



The KCC COVID-19 Relief Fund: Let's Hear it For – and From – the Donors!



In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a seismic impact on KCC students. Many have lost essential jobs in restaurants, retail and other industries that remain shuttered for the near future. Additionally, many more have struggled to make the transition to distance learning; having relied on the college campus for everything from WiFi, computers, and other essential materials and supplies.

As the city went into lockdown, KCC's Committee on Emergency Scholarships began receiving dozens upon dozens of applications from students who were experiencing emergencies because of COVID-19. In these applications, students documented looming evictions, food insecurity, medical issues, unpaid bills, employment termination, and every other financial nightmare imaginable. Within two months, the KCC Foundation had exhausted nearly all monies earmarked for emergency grants.

Yet the applications for emergency aid kept coming.

"There was genuine cause for alarm," says Dan La Noue, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, and a member of the Committee on Emergency Scholarships. "At the rate we were approving grants, there was a very real chance that our emergency grant balance would hit zero well before the end of the academic year, and we'd have to start turning students away."

In this dire hour of need, KCC faculty, staff, alumni and donors rallied to students' aid, raising over \$20,000 dollars to establish the [KCC COVID-19 Relief Fund](#). As of October 23, 2020, nineteen students have received grants through this fund totaling over \$15,000. The

Committee on Emergency Scholarships will continue to identify students impacted by COVID-19 as we venture further into the 2020-21 academic year.

"I cannot even express how thankful and pleased I am to receive this grant. Without you, I could have never achieved so much, and with you I can face this pandemic and continue to reach for the stars. With this financial support you are awarding me, you allow me to continue to dream. I can now afford to pay a portion of my rent and purchase some food and supplies throughout this crisis. I will continue to stay committed to ensuring that I complete my journey."

- **Tanika Jones, Liberal Arts Major, Recipient of the KCC COVID-19 Relief Fund**

The following are testimonials from donors who generously supported this critical cause:

"I am heartened to know that Kingsborough continues to address the ongoing needs of students that have been impacted by the pandemic. The KCC COVID Fund, together with programs that alleviate food insecurity such as the Urban Farm, provides needed support at this challenging time."

- **Dr. Uda Bradford**

"When COVID-19 hit us, I was looking for a way that I could help our students. The KCC COVID-19 Fund fit the bill nicely. My hope is that all of our contributions will help our students overcome any financial obstacles the virus has thrown at them so they can persevere in their studies."

- **Carlos de Cuba, Assistant Professor, Department of Communications and Performing Arts**

"There are many New Yorkers who struggle in the best of times, and I am heartbroken to see how this awful pandemic has exacerbated fellow citizens' challenges. I am fortunate to be in a position to help - even if in a small way - and I am glad to do so. Life is full of twists and turns - some days up, some days down. It is our responsibility to help those in need whenever we can."

- **John Jastremski, KCC Professor of Business**

"As a 1982 CUNY NYC Community College graduate, I know all too well the financial struggles our students face. To add the enormous stress of a pandemic onto those already struggling is inconceivable. Education is the key to success and to fulfilling hopes and dreams. I hope my donation can give our students a hand up to fulfilling their dreams."

- **Kate Wayler, KCC Events Management**

"As an alumna of Kingsborough Community College, I was in an environment that was very supportive when I was a student. I want other students attending KCC now to feel that same support, and to know that there are people who truly care about them and want to see them reach their academic and career goals. I want to make sure that even during this difficult time of COVID-19, they are still able to work towards achieving their dreams."

- *Tara Yarczower '97, KCC Director of Military and Veteran Affairs*



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Help our students overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams!

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