation will provide students an opportunity to achieve their dreams. It will provide hope during a time of economic uncertainty, removing financial barriers from the post-secondary educational journey towards those dreams.*

## Unrestricted Scholarship Fund

Unrestricted, need-based scholarships are the highest priority funding need. They provide the flexibility to use your generosity to support City Colleges of Chicago students' most pressing financial challenges, including those experienced by undocumented students and others who may not have any other source of financial support. Gifts of any size may be made to the fund and by joining others you are able to make a significant difference right away for deserving and outstanding students who want to attend City Colleges of Chicago.

## Dr. Timuel D. Black, Jr. Scholars

As the city of Chicago reflects on the life and legacy of the revered elder statesmen, Dr. Timuel Black, the City Colleges of Chicago has established a Dr. Timuel D. Black Jr. Scholars Program for adult learners at all seven City Colleges. Scholarships are awarded to adult learners based on current and/or past civic and community engagement and to those with aspirations to drive change in their communities.

## Black Equity and Excellence Fund

City Colleges of Chicago's anti-racism agenda places the elimination of anti-Blackness at the center of its work. As a new initiative, the Black Excellence and Equity Fund creates a safety net for students and eliminates barriers to their academic success – helping to ensure an equitable space to flourish. The purpose is to close gaps in student outcomes within CCC through scholarships and resources that support Black students who are approximately 27% of our student body. Seven City Colleges equity plans provide guidance to achieve unprecedented and equitable student outcomes and a path to eliminating racial equity gaps.





## Chicago Star Scholarship Legacy Fund

Providing scholarships for graduating high school seniors entering City Colleges of Chicago through the Star Scholarship is critical to their transition into higher education. The scholarships fund all tuition and books not covered by any other financial aid for students that graduate from Chicago Public School high schools, a CPS charter high school or a Big Shoulders partner high school, graduate with a 3.0 GPA, are nearly college ready, and enrolls in one of the [City Colleges' academic pathways](#).

## The Star Plus Scholarship Fund

To address the challenges of affordability at a four-year institution, the Star Plus Scholarship Fund was created. The goal is to ensure that more students from all economic backgrounds can access a four-year institution with the objective of pursuing their bachelor's degree. Eligible students are Star Scholars that have graduated from City Colleges of Chicago with a 3.0 GPA or better from an associate degree program and accepted into a Star partner four-year institution.

## Student Emergency Fund

We've all faced challenges. A sudden job loss. A medical emergency. The loss of housing. Unforeseen bills. And, of course, the unexpected costs of living in the time of a pandemic. Students face these and any number of other unexpected financial crises that threaten to derail their educational attainment. We are deeply committed to meeting student needs through support, guidance and, emergency funding to help them navigate these challenges.



## College Specific Scholarships

Each college has a scholarship fund for attending students in need of financial support. Alumni, partners, neighbors, or friends of a college may select their college of choice below to make their contribution.

- [The Daley College Scholarship](#)
- [The Harold Washington College Scholarship](#)
- [The Kennedy-King College Scholarship](#)
- [The Malcolm X College Scholarship](#)
- [The Olive-Harvey College Scholarship](#)
- [The Truman College Scholarship](#)
- [The Wright College Scholarship](#)

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