

Making a DIFFERENCE

A newsletter for friends and donors of Cumberland County Education Foundation

Fall 2025

Patience Okotie-Isekenegbe Endowment

On Thursday, October 16, Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, former Cumberland County College President, established an endowment in memory of his wife, Patience Okotie-Isekenegbe. Cumberland County Education Foundation Board of Directors gathered for an endowment signing to commemorate the scholarship for Cumberland County residents. The scholarship is for \$1,000 annually for a student demonstrating financial need, is a first-generation student, and studying in the Social and Behavioral Sciences field.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Jacqueline Galbiati, Anthony Carter, Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Dr. Shelly Schneider, Dr. Mary Gruccio, Barbara Isekenegbe, Dr. Keith Figs, Mark D'Onofrio, Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, Sherry Kejzman Soutiere



Patience Okotie-Isekenegbe Endowment continued on page 3

MEET OUR FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS



Bob DeSanto, *Chair*
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Jacqueline Galbiati, Ed.D.

Gary Galloway
Lilly Kejzman
Antonio Mancini
Jill Mortensen, D.O.
Shelly Schneider, Ed.D.
Sherry Kejzman Soutiere

Upcoming Foundation Events



Designer Handbag Bingo Fundraiser
February 6, 2026



School Counts! Scholarship Ceremony
March 10, 2026



Foundation Scholarship Reception
May 7, 2026



School Counts! Golf Classic
June 4, 2026

Foundation Contact Information

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Spotlight on New Scholarships

Patience Okotie-Isekenegbe Scholarship

The Patience Okotie-Isekenegbe Scholarship memorializes a devoted mother and wife who spent her professional life working as a Rehabilitation Counselor. She was born in Sapele, Nigeria, on June 18, 1959, to John Okotie and Felicia Omare Efejuku, where she grew up closely with her older sister Joyce Papamitos.

She taught Elementary school in Nigeria before coming to the United States. She received her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Indiana State University and her Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State University. She proudly worked for the state of New Jersey as a rehabilitation counselor for 25 years.



Patience was a devoted wife to Thomas, and mother to Barbara, Theodora, Antoniette, Sylvia, Oshioke and granddaughter Elektra. She was always so proud of each one of her children, and they felt that in the love and support she provided. She was immensely proud of her family, and leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories. She thoroughly enjoyed cooking and will forever be known for her famous banana bread.

The scholarship is awarded to Cumberland residents with a concentration in the field of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

John Lillie Memorial Scholarship

The John Lillie Legacy Scholarship honors a hardworking tradesman who built a career and a life on the values of dedication, integrity, and perseverance. But above all, John is remembered for his willingness to help others. Whether offering a hand on a job site, checking in on a neighbor or simply sharing a smile, he gave generously of his time and talents—always putting people first. John never expected anything in return but did it purely because it was the right thing to do.

This scholarship is awarded to individuals who reflect the same character and morals that John lived by each and every day. It is open to any student athlete from the Rowan College of SJ Cumberland Golf Team who may be pursuing an educational or training pathway, whether it be college, trade school, an apprenticeship or certification program. What matters the most is not the direction you're headed in but, more importantly, the kind of person you are. John's philosophy was "who you are matters just as much as what you do."

The John Lillie Legacy Scholarship will be awarded to Cumberland residents. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.



**Education Program
Support**

\$100,000+



**Students
Awarded**

400+



**Scholarships/
Grants**

\$500,000+





MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATION



Foundation Board of Directors

Pictured L-R: Dr. Maria LeBlanc; Mark D'Onofrio; Donna Carolla; Sharon Daiuto Baxter; Lilly Keizman; Bob DeSanto; Dr. Jill Mortensen; Dr. Christine Ward Garrison; Sherry Soutiere; David Hemple; Dr. Shelly Schneider; Dr. Mary Gruccio; Antonio Mancini; Anthony Carter. Not Pictured: Dr. Keith Figgs; Dr. Jacqueline Galbiati; Gary Galloway; Nick Flocchi

Join Our Community Foundation

Cumberland County Education Foundation raises funds to help students achieve their dreams. Whether they are first-generation college students or mothers returning to work after a maternity break, we want to impact lives and make a difference for Cumberland County residents.



2024-2025
IMPACT

Education Program Support

\$100,000+



Students Awarded

400+



Scholarships/ Grants

\$500,000+



Mission & Vision

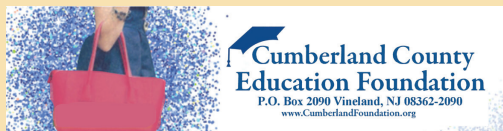
Our mission is to provide access to quality education and foster lifelong relationships. We want to help students achieve their career goals through scholarships and program support.

Our vision is to maintain open access to education for our Cumberland County residents and work together to provide scholarship opportunities for our diverse communities.

At Cumberland County Education Foundation, we plan to achieve our mission by providing:

- Access to high-quality education.
- Sustainable employment through fostering alumni relationships.
- Implementing programs and initiatives through fundraising, partnerships, and creating scholarships.

Providing Scholarships and Program Funding for Students Since 1967.



Designer Handbag Bingo Thank You!

Dr. Maria LeBlanc (pictured right) congratulates bingo players and thanks all sponsors for a successful evening of bingo.

The Cumberland County Education Foundation hosted its 11th Designer Handbag Bingo Event on September 26. The event raised over \$10,000 for scholarships to Cumberland residents. Thank you to all our sponsors, bingo players, and volunteers for making this event successful twice a year!

Diamond Sponsors

*Sir Speedy of Vineland
*RAP Performance & Apparel
*Dave Morton Masonry
*Mark & Sandy D'Onofrio, Foundation Board Member
*Bob DeSanto, Foundation Chairman
*Dr. Jill Mortensen, Foundation Board Member

Couture Sponsors

*Keizman Hospitality & Realty
*Dr. Shelly Schneider, Foundation Board Member
*Preferred Financial Services
*Print Solutions Plus

Table Sponsors

*Dr. Christine Ward Garrison, Foundation Board Member
*The Daily Journal
*Sharon Daiuto Baxter, Foundation Board
*Dr. Jill Mortensen, Foundation Board
*The Santandrea Party
*The Slade Party

Basket Sponsors

*Dondoro's Jewelry
*Larry's II
*Wheaton Arts
*RCSJ A.C.T Program
*Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Executive Director of Foundation
*Merighi's Savoy Inn
*Arc International
*The Flower Shoppe
*Bagel University
*Salt FX
*The Flower Shoppe
*The Daily Journal/LocaliQ
*Clay College
*The Green Olive



Save the Date!

Our next Bingo is Friday,
February 6th, 2026!
Millville Elks Lodge, 6pm



Millville Elks Lodge
1815 E. Broad St.

Designer Bag Bingo

Friday, February 6, 2026



Save the Date! School Counts! GOLF CLASSIC

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Renault Winery and Golf Club
72 North Bremen Ave.
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

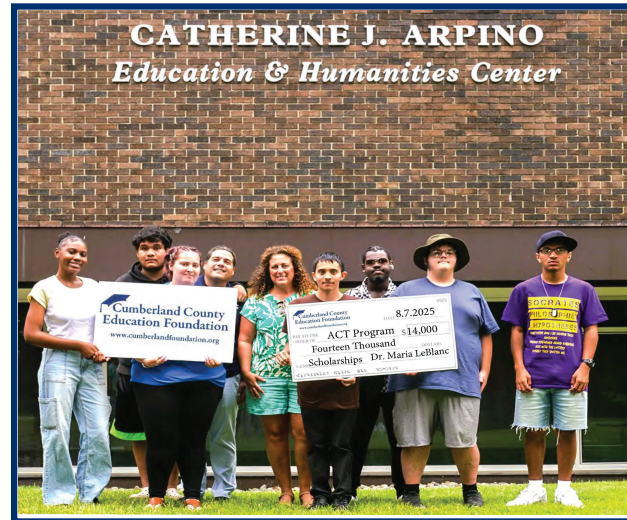


Foundation Sponsored Programs and Events

Adult Center for Transition (ACT) Scholarship Program

The mission of the Adult Center for Transition (ACT) is to afford young adults with disabilities, the vocational, educational and social skills necessary to become independent and contributing members of society.

Since the inception of the Adult Center for Transition Program, the Cumberland County Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships for the Cumberland Campus ACT Program students. The Foundation gifted \$14,000 for the fall 2025 semester to students not receiving financial aid for their academic studies.



Student Laptop Loaner Program

The program provides students with a laptop for their studies each semester. The laptops are internally equipped with WiFi for use where wireless access exists. Wireless networking is available throughout much of the campus. All laptops are equipped with MS Office and other campus approved software, including firewall protection.

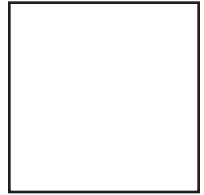


The Foundation funded over \$35,000 to Cumberland resident students. This program is essential for assisting with student retention and completion rates for the Cumberland Campus. For information on the laptop loaner program and to give to this program visit, <https://cumberlandfoundation.org/ways-of-giving/>

Student Bus Pass Program

Transportation is a major barrier for students wanting to attend college in Cumberland County. The Student Bus Pass Program provides students with a bus pass to and from school. Since the start of the program in 2022, the foundation has provided over \$15,000 in bus passes for Cumberland residents. For information on the Student Bus Pass Program and to give to this program visit, <https://cumberlandfoundation.org/ways-of-giving/>





Thank you

*to everyone who made
this season memorable!*

Making a DIFFERENCE

