

PAYING IT FORWARD



Bridgewater State University
2019 - 2020 PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT



Dear Friends,

The year 2020 no doubt will be regarded by future historians, as it is by current commentators, as among the most difficult in recent memory. It certainly has been among the most trying periods in Bridgewater State University's 180-year history. We need not regale you with the details of our faculty shifting mid-spring semester to fully online instruction, postponing commencement, undertaking the inordinately complex planning for a fall semester unlike anything we have experienced, managing in a period of extraordinary uncertainty when so many variables are unknown and unknowable, sustaining the essence of the BSU student experience in the midst of so much disruption, all while coping with the enormous financial repercussions of the pandemic.

Yet we also have found this year to be strangely reassuring. Reassuring of the character, of the mission, of the culture, of the heart of Bridgewater State University. What we have witnessed is how the entire BSU community has pulled together, put its collective head down, soldiered on and gotten the job done. What we have witnessed is the heart of BSU beating stronger than ever, determined to support and help our students and every person in our extended family. What we have witnessed is you, our donors, reaching out to see how you can help, answering our call to assist our students in their time of need.

Take our Student Emergency Fund. Our donors have contributed nearly \$100,000 to the fund, which, coupled with federal CARES Act funding, has enabled BSU to assist more than 1,500 students who had been deeply impacted by COVID-19 with more than \$1 million in financial assistance. In the 2020-2021 academic year BSU has more than \$3 million available in its Student Emergency Fund to help students in need continue to progress in their education.

This also has been a year of accomplishment. In January, BSU was one of only three universities across the U.S. recognized by the Council on Undergraduate Research for its exemplary program. The Council was "most impressed with your emphasis on diversity and inclusion." Our ability to provide opportunities to approximately 1,800 students a year is made possible by the support of our donors – yet another example of how your generosity opens so many doors of opportunity to BSU students. BSU also was ranked this year as the safest campus in Massachusetts and the fifth safest in the entire country – a testament to our commitment to the well-being of our students and the entire BSU community.

We will not only get through this difficult year; I am convinced we will emerge even stronger as an institution, better positioned to seize the opportunities ahead of us, and in the process help our students thrive and attain their goals. We will do this together as a BSU family. As highlighted in this publication, Dr. Mark Brenner, who taught social work for 16 years at BSU and has created a scholarship to assist students pursuing clinical social work, has said, "We are all interconnected, so helping even one person helps us all."



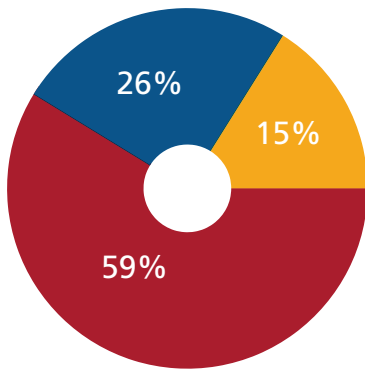
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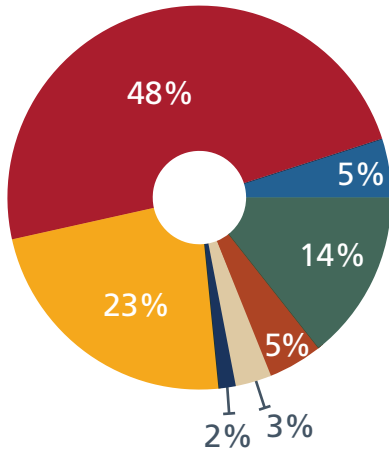


GIFTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Alumni | \$1,467,000 |
| Corporate and Foundation | \$656,000 |
| Friends, Parents, Employees and Faculty | \$367,000 |

Total \$2,490,000

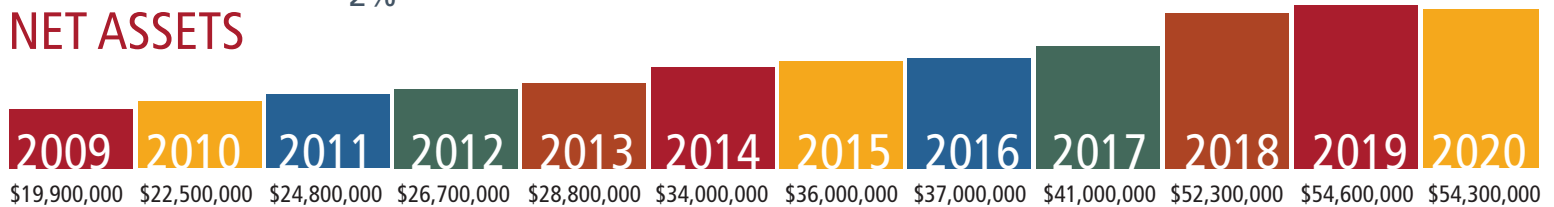
*100% of private donations go directly to helping students and programs.
All BSU operating costs associated with the BSU Foundation are provided by Bridgewater State University.*



DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Academic Programs | \$272,600 |
| Athletics | \$85,000 |
| Equipment | \$61,500 |
| Faculty Support | \$41,500 |
| Internships..... | \$438,000 |
| Scholarships/Financial Aid | \$925,000 |
| Student Support - Other | \$101,000 |

NET ASSETS



REVENUE

In fiscal year 2020, Bridgewater State University received approximately **23 percent of its revenue from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. The remainder of its revenue is from local tuition and fees, government and private grants, contracts, gifts and auxiliary enterprises.



Graduate student Fábio Varela sported a BSU mask during a recent visit to campus, one of more than 20,000 masks the university is making available to students.

PAYING IT FORWARD

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

1,091

number of gifts from BSU
faculty, staff and librarians

95

number of gifts from
former BSU faculty, staff
and librarians

2,675

number of gifts from alumni

969

number of gifts from
friends of BSU

115

number of gifts from
corporations and foundations

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY'S BOARDS AND OFFICERS

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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COVID-19 STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The coronavirus, self-quarantining, physical distancing and the resultant lockdown that closed schools and impacted education at every level, shuttered businesses and resulted in sky-high unemployment, certainly qualify as among the most far-reaching and catastrophic definitions of an emergency. Where to begin?

Not surprisingly, BSU responded quickly to the COVID-19 emergency, expanding the existing Student Emergency Fund (SEF) to allow quick response to students' urgent needs prompted by the pandemic.

The SEF is sustained through fundraising efforts of the Family Association and Office of Alumni and Development. The COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund received additional support via the CARES Act and the BSU Foundation.

As of July 1, the total of student emergency financial aid grants awarded to BSU students through the Student Emergency Fund totaled \$1 million; more than 1,500 students received support.

Eileen Estudante, '90, is not only director of Student Outreach and Special Programs, she also contributes to the fund. "I donate as an alumni employee of BSU. I know when I give, the funds go directly to help our students in need."

"Supporting the Student Emergency Fund is BSU's unwavering commitment to our community and to our students," said Elizabeth Dubuque, G'11, director of development. "It's so important to help our students progress not only toward completing their degrees, but also, in difficult times like this, to help ensure their health and well-being. This type of financial support can be a game-changer."



"I feel very grateful and blessed to receive the Student Emergency Fund from the university during this pandemic. Being an international student, it was hard for me to fulfill all my financial expenses. Without the help from BSU donors it wouldn't have been possible for me to pay my rent for the month of May. I would like to thank each and every donor for your help."

- Rinzing Lama, '22



"OMG!!! Thank you so much! You just saved me. My results came back positive for COVID-19. I am out of work and in quarantine, and then I have to get re-tested to ensure I am COVID-free. I am absolutely gobsmacked right now. I am so overwhelmed and grateful. I can't thank you enough."

- TJ Martineau, '20



“Thank you so much for this funding, it will be extremely helpful during this time. Hopefully, in the near future, I will be in a place where I can give back to the Student Emergency Fund.”

- Destiny Easler, '20



“I’m very thankful to those who have donated to the Student Emergency Fund. It is a tremendous help to students who, like me, are impacted by COVID-19. I have been laid off from my restaurant job, which I relied on to pay my bills. Also, I had pneumonia in November and am considered to be more vulnerable to COVID-19, making it riskier for me to find other employment. This funding was a lifesaver and for that I am forever grateful.”

- Rhys Demelo, '20

1,500+

number of students who received assistance from the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund and CARES Act funding

\$1 million

amount distributed to BSU students for immediate financial assistance from the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund and CARES Act funding

400

number of new gifts to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund

65%

percent of gifts from alumni to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund

23%

percent of gifts from faculty and staff to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund

12%

percent of gifts from friends of the university to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund

To learn more about how to contribute to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni and Development at 508.531.1290.

give.bridgew.edu

Betsy Meyers

A life well lived



Chris Fuller, after crossing the finish line at the 2018 Boston Marathon, which he ran in honor of his late Aunt Betsy Meyers.



Pictured from left to right, back row: Chris Fuller, Betsy Meyers, Gerard Meyers, Fred Meyers. Pictured from left to right, front row: Kathi Connors (Betsy's sister and Chris's mom), Anne Katherine Meyers.

Some people are born kind. And as the years pass, they only get kinder and more caring. More generous, unselfconsciously selfless, and big-hearted. Betsy Meyers was born kind. And as the years passed, she lived a kindhearted life, assisting and inspiring others to become their best selves.

Chris Fuller, a self-proclaimed reckless youth and Betsy's nephew, was a high school sophomore when he hitchhiked from Upstate New York to Massachusetts and knocked on Aunt Betsy's door in hopes of finding a place to stay. What he found was a home. A friend, a family, and a mentor.

"I'm now 54 years old," said Mr. Fuller, "and I can honestly say that I have not met anyone remotely like Betsy. Every activity, every day was for someone else's benefit - the most self-sacrificing person I've ever known."

Today, after earning an undergraduate degree in political science and a master's in sports management, this former "reckless youth" is now deputy athletic director at UNC Charlotte. Thanks, he said, to Aunt Betsy. "There is no chance I would have gone to college without Betsy's influence."

As a long-serving nurse at Bridgewater, Betsy Meyers not only provided the medical care students relied on, but also an innate understanding that an ailment is not necessarily confined to the physical – sometimes hearts and minds needed healing too. She was deeply spiritual, a faith leader in her community, and lived her entire life in service to others.

At home, her life was full. In addition to her nephew, she opened her door to several Bridgewater State students each year. These students joined her family – husband Fred and her two children, Gerard and Anne Katherine, who is now an emergency room nurse on the front lines of COVID-19.

Chris Fuller launched the Betsy Meyers Memorial Scholarship with a fundraising effort around the 2018 Boston Marathon to honor the selflessness of his aunt and, in today's vernacular, "pay it forward." Almost 40 family, friends, and colleagues have contributed to the "Betsy Fund."

"I can honestly say that I have not met anyone remotely like Betsy. Every activity, every day was for someone else's benefit - the most self-sacrificing person I've ever known."

BETSY MEYERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Betsy Meyers, former nurse at Bridgewater, passed of cancer in 1989 at the age of 46. In 2018, Chris Fuller, joined by friends Jon Gilbert and Caroline Bevillard, ran the 122nd Boston Marathon in memory of his aunt. Later, he and his wife, Lori Fuller, established the Betsy Meyers Memorial Scholarship in honor of Aunt Betsy – a life well lived.

To learn more about how to contribute to an existing scholarship or create a scholarship in your name or in honor of a friend or family member, please contact the Office of Alumni and Development at 508.531.1290.

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BSU FACULTY SUPPORT STUDENTS

Many Bridgewater State University faculty and administrators, past and present, have established scholarships in their own name or in honor of another. The following faculty highlights are representative of the many whose generosity through the years has supported and will continue to support generations of BSU students to come.



DR. NANCY MOSES

Professor of Dance: 1984-2017

The Dr. Nancy Moses Scholarship for Dance

Retiring was a bittersweet milestone for Dr. Nancy Moses who taught dance at Bridgewater State University for 33 years. "Teaching was such an important part of my life," she said. "Retirement felt like such an ending." And as much as Dr. Moses was looking forward to the next chapter of her life's journey, she also felt some degree of sadness. She wanted to find a way to continue to serve BSU students for years to come.

"Establishing the Dr. Nancy Moses Scholarship for Dance gave me the perfect opportunity to keep on serving," she said. "Retirement didn't feel like such an abrupt ending."

Continuing to serve seems to be a theme for Dr. Moses. After leaving BSU, she accepted the position as executive director of Arts|Learning, a nonprofit arts education advocacy organization. Its mission is to help all the arts establish a foothold in K-12 public education and to maintain a meaningful presence in the commonwealth.

"Retirement just means you change your focus," said Dr. Moses. "It's a change of venue requiring a different kind of energy."



DR. CURTISS HOFFMAN

Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology: 1978-2018

The Dr. Curtiss Hoffman Fund for Public Archaeology

Dr. Curtiss Hoffman capped 40-years of teaching at Bridgewater, researching, and doing what he could to preserve precious sites from our collective past by establishing the Dr. Curtiss Hoffman Fund for Public Archaeology.

"Public archaeology as a concentration attracts a small but steady cadre of students," said Dr. Hoffman. "It is a serious career-oriented discipline with limited financial backing, and its importance is often overlooked. I established this scholarship to create a legacy, ensuring that the public archaeology concentration will survive into the future."

Public archaeology as a discipline was born in the 1960s, the idea being to preserve or examine archaeological sites on public lands threatened by development. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is the foundation upon which state and federal laws rest.

"The culture and heritage of at least 20,000 years of indigenous peoples in this country is often overlooked, often because the artifacts are underground," he said. "Historic homes are more visible and more readily attract funding."

The first Dr. Curtiss Hoffman Fund for Public Archaeology scholarship was awarded in 2020 to Christine Paquette, '20, a student who Dr. Hoffman said, "demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom and a sharp degree of observation in the field."

73

number of endowed funds
named for or created by
members of BSU faculty and
administrators



DR. MARK J. BRENNER

Professor of Social Work: 2003-2019

The Dr. Mark J. Brenner Clinical Practice Scholarship

During Dr. Mark Brenner's 16-year tenure at Bridgewater State, much changed in the world and at BSU – some things good (Dr. Brenner co-founded the Master of Social Work program), some things not so much (COVID-19). Steadfast through the years was Dr. Brenner's commitment to the practice of clinical social work, to his students and to his firm belief in the value of social work practice for clients and the common good.

In December 2019, Dr. Brenner, with his wife Karen Brenner, established and fully funded the Dr. Mark J. Brenner Clinical Practice Scholarship. As the first in their families to attend college, the Brenner scholarship gives preference to first-generation college students interested in clinical social work practice.

"We are all interconnected," said Dr. Brenner, "so helping even one person helps us all. Each of us has a responsibility to help others as we've been helped. I had a lot of mentors throughout my career who were incredibly supportive, so I'm paying it forward."

To that end, Dr. Brenner not only established his scholarship, but also continues helping others through his volunteer work with the Red Cross, training volunteers and supporting victims of local disasters, conducting resiliency workshops for military service members and their families, and much more.



DR. HENRY SANTOS

Professor of Music: 1977-1999

The Dr. Henry Santos Endowed Scholarship Fund

Beloved former Professor Dr. Henry Santos (pictured above left) passed away last March at the age of 92. He taught full time at Bridgewater for 22 years, continuing as a visiting professor for an additional 12 years. Over time, he touched the lives of countless students in a positive and meaningful way.

In 2002, friends and former students of Dr. Santos, led by Louis M. Ricciardi and members of the Afro-Am Alumni Association under the leadership of then-president Aenis S. Harris Jr., '94, established the Dr. Henry Santos Endowed Scholarship Fund. Since then, 17 students entering their junior year and majoring in either special or elementary education have received the award.

A professor of music, Dr. Santos not only taught, he also composed music and performed nationally and internationally. His presence, his mild and confident manner, his genuinely kind heart, and his friendly disposition endeared him to all who came in contact with him.

Louis M. Ricciardi, '81, (pictured above right) past president of the Bridgewater State University Board of Trustees, is a long-time, generous supporter of BSU and the Dr. Henry Santos Endowed Scholarship Fund. Mr. Ricciardi recently announced his intent to match funds contributed to the Dr. Henry Santos Endowed Scholarship Fund dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000.

275

number of endowed funds at BSU

1/4

of endowed funds are named for or created by BSU faculty and administrators

To learn more about how to support students at Bridgewater State University, or to take advantage of the dollar for dollar match challenge to the Dr. Henry Santos Endowed Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni and Development at 508.531.1290.

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BSU UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Thanks to the generosity of Bridgewater State University alumni, faculty, staff and friends, the undergraduate research program has grown by leaps and bounds. BSU students excel in all disciplines and go on to graduate and doctoral programs at prestigious institutions here and abroad.

In 2020, BSU was awarded a national, highly competitive honor by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR): The Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA). Nationally, only one institution is selected as “comprehensive university” awardee. The award letter states in part: “Bridgewater State University’s achievements as a leader in undergraduate research set your institution apart from other finalists for this award ... The committee was most impressed with your emphasis on diversity and inclusion ... The committee believes your research symposium could be used as a model for other institutions.”

To learn more about how to support Undergraduate Research at Bridgewater State University, please contact the Office of Alumni and Development at 508.531.1290.

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STUDENTS OF BSU UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

RESEARCHING THE NEED FOR BILINGUAL/SPECIAL EDUCATION

Yu-Ping Mao, '20

Major: Special Education

Mentor: Dr. Jon Cash

Four years ago, Yu-Ping Mao (pictured left) arrived in America from Taiwan. First on her agenda — learn English. Fast forward two years. Married and fluent in English, she enrolled in BSU.

Yu-Ping's proposal to research a need for bilingual/special education training programs for teachers in Brockton and surrounding areas was approved, and she received an Adrian Tinsley Undergraduate Research Grant.

Not surprisingly, her interest is rooted in her own experience. "In Taiwan, everyone speaks one language. Here there are so many," said Yu-Ping. "Learning is particularly difficult for bi-lingual students and underprivileged populations. These students are in danger of being left behind.

"Prior to receiving the grant, I worked five part-time jobs while a full-time student. Now, with the pandemic, that was not possible. The grant relieved my financial burden and allowed me to focus on my project."

Yu-Ping's research will conclude with a detailed report on her findings, which she will share with district supervisors. Her hope is that her findings might be useful to teachers and help them secure the resources they need to serve all students.

As a career path, Yu-Ping is interested in pursuing education policy. "As a teacher, I could help students in my classroom, but I want to help all students. Education policy is one way to do that."



MENTAL HEALTH & STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Abby Smargon, '21

Major: Social Work

Mentor: Dr. Taylor Hall

To Abby Smargon, the bottom line is simple: "It is important to advocate for mental health for everyone, but especially now. University

students are under a lot of stress, and my research is looking at how students deal with that stress and if they know about and take advantage of the resources available to them."

To better understand the challenges students face, Abby posted an online survey exploring respondents' experiences with depression, anxiety, and stress. The survey asked basic demographic questions and sought to understand its findings based on each students' life situation — Are they commuter or residential students? Do they have family, siblings? How do they identify gender-wise? Have they been diagnosed with depression or any mental health issue? Are they aware that BSU has a Wellness Center with counselors and medical personnel available to assist with any related issues?

"I'm gathering this information to better understand if students experience difficulties academically because of stress. Is the Wellness Center helping them? What would be more helpful? My goal is to make recommendations based on the results of this research."

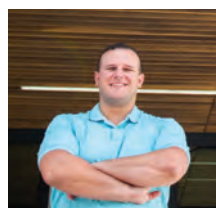
Abby has used her Undergraduate Research Grant to offer a small stipend to students to encourage them to respond.

WORKING TOWARD A CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Adam Perez, '21

Major: Biology

Mentor: Dr. Ken Adams



Alzheimer's disease affects more than 420 million individuals worldwide. However, according to the Alzheimer's Association,

"Promising research is underway to find a treatment for Alzheimer's, delay its onset, and prevent it from developing."

Thanks to an Adrian Tinsley Undergraduate Research Grant, Adam Perez, '21, is among those researchers. Working in collaboration with scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital's Bradley Hyman Research Lab and guided by his faculty mentor, Dr. Ken Adams, Adam is helping find a way to move science closer to preventing the disease altogether. His research involves trying to better understand the structure and stability of the specific protein that has been identified as the greatest risk factor for developing Alzheimer's disease.

Adam divides his time between work as a full-time paramedic and, prior to COVID-19 restrictions, his 10-hour days in the lab: "Receiving the grant and being involved in this research has helped me sharpen my time management skills and develop into a leadership role."

After graduation, he said he will take a gap year and then apply to medical school: "During my gap year, I am hoping to work in a research lab and continue to work per diem as a paramedic."

PROFESSIONAL SCREENWRITING

Matthieu-Lindsley Midouin, '19

Major: English

Mentor: Dr. Bruce Machart



Matthieu-Lindsley Midouin, '19, is a talented young writer who aspires to a career in screenwriting. Not surprisingly, preparing

a final draft for submission to an agent is an art form all itself. Matthieu-Lindsley received an Adrian Tinsley Undergraduate Research Grant to help him perfect that art form.

"Professor Machart introduced me to Final Draft Screenwriting software that helps me format my screenplay in the proper and professional manner," said Matthieu-Lindsley, who used his grant to purchase the software program. His plan is to use the software to prepare two episodes of his play prior to submitting to an agent for consideration.

Matthieu-Lindsley described his work, "Spirit," as a fantasized piece based on his own life experiences. A brief synopsis of the plot reads like an adventure fantasy with all the elements of good and evil, conflict and more conflict — a deceased king, a young successor, a demon king, and spirit angels.

Matthieu-Lindsley's mentor, Professor Bruce Machart, said, "Matthieu is an excellent representative of what the funding can help make happen. He writes really engaging, funny dialogue, and the software made a big difference."

SPONSOR-A-STUDENT

So many things factor into student success, beginning, of course, with the student – focus, determination, and simple old-fashioned hard work. But, often, what gets them to the finish line is a little help from others who know what it takes.

For many students, receiving a \$1,000 Sponsor-A-Student Scholarship can be the difference between continuing their education or not. It is as simple as that. Sponsor-A-Student Scholarships provide immediate relief for students, not only financially, but also emotionally. The scholarship validates their efforts and sustains them on their road to success.

Donors to BSU's Sponsor-A-Student fundraising effort play a large part in student successes, having seen first-hand the impact our graduates have in the commonwealth and across the country. One hundred and eighty years of success have shown generations of donors that BSU alumni are critical thinkers, compassionate leaders, and visionaries in their chosen fields.

Bill Bristol, '71, supports BSU students through the university's Sponsor-A-Student program. With the rising cost of higher education, "I give to this program," he said, "because I think it's a wonderful opportunity to help young students during a time when it's really difficult for them to pay for their college education."

300

number of Sponsor-A-Student recipients over the past five years



HALEY CASTELLANO, '20

Major: Health Studies

Recipient of Bill Bristol's generosity, is grateful for the support.

"My experience at BSU allowed me to grow, excel, lead, and gain control of my health as well as my studies. I have been able to 'step into my power,' which has been an incredible experience. I found the academic passions to which I am dedicated. I felt alive and appreciated at BSU. I grew as a person while earning A's in my classes. Receiving a Sponsor-A-Student Scholarship helped me advance my studies and career here at BSU. Not only did the scholarship remove the financial stress I was experiencing, but it also allowed me to direct my energy into excelling at schoolwork instead of worrying about money."



Open the door to **SUCCESS** One student at a time

Many Bridgewater State University students, like **Haley Castellano, '20**, need your assistance.

Too many students are at risk of not finishing college because they don't have enough money. These students are working – sometimes multiple jobs – but it's not enough.

You can be part of the solution by sponsoring a student. Your gift of \$1,000 or more this fiscal year will be awarded in its entirety next academic year as a one-time scholarship to a student in need.

OPEN A STUDENT'S DOOR — HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- You contribute a \$1,000 gift designated to Sponsor-A-Student by June 30.
- You name your award for yourself or in honor of another.
- A deserving student is selected to receive your one-time named scholarship in its entirety the following academic year.
- You will have the opportunity to learn about your student beneficiary and will be invited back to campus for a celebratory event.

SPONSOR-A-STUDENT

Visit **give.bridgew.edu/SAS** to make your gift online or use the reply envelope to send your gift in the mail today.



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"I was fortunate to receive the Patricia T. West Sponsor-A-Student Scholarship for four years in a row. It was a huge help as I was able to apply the funds toward my overall college bill ... While at Bridgewater, I was a member of the track team and having received the scholarship definitely inspires me to stay involved with the university either by coming back to support athletes or, later in my career, choosing to give back financially ... One of the best things about my Bridgewater experience was having learned a lot about myself from my professors; I matured in so many ways. I guess you could say I came out of my shell. My Bridgewater experience helped to shape me into the person I am today."

JESSICA HAYWOOD, '20

*Physical Education with
a Concentration in Exercise Science*



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of all our donors visit:
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