DMACC Magazine

Largest Scholarship Distribution in DMACC Foundation History

MILLION DOLLAR IMPACT

DMACC Magazine

SPRING/SUMMER 2017
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ABOUT *DMACC MAGAZINE*

DMACC Magazine is a publication of the DMACC Foundation & Alumni Association. If you have questions or story ideas, please email them to foundation@dmacc.edu.

Director's Message

It is an exciting time to be a member of the DMACC family! Across all of our locations, students are seeing how *DMACC Delivers*.

To show you just how private support is having a meaningful and lasting impact on Iowa's next generation of leaders, we have dedicated the majority of this issue to stories about our scholarship recipients. I am confident they will inspire you every bit as much as they have us.

As you will read, each of our featured students is receiving the knowledge, tools and skills for success, while benefiting from:

Hope: DMACC fulfills the needs of Iowa, while fulfilling the dreams of Iowans. As a community college, DMACC creates opportunity for all, including diverse populations and nontraditional students, which leads to meaningful employment.

Opportunity: A DMACC education puts students on the path to personal achievement and professional success. With the lowest tuition in Central Iowa, DMACC is helping establish Iowa as first-in-the-nation in qualified workforce.

Talent: DMACC plays a valuable role in closing the skills gap in Iowa and across the nation. Many of our fastest growing industries rely on employees with skills that require more than a high school education but can be gained in fewer than four years—the same expertise DMACC delivers through its certificate, diploma and two-year programs.

Value: Scholarships enable DMACC to remain accessible, affordable and competitive. Students take advantage of DMACC's unparalleled educational value, small class sizes and exceptional faculty.

DMACC allocated more than $1 million in scholarships for the first time in its history. This is a remarkable testament to the dedication of our supporters. To ensure we can continue to impact lives, I encourage you to consider a gift by **CLICKING HERE**.

We thank you for the role you play in making the dream of a college education possible, and look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Tara Connolly
Executive Director
DMACC Foundation

CLICK HERE TO GIVE A GIFT IN SUPPORT OF DMACC STUDENTS!

10th Annual Des Moines Area Community College CEO GOLF Invitational

June 22, 2017

Talons of Tuscany Golf Course
Presented by Sheri Avis Horner

Priority will be given to reservations in the order they are received. To secure your spot in the tournament and learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Breck Danner at 515-965-7331 or bbdanner@dmacc.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

Thank you to our Title Sponsors:

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Talons of Tuscany

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

MILLION DOLLAR IMPACT

DMACC Donors Enable A Landmark Level of Support to Iowa's Next Generation of Leaders

URBAN

Dalia Kyi

When Dalia Kyi moved to Des Moines three years ago, she was determined to lend a hand to immigrants looking to establish a footing in the United States. She quickly learned that DMACC's Urban Campus was the perfect place to set her dreams in motion.

"Growing up, I never thought I would be given the opportunity to come to the United States and pursue a college degree," Dalia says. She was born in Burma, raised in Thailand, and moved to Rockford, Illinois, in 2008. "This has been a dream come true."

Dalia says in moving to Des Moines, she planned to work to help support her family while her brother enrolled in college. She says the cost for both of them to attend at the same time would have been impossible for the family to bear.

But, in exploring options at Urban Campus, Dalia learned that she was eligible for a DMACC Foundation Scholarship. She says the financial support made it possible for her to start school right away.

"It was enough that I could go to school and just work part-time," she says. "Without the support of the DMACC Foundation, I couldn't do it."

The support has enabled Dalia to move more rapidly toward her career goal of becoming a social worker with an emphasis on serving the immigrant community. She plans to transfer to Grand View University after completing her work at Urban Campus. Interestingly, social work is also what her brother is studying.

"As first generation college students, we will be the first two in our family to get degrees," Dalia says. "That makes me very proud."

And her course work has her looking forward.

"It is very important to me to give back to my community," Dalia says. "When I came here I didn't speak any English and today I see others struggling like I did. That's why I want to be a social worker. I want to show them they can make it here."

"Growing up, I never thought I would be given the opportunity to come to the United States and pursue a college degree."

BOONE

Robert Kitchen

While the vast majority of DMACC students were born and raised in the state of Iowa, Robert Kitchen is among the handful who weren't. But, the native of Southern Illinois says it was DMACC's reputation—and transfer agreement with Iowa State University—that drew him to attend classes on the Boone Campus.

"After high school graduation, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so I worked and traveled a bit while I tried to figure it out," Robert says. "I knew that I wanted to leave the area where I was living and had heard good things about Central Iowa, DMACC and Iowa State, so I decided to move."

Robert's father had recently started work in Ames, so the timing was right. DMACC also turned out to be the perfect school for Robert, offering a wonderful balance between social opportunities, a challenge in the classroom and affordability.

"I am paying for school myself, so it was important that I could get through without accumulating a ton of debt," Robert says. He has earned a DMACC Foundation Scholarship, participated in a variety of academic clubs, and is a member of the Honors Program and Honors Student Board. "Beyond the monetary value, I am impressed by the way the faculty and staff keep us motivated. They regularly recognize us for doing great work and I appreciate that."

Robert's goal is to secure work with the federal government. Upon completing coursework at DMACC this spring, he will take advantage of the transfer agreement with Iowa State. He will begin classes there in the fall.

"DMACC has been challenging and that is good," he says. "A lot of people think community college is 'high school 2.0' but it's not. There is a ton going on all the time and it's like a four-year school in every respect. It's the mindset that makes the difference."

"Beyond the monetary value, I am impressed by the way the faculty and staff keep us motivated."

NEWTON

Alexa Yoakum

Just one year out of high school, Alexa Yoakum is about halfway through her four-year degree. The Newton native began taking classes at DMACC in high school, and after graduating in the spring of 2016 she didn't give a second thought to continuing.

"I was familiar with DMACC from high school and I knew that it would be a lot more affordable than going right to a four-year school," Alexa says. Support in the form of a DMACC Foundation 50th Anniversary Scholarship has made it even easier for Alexa to give school her full attention.

"The financial support helps because I can take a full load of classes and stay on track to get done with my Bachelor's degree in three years instead of four," she says.

Alexa will complete her work on the Newton Campus in the spring of 2017 and enroll at the University of Northern Iowa. She will study to become a teacher.

"I attended a Teacher Academy when I was in high school," Alexa says. "I really enjoyed being in the classroom, shadowing students. It was a rewarding experience.

"I know that I want to work in an elementary school, for sure," she adds. "Making an impact on children's lives at an early age is important to me. I want to help kids find success at a young age and prepare them for great things in the future."

Alexa says her experience on the Newton Campus has been valuable in helping her to develop a vision for her professional life.

"The faculty and staff are all so polite, helpful and encouraging," she says. "I feel like they are all acting in my best interest. They are ensuring I make the best decisions financially, in the classroom and for my future."

"They are ensuring I make the best decisions financially, in the classroom and for my future."

WEST

Matt Marciano

There is one thing Matt Marciano is sure of: If he hadn't received scholarship support from the DMACC Foundation, he would not be where he is today.

"I couldn't have done it," he says of enrolling at DMACC's West Campus after graduating from high school. "I would have had to go out and get a job instead of starting classes. The scholarship has allowed me to focus entirely on my studies."

Going to West Campus has provided more than just an education, though. Matt says he enjoys all it has to offer.

"It's been so much more than just school for me," he says. "It's a very freeing atmosphere where you can pursue a lot of different interests.

"I'm still learning and taking part in activities, but I have the freedom to choose my classes, decide when to take them and interact with those who have the same interests as me," he continues.

The ability to explore has exposed Matt to a variety of different career paths. He says he will decide in time what he wants to pursue when his schooling at DMACC is done.

"I hope to transfer to a four-year school when I'm done here," Matt says. "DMACC is helping me to figure out what I want to study and eventually what I want to do as a career."

He says that West Campus is the perfect place for him to sort out his future: "I'm able to take my time here in figuring it out. And I'm able to do that without accumulating a huge amount of debt.

"Plus," he adds, "I really like West Campus. It's a beautiful building, with great people, in an atmosphere that's perfect to study or just hang out."

"DMACC is helping me to figure out what I want to study and eventually what I want to do as a career."

ANKENY

Aarron Weets

College didn't look to be in the cards for Aarron Weets when he graduated from Des Moines East High School in 2008. Without the financial means to afford further schooling, he jumped into the work-a-day world.

Even with a steady job, he never lost sight of what earning a college degree would mean. Eventually, he came to the conclusion that he would do whatever it took to see his dreams become reality.

"I just decided I was going to dedicate the time and effort it required to go back to school," Aarron says. "I didn't want to work in a mediocre job anymore. I wanted to make a difference in the life of others. To do that I knew I needed a college degree."

Aarron started on the DMACC Ankeny Campus in 2015, studying to be an emergency medical technician. Unfortunately, his mother had a medical emergency that summer. Expecting that he would need to work full-time to ensure his mother was cared for, he thought he would have to drop out of DMACC.

That is when he was awarded a DMACC Foundation Scholarship. The financial support made it possible for him to attend school and continue to work part-time.

"It feels good to be recognized by the DMACC Foundation with a scholarship," Aarron says. "I'm encouraged to work harder than ever now that I have this opportunity. It is very humbling and I am so grateful."

Aarron is now on track to begin the nursing program at DMACC in the coming months—a change in course triggered by his desire to comfort others.

"I shadowed a shift at Blank Children's Hospital," Aarron says of his decision to pursue pediatric nursing. "After seeing the way the staff worked with patients and families, I knew that's the difference I wanted to make in life. It inspired me."

"I didn't want to work in a mediocre job anymore. I wanted to make a difference in the life of others."

CARROLL

Holly Slocum

Life slowed down considerably for Holly Slocum when she began classes on the DMACC Carroll Campus. As is to be expected when you move from the outskirts of Boston to Western Iowa.

Ironically, it was trading the fast-paced city life for small-town living that accelerated Holly's career goal of becoming a nurse.

"The schools in the area where I grew up didn't have openings in their nursing programs," Holly says. "I have family in the Scranton (Iowa) area, so I began to look at DMACC. They had openings so I made the decision to move."

In addition to the ready availability of classes, Holly has benefited over the years from the support of a DMACC Foundation Scholarship. While she still works, Holly says the scholarship has helped her "make ends meet."

Getting used to the pace of life in the Carroll area has gone well. Holly says her experiences on the Carroll Campus have made her adjustment a smooth one.

"I have gotten to know the other students and my instructors very well," she says. "The classes are smaller here, meaning you get a lot more individual attention."

Holly, who will earn her RN degree in the spring, says she is focused on finding work in a more populous area . . . right here in Iowa. Holly is looking for opportunities in Des Moines, Ames and similar-sized cities. In eventually leaving her home-away-from-home, Holly says a piece of Carroll will always be with her.

"I never feel lost in the crowd and I have a lot of relationships I'll take with me," she says. "I've been encouraged to stand out in my own way here."

"I never feel lost in the crowd and I have a lot of relationships I'll take with me."

TRAIL POINT™

AQUATICS & WELLNESS

NOW OPEN!

Trail Point Aquatics & Wellness opened in February as Ankeny's newest community recreation and fitness facility. Located on the DMACC campus, Trail Point will provide an affordable and modern opportunity for individual and family wellness.

Trail Point features:

- 8-lane competition swimming pool
- Leisure pool with extra swim lanes
- 2 group fitness rooms and a cycling studio
- 3 racquetball courts
- State-of-the-art cardio equipment
- Top-notch strength training equipment
- 10th of a mile elevated track
- 2 full-sized basketball courts
- Childcare services (Family Membership)
- An incredible member experience!

Membership Rates, Virtual Tour and Photos can be found on our website:

mytrailpoint.com

515-965-6000

Trail Point Hours:

M-F: 5:00 am-10:00 pm

Sat: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Sun: 8:00 am-6:00 pm

Trail Point Aquatics & Wellness
2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., Building 5
Ankeny, IA 50023

Awards Recognize the Best and the Brightest

The annual Des Moines Area Community College Small Business Awards Ceremony recognizes the achievements and economic impact small business has on the Central Iowa economy.

The ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017, in the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Ankeny Campus. There will be a cocktail reception at 5 p.m. and the formal program will begin at 6 p.m.

Nominations are being accepted for the awards, which will be presented in these categories: Most Innovative, Young Entrepreneur, Dennis Albaugh Award, Top Growth Company and Small Business of the Year.

A portion of the proceeds from the event supports scholarships for students enrolled in the Entrepreneurship program at DMACC. Tickets are $60 each, or $420 for a table of 8.

For more information about applying for one of the awards, to view a recap of the 2016 awards, or to learn more about attending, please visit the link below.

WATCH VIDEO ONLINE >>

Learn more about the SBA Awards >>

Win $10,000 for Your Business in the DMACC Foundation Entrepreneurship Competition

For decades, Des Moines Area Community College has helped thousands of individuals bridge the gap between idea and entrepreneurship. Every day, DMACC supports Iowa small business by providing current and future employees with access to the fuel that powers the American dream: Education.

Now the College adds to its business-building tradition by offering $10,000 to the winner of the 2017 DMACC Foundation Entrepreneurship Competition.

The competition is open to DMACC students and alumni living in Iowa only (follow the link below to view eligibility rules and check out our 2016 winners at right). The winner will be announced at the DMACC Small Business Awards on September 14, 2017.

The $10,000 cash award was made possible by an anonymous gift through the DMACC Foundation.

From the left: Vada Grantham; Tara Connolly; Dylan Book, Owner of BigDeal Car Care, and DMACC President Rob Denson.

From the left: Vada Grantham; Tara Connolly; Kelsi Ziemann, CEO and Founder of Kelsi Ziemann Artistry, and DMACC President Rob Denson.

Out of This World!

ciWeek Speakers Take Motivation to the Nth Degree

The annual Des Moines Area Community College ciWeek (Celebrate! Innovation Week) was held at West Campus February 27—March 3. The 8th annual event offered students and the community opportunities to interact with people (some famous, all inspired) who have dreamed, created and accomplished.

During this thought-provoking and interactive week, students listen, absorb and engage without the stress of the regular class routine. Generous sponsors make the event free and open to the public. This year's speaker lineup included DMACC West Campus Provost Dr. Anthony Paustian, Joy Hakim, Adam Steen, Brian Nelson, Kaila Mullady, Greg Russell, Ken Mattingly, Dan Gable, Adam Carroll, Jeffrey Makowka, Max Brooks, Alfred Worden and Kevin Jorgeson.

Thank you to our ciWeek Sponsors!

Photos, clockwise from top left: **1.** DMACC West Campus student Emmy Godfrey (left) of Stuart poses for a photo with Max Brooks. **2.** World-renowned rock climber Kevin Jorgeson talks about his ropeless 55-foot climb of Ambrosia. **3.** Following his keynote address, Oscar-nominated sound engineer Greg Russell poses with Grace Feekes of Carlisle. **4.** West Campus Student Activity Council officers Kristen Conway (left) and Aticus Gassman posed for a photo with beatbox champion and artist Kaila Mullady. **5.** DMACC West Campus Provost, author and Celebrate! Innovation Week founder Dr. Tony Paustian kicked off ciWeek 8 with a keynote address on Feb. 27. **6.** Jason Brennan of Springfield, IL, traveled for five hours to hear Ken Mattingly's presentation and to get this replica of a space helmet signed by the astronaut. **7.** Aerospace Engineer, Apollo 15 astronaut and keynote speaker Al Worden.

See the World, Travel With DMACC!

For trip itineraries, details and pricing, visit www.mayflowertours.com

The Alumni Association is once again partnering with Mayflower Tours to offer national and international travel opportunities in 2017.

When you register with Mayflower Tours as a friend, alum or supporter of DMACC, a percentage of Mayflower's trip proceeds goes to support student scholarships. It's a win-win! You travel and DMACC students benefit.

2017 Trips

- **Cuba Experience**
  October and November Departures
- **Italy's Lake District and Riviera**
  April 21; September 8; October 6; November 3
- **Jekyll Island, Savannah and Charleston**
  April 23; May 21; October 8, 15
- **San Antonio Fiesta**
  April 23
- **Colorado Historic Trains**
  August 5; September 9, 16
- **Romantic Rhine and Mosel River Cruise**
  September 21

Each trip offers discounts for early registration. Again, don't forget to mention the DMACC Alumni Association when you make your reservation. A portion of the proceeds supports our annual Alumni Association scholarship fund! If you don't see a trip on the list that meets your needs, please contact Mayflower Tours at (800) 728-0724 to discuss options!

Calendar of Events

April 18, 2017
DMACC Alumni Awards Ceremony
DMACC Ankeny Campus, Building 7
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or alumni@dmacc.edu

June 22, 2017
DMACC CEO Golf Invitational
Talons of Tuscany, Ankeny, IA
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or foundation@dmacc.edu

September 7, 2017
DMACC Pioneer Fall Kickoff
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or foundation@dmacc.edu.

September 14, 2017
DMACC Small Business Awards Ceremony and Dinner
FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Ankeny Campus
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or foundation@dmacc.edu

October 23, 2017
DMACC Foundation Scholarship Dinner
DMACC Ankeny Campus, Student Services Center, Building 5
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or foundation@dmacc.edu

STAY UP-TO-DATE!

For reservations or more information, email us at foundation@dmacc.edu or call us at 515-964-6229.

Special Thanks!

Thank you to the Ankeny Campus Student Activities Office for sponsoring a portion of the costs to produce *DMACC Magazine*. Your support is greatly appreciated!