

The Impact *Index*



Community Colleges of Spokane
Foundation

2020 Annual Report

Our community's donations have an immediate and versatile impact. The financial support is key, but the students' realization that someone believes in their dreams is an affirmation that they *CAN* do this and sustains the students through to graduation. Our donors change lives.

*- Todd Woodard,
CCS Foundation Board President*



232 students stayed in school thanks to scholarships - Read about some of these students inside.

943 of students received the financial support and encouragement they needed thanks to our impact fund! - **Page 4**

\$126,000 raised at one event! In the middle of the pandemic you came together for our students. - **Page 5**

787 Boeing Jet Engine - Read about this huge program support donation! - **Page 5**

\$20,000 Plus two pantries in one day. Last year's Giving Tuesday was a day of impact! - **Page 6**

\$1.8 Million raised in cash! You made this a record-setting year for student support. - **Page 7**

Over \$266,000 was awarded in student scholarships. - **Page 8**

8 student volunteers helped create our summer video series. Our students and staff went above and beyond creating Sasquatch Life Hacks. - **Page 9**

251 of students were awarded emergency aid during the pandemic, thanks to Project Finish Line. - **Page 12**

Hello, and thank you for an amazingly generous year!

As we begin year-end celebrations and prepare for the year to come, I want to thank you for your dedication.

At the start of 2020, our entire world shifted. We went from outside to inside, from working in offices to working from home, from seeing our loved ones in person to seeing them over video. The CCS Foundation felt the hesitancy and uncertainty of that time, the same as you did. Suddenly we were holding meetings online and thinking about how much more would change. But we held tight to our mission of supporting our students and became laser-focused on helping them overcome new barriers to their education.

We were focused, but we weren't sure what to expect as winter turned to spring.

That's when you showed us what this community can do. At every turn, you showed up for our students. We opened a fund to help students purchase laptops and wireless internet for their online learning, and you increased it by 50%. We decided to host our first digital SipSwirl&Savor, and you raised \$126,000 for students in one night.

You didn't let the pandemic change your support - you continued to give *because* of it. Every time our students faced a new and urgent need, you were there.

It ended up being an amazing year of impact. That's why this year's Annual Report is actually an Impact Index, outlining your accomplishments and what our students were able to do as a result of your support.

As we head into the next year, the Foundation is excited to see what we can accomplish together. We know that no matter what the year throws at us, our community will show up for our students. Join us as we prepare for 2021 by making a donation now. You can use the attached remit envelope or give on our website, www.ccsfoundation.org.

Thank you for making 2020 a memorable year of student support. I wish you and yours the best in 2021!

Warmest regards,

Heather Beebe-Stevens
Executive Director

Achievement Through Dedication

Kevin's Story



You can immediately tell how dedicated Kevin Uyekawa is to college. Sitting in a classroom on campus with a mask on, he took time between classes to talk about his degree, his future, and what it means to earn a scholarship.

“Progression is only achieved through dedication,” Kevin said. It’s a quote (author unknown) he thinks of often; he even has it on his profile page as a Spokane Falls Community College tutor.

That dedication helped Kevin as he returned to school. A former machinist, Kevin was interested in earning his mechanical engineering degree. His uncle originally inspired him, along with the engineers he used to work with. The biggest inspiration to return to school, however, happened when Kevin’s son was born.

“I wanted to set a really good example for him,” Kevin said.

Before becoming a father, Kevin only had himself to provide for. Having someone else to care for inspires him to stay focused.

“I have to do this so he can have a more comfortable life.”

It can be a lot to juggle, though. Going to school while being a single parent creates a need for time-management. Especially after last spring, when Kevin’s classes went fully online due to the pandemic. While family and friends had been helping him by watching his son, he wasn’t sure if he’d have childcare for the fall. Plus, online classes were proving to be a challenge.

Things got tough enough that Kevin even began to wonder if he needed to take a break from school. That’s when he heard that he had earned the Kendall Family Scholarship.

“When I got the scholarship, I realized I had to keep going,” Kevin said. “Someone out there wants me to succeed. Donors don’t have to provide scholarships, but they do it anyway. Receiving that scholarship taught me that I can do anything.”

The scholarship re-inspired his dedication and reassured Kevin that being in

Students received
943 emergency
aid awards

school is the right decision. Now, nothing can stop him from continuing.

“Now is my chance.”

His family and friends have supported him while he’s been in school, and they’ll be excited when he graduates. But Kevin’s face lights up when he talks about what it will mean to himself to finish school.

“This is the biggest long-term goal I’ve ever pursued,” Kevin explained. “Finishing my degree will show me that those long-term goals are achievable. And it’ll mean that I’ll be able to reap the rewards of my hard work.”

Once he finishes his degree at SFCC, Kevin plans to transfer to a local four-year to get his bachelor’s. His goal is to use the knowledge gained from his degrees in real world applications.

“One day I might design a part using a drafting program. Or I might go out to test products, setting up a testing procedure to find out what a part can handle before it goes into full production.”

It’ll be a challenge, but that’s where Kevin’s dedication will help him succeed. Even in school, what Kevin finds rewarding about the challenge of an education is working towards his final grades and recognizing, as he walks past equipment, that he’s developing a better understanding of how different products function. And he’ll take that same energy into his career.

After all, someone once said, “Progression is only achieved through dedication.”

Over **400**
placement tests
funded so students
could start school

In an Uncertain Time, Donors Chose to Support Students

Spring is usually our time of gathering. The Foundation holds our largest annual event each April, and it's a time of community and celebration as we head towards graduation.

This last year, however, our in-person spring celebrations had to be canceled for everyone's safety. We had a choice: cancel our annual gala, SipSwirl&Savor, or change it. In the spirit of transformation and with our eyes on our mission, we decided to take a leap and host our first-ever digital SipSwirl&Savor. We held an online auction for most of the day, with peak packages revealed at the end of the night. And we hosted an online paddle raise throughout the day.

We weren't sure what to expect for our first online event, but our amazing community did what they do best: support CCS students. Donors brought in \$126,000 for our students and programs! This money provided much needed support to our students, but it also showed them that our donors are here for them no matter what. Even during an unprecedented pandemic, our students have a community that believes in their hard work and will support them as they achieve their dreams.

Take a look at our package videos on our Facebook, @FoundationCCS, and learn about our event sponsors and community partners on our website!



“Every community college student has their own unique story and set of obstacles to overcome in order to pursue their education. The common thread that unites them, however, is a constant worry about funding. Whether community college is their only chance at improving their lives and the lives of their families, or it’s their last chance, the desire and commitment is there. They just need the benefit of support to overcome their obstacles and achieve their goals.”

-Jim Perez, Graduate, long-time administrator, and supporter of community college systems

When the Gift Is So Big, It Needs a Flatbed Truck

The Foundation often accepts gifts in the form of equipment for our students. We have even accepted donations as large as an airplane and a firetruck! But last fall was the first time we had to have a special wide-load, flatbed truck deliver a donation.

In October of 2019, Boeing generously donated a 787 jet engine for our aviation maintenance students. The engine was unveiled at a luncheon, where speakers included an aviation maintenance technology alum who went on to be a Boeing Functional Test Manager, Dr. Kevin Brockbank (SCC President), and Dr. Christine Johnson (CCS Chancellor).

“We’re proud to receive this generous donation from Boeing, and we thank them for recognizing and promoting skilled trades programs. The gifted 787 jet engine

will play a vital role in expanding our students’ education so they can attain high-quality careers in Washington,” said Dr. Christine Johnson, chancellor of the Community Colleges of Spokane.

You can see a video of the engine being delivered on our website!

www.ccsfoundation.org



A New Beginning

Angelic's Story

Every student interviewed by the Foundation gets asked one specific question: what keeps you motivated? Whether they're a scholarship recipient, a volunteer with the Foundation, or a student recommended to us for a feature story, we want to know what drives them.

When Angelic Ewing answered the question, she talked about the power of transformation.

"I'm motivated by the hope of a better future for me and my children. I'm showing my kids that it's never too late to start over, to do what needs to be done, to give yourself a new beginning. If you work hard, you can be triumphant." Angelic added, "Knowing that I'm making that transformation for my family for generations to come keeps me pushing forward."

Registering for classes at Spokane Community College was the start of Angelic's "new beginning." After losing her husband and becoming a single parent to her three kids, she knew she wanted to find a new way forward. She hit some roadblocks as she tried to re-enter school, but she credits scholarships with setting her life on a new path.

"It changed my life. It actually changed the direction of my life," Angelic explained. She described scholarships as a "community-minded

gift," one that shows students there's no limit to what's possible. "You can be and become anything. Scholarships propel people forward to dream and believe in a new future. They're keys that open up new possibilities."

Angelic's dream is to be a small organic farm owner. To make sure she has all the tools she'll need to build her new future, she's working towards a project management certificate at SCC.

"It's helping me wrap my mind around what a business needs," she said.

She's pursuing her accounting degree on top of her certificate, and she's found a real passion for the work. In fact, she's now tutoring other students in accounting. It's a way of giving back to a community that supported her.

"I love the community SCC has given me. I love the integrity and compassion of the instruction, especially for a nontraditional student who just lost her husband. I love how the colleges pull resources together in a meaningful way, so the support is really a hand-up. It's the community I've found that I love the most."

She also considers the scholarship a sign of that strong community. "I feel like I'm a part



of something because I got a scholarship."

Angelic is thriving within this community. She's doing well in her classes and is on track to finish school next year. And she was even nominated for the Transforming Lives Award.

"That reminds me that I must be doing something right," Angelic said.

And it's a sign that she really is getting to start over. Through her hard work, she and her children are getting that new beginning.

A Day of Good Work

Not many people can say that they watched their donation build something the same day their gift was made. But that's exactly what happened when over 100 donors came together to fill one student pantry, open another, and raise \$20,000 to end hunger for CCS students in one day.

December 3, 2019 was a true day of impact. Thanks to donations, we were able to open and stock the Adult Education Center pantry, to support students who have a difficult time accessing the campus food pantries. The pantry was cleaned and painted by Bank of America volunteers, who also kicked off our Giving Tuesday with a \$10,000 gift towards our goal. Community donors helped us reach another \$2,000 that morning to purchase a fridge and freezer to keep perishable items at the pantry.

Later in the day, we also reached enough of our goal to officially open a pantry at the Apprenticeship and Journeyman Training Center. These students are far from either campus pantry and are not near quick and affordable lunch places.

Faculty and staff were often providing food for these students with their own money. Donors made sure that, in the future, those students have a pantry of their very own so that they can have enough to eat and focus on their education.

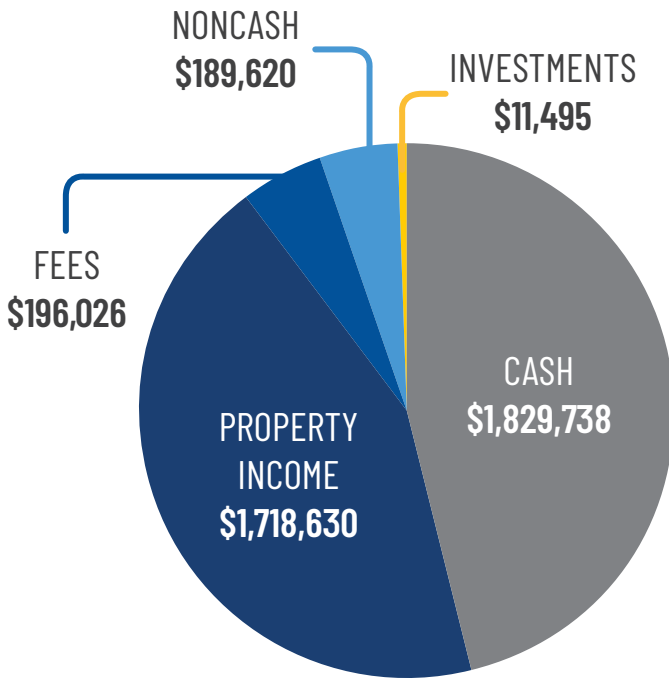
Donors watched live throughout the day as these amazing successes were accomplished. By the end of the day, they'd raised \$20,000 to end student hunger for CCS students and changed countless of our students' lives forever!

Watch the videos from last Giving Tuesday on our Facebook, @FoundationCCS

\$124,967 awarded in emergency aid funds

Financials

Revenue



Total Revenue
\$3,922,519

CASH: Includes grants; funds scholarships, operations, and program support

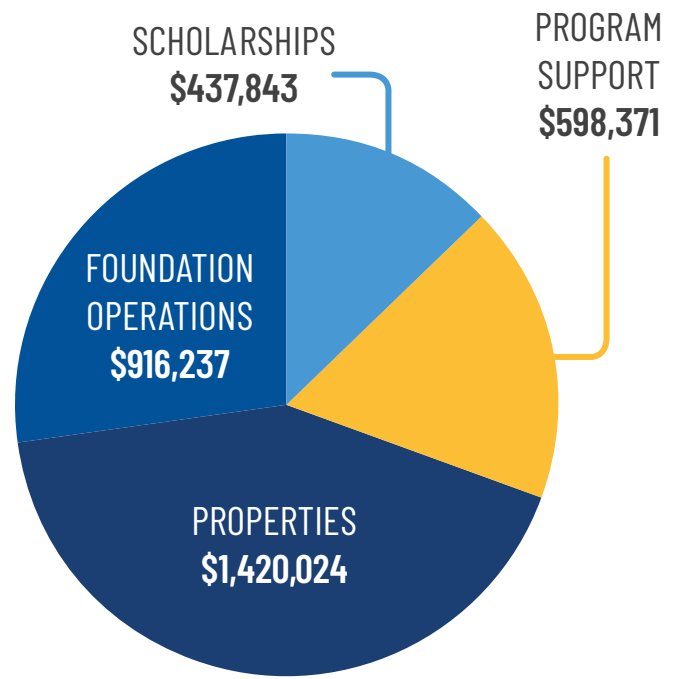
NONCASH: Donated services and items, such as equipment; funds program support

INVESTMENTS: Supports all expense categories

PROPERTY INCOME: Supports properties, scholarships, and program support

FEES: Includes income transfers; supports operations

Expenses



Total Expenses
\$3,372,475

SCHOLARSHIPS: Funds tuition, books, fees, and emergency aid for our students

PROGRAM SUPPORT: Funds the needs of CCS programs and faculty/staff development; includes below-market rent to CCS

PROPERTIES: Expenses for owning and maintaining properties

FOUNDATION OPERATIONS: Expenses related to staff, development and operating the Foundation

School-worthy. Scholarship-worthy.

\$266,000 awarded in
student scholarships

Mary's Story



We say regularly that a scholarship is more than just financial support. It's encouragement. It's a lesson—sometimes for the first time—that a student can reach their dreams. They *can* balance school and work and life, they *can* finish their degrees, and they *can* build the lives they've pictured for themselves.

We say it all the time, but no one says it better than our students.

Mary Jones moved to Spokane a year ago with her young daughter. Being able to take that kind of leap of faith, starting over somewhere new, should tell you everything you need to know about Mary.

Her next leap of faith was to go to college.

"It's scary before you start," Mary said.

She was nervous about being an older student starting her college education. But she knew she wanted to get her degree in marketing and communications.

"I love meeting people who think differently from me," Mary said. After growing up in a small town, where everyone had similar perspectives and opinions, she fell in love with talking to people about their experiences. "It expands how I think."

She looked into the colleges and universities in the area, and she found that Spokane Community College was the most affordable option and it had the program she wanted. Although she had a lot to juggle in a new city and as a single mom, she took the leap and registered for classes.

"It's really hard balancing work and schoolwork. You have to pay for school and to have a roof over your head, and you also have to give enough of your time to be successful in school. So how do you choose? That's the tricky part."

Things got even trickier when she and her daughter were both at home this spring in the wake of the pandemic. Mary had to get creative with her workspace, practice good time-management, and invest in technology.

"Before starting school, I really didn't know if I'd be successful," Mary said. She thought she wasn't smart enough to be a good student, or that maybe she wasn't the kind of person who has a degree and a career.

But all of that hard work started showing her what she could accomplish.

"Seeing progress allowed me to see my work was paying off," Mary said. Like when she made the Dean's list. That helped her stay motivated. One big sign of her accomplishments came when she heard she'd been offered a scholarship.

At first she didn't believe it. In fact, when she got the call, she thought it was a scam! She told the donors who awarded her a scholarship that she'd never thought she was school-worthy, let alone scholarship-worthy. But of course she was.

"Getting a scholarship made me feel valued more than I thought I was. I felt so grateful to be chosen, that someone thought I was worth investing in. It made me want to level-up."

Now she's about to accomplish one of the steps towards her dream. She'll graduate from SCC this winter and transfer to Gonzaga University for her bachelor's. She'll be the first of her siblings to get a degree and the first person in her daughter's life to go to college. In short, she'll be exactly the kind of person who has a degree and career, and who believed in herself enough to make her dreams a reality.

When You Really Can Make a Dream Come True

Katiana's Story

Attending Spokane or Spokane Falls Community Colleges offers our students a chance at a bright future. With an employment rate of over 87%, they can begin a career that will transform their lives and the lives of the people in their community. We know what attending school means for our students' futures. But sometimes school, and the chance to attend without debt thanks to scholarships, provides something purer, simpler. It provides the chance to fulfill personal dreams. Like Katiana Denis's dream.

Katiana's whole face lights up when she talks about graduating.

"It's hard to explain. It would mean a lot to me, the world really. That is my dream," she said, smiling and looking out the window. "It would mean a lot to my family; I'd only be the second one in my family to graduate from college. But to see myself graduate and get it all done would be a relief. I'd be somebody."

Getting an education is something Katiana has wanted for a long time. To her, an education will help her create a better future. And she loves attending school.

She's currently a civil engineering student at SFCC, which she says suits her. She loves numbers.

She hopes to use this degree to someday open her own business, where she can collaborate with others. That collaboration is one thing she loves about school.

"Meeting new people, communicating with them, is what I like most about school," she said. That dialogue is what she's missing



most with online classes. "You can't ask questions over video like you would in class."

Online learning has been tricky for Katiana overall. "They don't have it in my country," she explained. As an international student, learning how to take online classes has required Katiana to change her study habits. "It's more work, and I have to read the textbooks a lot more."

She also wasn't familiar with the idea of scholarships.

Katiana explained that, when learning about how to pay for school in the U.S., she was told about financial aid. She didn't know international students could receive scholarships. So when she was awarded one,

she said it was nothing short of a blessing.

"I'm a student who doesn't know where next year's tuition is going to come from," Katiana said. "To have somebody decide to bless me with a scholarship gives me hope that I'll be able to have next year covered."

And that allows her to stay focused on her dream of graduating, of seeing herself finish every homework assignment and project to earn her diploma.

"The scholarship donors have really impacted my life, and I thank them," Katiana said. "And I hope they know their donation isn't in vain. Students work hard to make them proud."

Sharing Expertise and a Thank You

This summer, faculty and students from nine different CCS programs volunteered their time to create short "how to" videos, or as we call them, Sasquatch Life Hacks. Each video offered advice on at-home projects, like learning conversational Spanish, training for a road marathon, or preparing to do your own basic car maintenance. At the end of each video, presenters offered a sincere thank you to donors who support our CCS programs and students. The project was such a hit between our donors and volunteers that we've decided to continue the practice next summer!

Catch up on all of our Sasquatch Life Hack videos on our website! www.ccsfoundation.org



Inspired to Pursue Their Dreams

Melissa's Story

Our students carry not only their own dreams, but the dreams of their community as well. With each registration and graduation, they transform their lives and those of the people cheering them on. It's a ripple effect; each student serves as inspiration to countless others who learn that they, too, can start out on their dreams right here at CCS.

Melissa Poole, one of our occupational therapy assistant students at Spokane Falls Community College, brings that inspiration to mind. Not only is she working and raising her daughter, but this fall she also took five classes.

"I love learning. I especially enjoy science classes and excel in Anatomy and Physiology, but those are the hard classes," said Melissa. Taking five classes is a huge time commitment, even if a student had no other responsibilities.

"Being able to balance being a full-time mom and studying enough to retain all of that information is the hardest thing I am currently facing."

Melissa talked about how going to school now, while her daughter is young, will mean that she'll have more time to spend with her little girl as she grows. The scholarship she received makes that balance possible while she works through her program.

"The program I am in is very intensive and is a major time commitment. I am so thankful that I can dedicate my time to school and being available to my daughter as much as possible."

Melissa is focused on her dream of helping people find independence through occupational therapy. Even with a busy class schedule and balancing work and being a mom, she's not letting anything stop her.

"I haven't let anything get in the way of my schooling. I made up my mind when I returned to school in my 30's that it was going to be priority number one, and I have managed to keep it that way."

She's also helping people find independence through her dedication. When asked what it will mean to graduate, Melissa talked about how special it will be to see her hard work pay off. But more than that, she talked about her family.

"I hope finishing my degree will motivate my sister to go back to school," Melissa said. "She's a very hard worker, but she never thought school or college was something for her. I hope that if she sees me succeed, it will inspire her to want more for herself. Hopefully, it will inspire her to start making goals to achieve success in a way that will challenge her and fulfill her."



Melissa also talked about what graduating will show her daughter, who was Melissa's inspiration for going back to school. "I knew that I needed to make a career change in order to provide for my daughter as a single parent.

"I hope my studies show my daughter that school is important. I know there are many paths to success and it doesn't always require a degree, but [an education] does provide opportunities that may not have been available without having that degree. I want her to be inspired to pursue her dreams when she is older in whatever ways possible," Melissa explained.

She hopes her story will also help other students apply for scholarships and encourage them to focus on their dreams.

"You won't ever know if it's possible to get these awards unless you apply," Melissa said.

It's a pebble in a pond, a ripple effect that starts with a single bit of inspiration. It started with Melissa going for her own goals. It widens as it encourages her sister and daughter, then her college peers. And someday, it will inspire the countless clients that Melissa will support as an occupational therapy assistant.

\$598,371 in cash and noncash program support

Making Graduation a Top Priority

When Spokane and Spokane Falls Community Colleges followed the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” directive last spring, our students moved to an entirely virtual campus and online-learning experience. While our district took this change in stride, many students did not have reliable access to computers or internet at home. CCS offered laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot rentals to students, but more requests kept coming in.

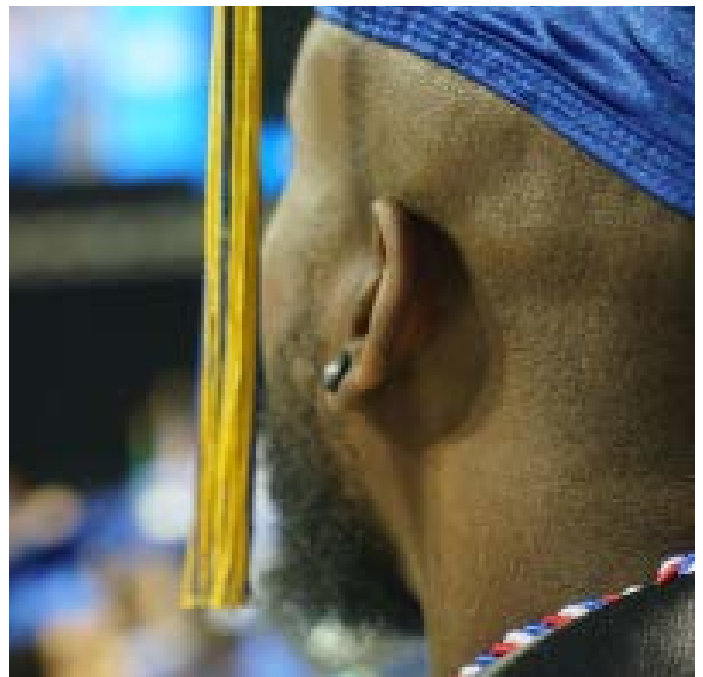
The CCS Foundation Board of Directors realized what this would mean for our students: if students couldn’t manage the transition to online learning, many would be forced to abandon their education.

Students also started reaching out, saying that childcare and layoffs were creating a financial barrier to their education. To make sure that our students could stay focused on their education, the Foundation Board created the Project Finish Line fund, an emergency aid fund where students could receive up to \$1,000 of support.

After launching Project Finish Line, the Foundation team began to receive more and more emergency requests, at one point receiving *seven times* the daily requests. The fund began with a \$30,000 allocation from the Board, but donors supported the fund even more. Eventually, students were awarded over \$45,000 in emergency aid funding, with support continuing today.

Thanks to Foundation donors, over 251 awards were made through Project Finish Line. During a time when our neighbors felt so far away, that was 251 moments of our community reaching out to our students to give them the support they needed and the encouragement to stay focused.

Read about the impact of Project Finish Line and hear directly from one of our student recipients on our website!



251 Project Finish Line emergency aid awards

“When you’re trying to take another attempt at school, it’s great that there are organizations who want to help students like me. Scholarships and other funding opportunities support students who just need a little extra help. Even in trying times like we’re all facing right now, there are still generous donors out there.”

-Austin Mendez, Project Finish Line recipient

Project Finish Line awarded \$45,250 to students impacted by the pandemic

Let’s make this next year as impactful as last year! Donate today to support CCS students and programs.

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