

Thank you for investing in our students and their futures.



THE COLLEGE FOUNDATION AT DELHI, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Message FROM THE COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Dear Friends:

This year's Annual Report looks significantly different from those in the past. There are many reasons for the change, but I think there are three that will resonate with you.

We have a responsibility and are committed to communicating with our donors on how their generosity is making a difference. In doing so, we also strive to maximize the aid we provide to students by reducing operating costs. So we streamlined the Annual Report and moved the Honor Roll of Donors to the college website at www.delhi.edu/friends.

A second change reflects one of President Laliberte's most important values. He's a storyteller at heart and we've changed our communications strategy to focus on how SUNY Delhi and our donors are helping students achieve their dreams. You'll see this change reflected in other publications as well, including *Horizons* magazine.

Finally, we have included graphs and infographics to illustrate how your support has helped dramatically increase scholarship support over the last five years. I'd also like to highlight some other milestones achieved this past year, including:

- Endowment gifts totaled over \$362,000;
- Alumni, faculty, staff and friends honored retiring President Candace Vancko by making more than \$50,000 in scholarship gifts in response to the Vancko Challenge; and
- The College Foundation provided over \$250,000 to support student projects.

On behalf of the College Foundation, I want to thank you for your generosity. At the same time, the needs of our students continue to grow. Qualified students from low-income families who qualify for full state and federal financial aid are still \$6,080 short of paying their bills. It's a barrier many cannot overcome.

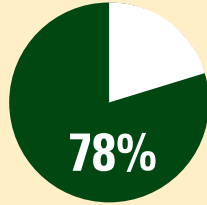
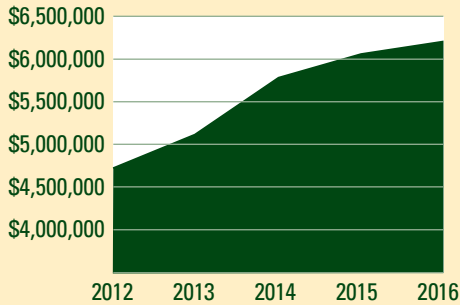
Thank you for investing in our students and their futures. Please encourage others to join you in helping SUNY Delhi students achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,

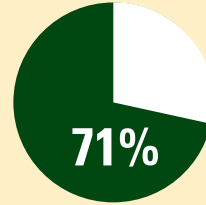
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel M. Smith
Executive Director

Endowment Value 2012-16

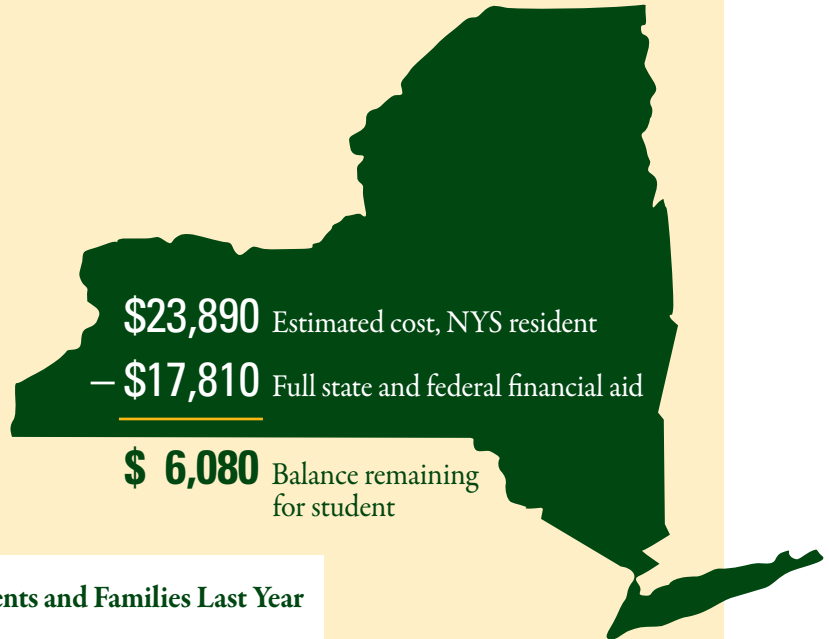
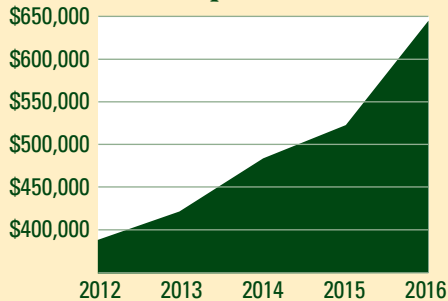


Students who receive financial aid



Students who receive financial aid with unmet need

Scholarships Awarded 2012-16



\$18.7 Million in Loans for Delhi Students and Families Last Year

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



Linda '65 and Neil Riddell '62 never dreamed they would be able to one day establish an endowed scholarship at SUNY Delhi.

Both faced serious challenges in their young lives. Linda's father died when she was 12, and as a woman, it wasn't typical to attend college at that time. "But my mother was set on me having a good education," says Linda. So she began studying food service at Delhi and, after completing her first year, was married.

That's when life gave Linda more challenges. She needed to drop out of college for economic reasons and then soon found out she would be a mother. "But Katherine Foster, who was head of the program, came to visit me and my husband at our home. She told me I was her best student and that I should come back and finish my studies."

Linda found a way to make it work with the support of her husband and extended family. Looking back, she realized her mother and Miss Foster gave her the inspiration to pursue her education. Widowed and now remarried, Linda says that the challenges she and Neil had to face in their youth are what have drawn them together as a couple.

Neil's mother passed when he was a junior in high school, and because of lack of family finances, he had to pay his own way through college. Neil hitchhiked to classes and relied on the kindness of friends and faculty at Delhi. "I always had a support system that helped me along when I lacked the support of a family," says Neil. "When I didn't have a home to go to, I had many families to help me out, my extended family in Bloomville, and especially my Delhi family."

Neil confesses that his positive experiences at Delhi helped shape his life's philosophy. "When I meet someone for the first time and see that they are thriving in their life, it gives me a real high," says Neil. "But if they are stuck in a box and can't escape their troubles, it makes me want to help them."

Today Linda is enjoying retirement following a successful career that included positions as a school lunch manager, instructor for the disabled, director of Meals on Wheels, and dietary director at Willow Point Nursing Home in Vestal. Neil served in the US Army 101st Airborne as a paratrooper from 1964-1966. After his military service, he was involved in agricultural-based and real estate businesses throughout Central New York for many years. His sports involvement has translated into refereeing high school and college soccer and basketball for over 50 years.

Linda and Neil say they have Delhi to thank for their success and feel it's their responsibility to pay it forward. "If Linda and I can go through what we've gone through, not feel sorry for ourselves and do good work in our lives, then others may benefit from our help and do the same," says Neil. "That's why it's so important to us to help young lives."



BENEFITTING FROM SCHOLARSHIPS

Like many Delhi students, senior John Quagliano knew that to achieve his dream of attending college, he'd have to pay his own way which meant extensive loans.

As a solid "A" student at SUNY Delhi, he found some unexpected help, qualifying for a number of scholarships that helped ease the amount he expected to borrow. During his Delhi career, John has earned the Alumni Scholarship, the Baright Family Award, the Betsy Robinson Memorial Endowment Scholarship, the Class of 1963 Centennial Scholarship, the

College Senate Scholarship, the Dennis Callas Honors Scholarship, the Higgins Family Scholarship, the Merit Scholarship, the Merrill Family Foundation Scholarship, and the Neil and Linda Riddell Scholarship. He adds, "Scholarships have been the difference between an affordable education and a debt sentence."

Even with the extensive financial assistance he's received, John has had to work hard and live frugally. He works 28 hours a week with the Resnick Library, Computer Information Systems, intramurals and as a Resident Assistant in Russell Hall. "I don't buy textbooks. Instead, I find which textbooks I can borrow from the library," he says. Even John's backpack has been sewn and resewn several times. "My sneakers are so holey they belong in a church," he adds.

Financial aid was just one of the opportunities that John discovered at Delhi. He was selected for a unique internship in Washington, DC last summer. "At the end of my first week, I was sitting in the office and came to a realization that my college career at Delhi has allowed me so many experiences, lifelong friends and endless possibilities in the future. I have grown as a person in ways I can't begin to describe. I realized at that point my life was finally coming together," explains John.

John says his Delhi experience has taught him an important lesson—college is the most important decision you can make in your young life. "Most high school seniors don't know what they want to do with their lives, and I was one of them," he says. The question you need to ask yourself is not "Do I want to go to college?," but rather "What are my goals in life?" His advice to students is "You don't need to have it all figured out, but you need something to strive for."

He is considering pursuing a graduate degree, but his ultimate goal is to live a simple life—a loving family, a modest home in a rural area, and secure a job that doesn't necessarily make a lot of money, but one that brings value to people in need.

"Money matters to me less and less as I get older," explains John. "I'm extremely good at living within my means—if I didn't live this way, I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you Delhi."

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Honor Roll of Donors
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