

Turn Dreams into Success Stories

By: Gretchen D. Wood, CFRE

Executive Director, Monroe Community College Foundation

AFTER GRADUATING from Rochester's John Marshall High School, Adrian Hale enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. When he returned from duty, Adrian sought opportunities to reach his full potential. He enrolled at Monroe Community College, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and took his next steps towards becoming a public servant. Private philanthropists, including Olivia and David Cornell, supported his dream through a scholarship they established with the MCC Foundation. After graduating from MCC with a 4.0 GPA, Adrian transferred to Yale University where he earned a degree in political science and delivered the university's 2016 Veterans' Day Ceremony speech. Adrian is the first of his family to attend and graduate from college.

Shadowing professionals while attending Webster Schroeder High School led Katherine Porzi to pursue a career as a sonographer. Katherine was attracted to the flexibility and low tuition MCC offered. With three older siblings attending public and private four-year colleges, quality and affordability were her top priorities. Katherine enrolled in MCC's 2+2 dual admission program with Rochester Institute of Technology's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. MCC Foundation scholarships, including support from the Xerox Foundation, helped her earn her degree. She graduated nearly debt free with a 3.96 GPA, ready to transfer to RIT with full junior status.

Scholarships create life-changing opportunities for MCC students and inspire them to pursue academic excellence. Benefactors who invest in student success through MCC Foundation scholarships discover the impact of their giving often goes well beyond one student. Their support ultimately impacts our community.



MCC ALUMNUS ADRIAN HALE '14
PHOTO BY: MATT WITTMAYER



MCC ALUMNA KATHERINE PORZI '18
PHOTO BY: MCC

Today, Adrian serves as the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce's manager of strategic initiatives where he aligns Rochester City School District students with workforce development efforts and serves as a liaison to the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative.

Early in his career, Adrian said "In order for us to really address the problems we face as a community, it is important for people like myself who are actually products of those experiences to come back and lead the effort to make a difference."

Katherine began the fall semester with a RIT Presidential Scholarship recognizing her outstanding academic performance and strong entrance exam scores. "Thanks to MCC, I have a great foundation for the rest of my academic career," she says.

The MCC Foundation turns private philanthropy into student success stories. In 2017-2018 alone, the MCC Foundation awarded nearly \$1.5 million in scholarships to more than 800 students. Unfortunately, for every scholarship awarded three more requests went unmet.

For a range of giving options in support of MCC students, visit www.monroecc.edu or call (585) 292-3680.

“It has been great to feel so much support on this journey.”

- KATHERINE PORZI