

STCC to kicks off online giving day to boost scholarships for students

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) Foundation kicked off a new tradition recently with its first online giving day.

On June 12, people had a chance to contribute through “STCC Gives” and help build scholarships to ensure that students have the support they need to succeed.

“We are grateful for the support we have received over the years from our donors,” said director of operations and donor relations Kelly Galanis. “Whether you’ve donated in the past or you’re thinking of being a first-time donor, STCC Gives on Wednesday is a perfect opportunity to help transform the lives of our students.”

Galanis said donors had many options to support students, including making a gift online, texting “STCCGives” to 50155, calling the STCC Foundation, dropping off cash or checks at the STCC Office of Advancement in Garvey Hall or mailing a donation to STCC Office of Advancement.

Galanis said the goal was to raise at least \$35,000 in a single day to help the STCC Foundation create scholarships for students. Participants on Wednesday were also eligible for prizes.

Scholarships helped students like Mohamed Gabriel, of West Springfield, an engineering science transfer major who graduated in May. While at STCC,



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

STCC scholarship recipients celebrate at the STCC Foundation's Scholarship & Awards Breakfast on May 23 (photo by Dale Johnston).

he received several scholarships and was invited to speak to donors at an STCC Foundation event on May 23.

“In my second year, I heard about scholarships. At first I thought, ‘I don’t think I’ll get any.’ But then I thought, ‘Why not try?’” So I did. I went and applied for as many as I could and ended up not getting just one, but six scholarships. I knew I could worry a little less about the financial aspects of school and focus more on academics.”

Another student who graduated

in May with a degree in biotechnology, Maria Ramos, of Agawam, said she would use her \$2,000 scholarship to pay off loans. “It’s amazing,” she said. “This is going to help me out so much.”

Helder Serrazina, of Monson, who is pursuing his degree in business administration, received the Jean and Jim Genasci Honorary Scholarship, which is awarded to LGBT students who demonstrate how they actively serve as a leader or role model and promote the goals of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

community.

Serrazina said he was honored to receive the award. He plans to study at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and dreams to one day earn a law degree from Harvard University.

A total of 57 STCC student scholarship winners were celebrated at the STCC Foundation’s Scholarship and Awards Breakfast. The STCC Foundation and the college provided \$1.1 million to support students in fiscal 2019.