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WITH THE
FOUNDATION
TO LEARN
MORE AND GIVE.



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78% of 2021 OCTech
Foundation scholarship
recipients graduated
within 2 years of
receiving a scholarship.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the OCTech Foundation awarded \$115,550 in scholarships to 140 students and \$15,845 in emergency aid.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Not all OCTech students are recent high school graduates – they are of all ages, stages in life and economic conditions. Some are second-career folks developing new skills to qualify for a job in a new industry. Others are single parents of school-age children who manage their homes, work one or more jobs, and also attend class. Some who are already gainfully employed seek

additional training to qualify for raises or better-paying positions with their current employer. Many live paycheck to paycheck and hope for a more secure future.

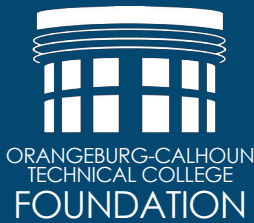
With scholarships, help with paying for required books and equipment, and emergency funds for electricity, heating and medical bills, the OCTech Foundation helps our students remain in school, fulfill their goals, become or continue to be wage earners, and secure a safe place in the world and our community for themselves and their families.

Your ongoing support of and attendance at the Foundation's fall and spring events, along with other gifts and grants, funds the Foundation so that it can continue to meet the financial needs of many of our students. Thank you!

Robert F. Sabalis

ROBERT F. SABALIS, Foundation Board Chair 2022-2023

Across all of higher education in South Carolina, OCTech has the highest percentage of graduates who remain employed in the state after one, five and 10 years.



FOCUS
2023

your gifts
HELP OTHERS GROW

Grant Weaver started a lawn care business at just 10 years old. When the time came for the 2023 Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School honors graduate to go to college, he knew exactly where he wanted to be.

"Everyone said, 'Go to a four-year college,' but you can go to a technical college and get a good education. OCTech made the most sense. You can get a degree and be out in two years making money. I want to learn ways to expand my current business and explore other business opportunities, and I'm doing that at OCTech."

The flexibility of online classes helps Grant continue managing his business while also working part time for a local landscaping service and going to school full time.

Receiving an OCTech Foundation scholarship meant he was able to attend the college for free.

"It helped me with books so I didn't have to pay for anything. It's such a blessing to not have that financial burden on you. I can save money in order to work toward my life goals. My family and I really appreciate it."



"Supporting the OCTech Foundation is an investment in the limitless potential of our students. By giving, we empower the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, and cultivate the ground from which the leaders of tomorrow will emerge."

LATRICE SINGLETARY
OCTech Network Security
and Information Technology
Program Coordinator

OCTECH HAS
ONE OF THE
HIGHEST
RETENTION
RATES FOR
FIRST-YEAR
STUDENTS
IN THE SC
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE
SYSTEM



your giftsBUILD COMMUNITIES

Lisa Russell worked for years as a licensed practical nurse before returning to school to earn an Associate Degree in Nursing.

“I chose OCtech because it has a strong reputation and is known for producing well-prepared nurses. OCtech’s smaller classes and close-knit community create a supportive learning environment where I am able to receive personalized attention from my instructors. You can see the passion and compassion they have, which helps us individually grow as students and future RNs.”

Due to the ADN program’s rigorous requirements, the single mother of two is only able to work part time. She also commutes from Summerville, so receiving an OCtech Foundation scholarship has helped Lisa’s family in many ways.

“With the scholarship and my Pell Grant, I didn’t have to take out any student loans. I can focus on my studies and make the most of my educational experience. It allows me to allocate my resources to other important areas and create a more stable, supportive environment for my sons.”

“I am extremely thankful for the donors. Their contributions help students continue their education and not get weighed down with debt. It encourages us to keep going because there’s help out there for us to be successful.”

Bobby Smith didn’t originally set out to be a nurse, but the desire to care for his mother during the COVID-19 pandemic inspired the culinary arts graduate to change course.

“She was a nurse, and I wanted to take care of her,” he said. “Unfortunately, she didn’t make it, but I promised her that I would get my nursing degree.”

Bobby is taking prerequisite courses so he can apply to the program next fall. The Charleston resident said having instructors who care has made all the difference.

“They are always willing to go above and beyond to help you,” he said. “They want you to succeed.”

Bobby works part time as a certified nursing assistant and medication technician at Wellmore of Daniel Island, but his hours are restricted by his classes and commute.

“I have financially supported myself since my teenage years, and I am solely responsible for the costs associated with my education,” he said. “Receiving an OCtech Foundation scholarship provided me with a sense of relief that I didn’t have to worry financially about school.”

“It makes you feel good to know that you have support in the community, and that somebody is rooting for you to achieve your goals.”



your giftsMAKE A DIFFERENCE

2023 was a record year for our signature special events at OCtech!

More than \$99,700 was raised through the spring Home and Garden Symposium and fall Webber Evening of Fine Wines and Food.

These events support scholarships and emergency aid for students, professional development for faculty and staff, and state-of-the-art equipment and technology for academic programs.



“The things I look for in my physical therapist assistants are great personalities, easy to talk to, sympathetic and really just a passion for the care of their patients. I have found these qualities in each and every one of the therapists I’ve hired from OCtech. I am proud to support the work of the Foundation as it helps students reach their goals.”

MARLENE WORKMAN, The Works Physical Therapy



“Scholarships made possible by fundraising efforts of the OCtech Foundation have been life-changing for many students. As a long-serving member of the Foundation Board and its Scholarship Committee, I have seen the critical needs of numerous prospective students. It has been especially rewarding to see many scholarship recipients graduate and achieve success in their chosen careers.”

CATHERINE HAY, Foundation Board Member