

Making a DIFFERENCE

A newsletter for friends and donors of Cumberland County Education Foundation

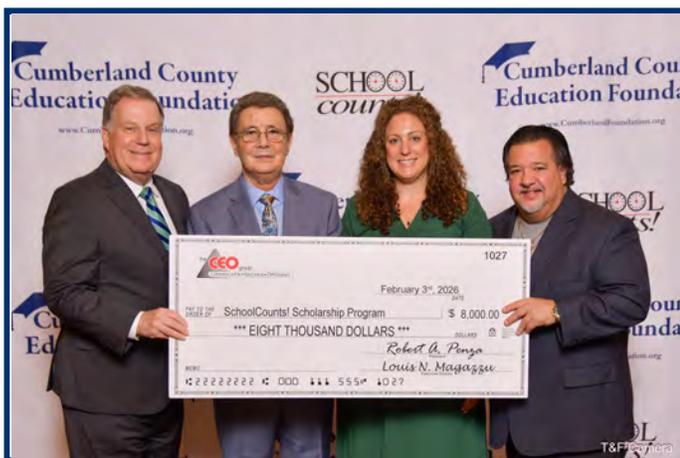
Spring 2026

School Counts! Scholarship Reception

On Tuesday, March 10, over 200 attendees joined together to celebrate the achievements of our *School Counts!* Scholarship recipients. The *School Counts!* program is an integral part of education for Cumberland County residents. This county-wide program now serving (10) county high schools has provided more than 3.5 million dollars in scholarship support since its inception in 2001. To date, more than 3,500 high school students have demonstrated they are workforce ready and have benefited from the scholarship. *School Counts!* Scholarship recipients possess the work ethic critical to the economic growth of our region. To give to the *School Counts!* Scholarship Program, visit: <https://cumberlandfoundation.org/school-counts/>



School Counts! Scholarship recipients pictured together with Foundation Board of Directors at the annual SchoolCounts! Scholarship Reception.



The CEO Group donates \$8,000 to the School Counts! Scholarship Program. Pictured Left to Right is Louis Magazzu, Executive Director, CEO Group, Robert DeSanto, Esq.– Chair, Cumberland County Education Foundation, Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Executive Director, Cumberland County Education Foundation, Robert A. Penza, President CEO Group.



School Counts! Scholarship recipients

MEET OUR FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS



Bob DeSanto, *Chair*

Christine Ward Garrison, *Ph.D., Vice Chair*

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Mary Gruccio, *Ed.D., Secretary*

Sharon Daiuto Baxter

Donna Carolla

Anthony Carter

Mark D'Onofrio

Keith Figgs, *Ed.D.*

Nicholas Fiocchi

Gary Galloway

Lilly Kejzman

Antonio Mancini

Jill Mortensen, *D.O.*

Deboarh Morton

Shelly Schneider, *Ed.D.*

Sherry Kejzman Soutiere

Upcoming Foundation Events



**Foundation Scholarship
Reception**
May 7, 2026



School Counts! Golf Classic
June 4, 2026



**Queens of the Greens
Ladies Golf Event**
September 10, 2026



Designer Handbag Bingo
October 2, 2026

Foundation Contact Information

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Vineland, NJ 08361

**Cumberland County
Education Foundation**
1450 E. Chestnut Ave., Building 2, Suite 2B, Vineland, NJ 08361
www.CumberlandFoundation.org

Spotlight on Scholarships

For the fall 2025 and spring 2026 semesters, BOYD Nursing Scholarship students and Ciento Family Foundation Scholarship students were selected for scholarships totaling nearly \$70,000. The BOYD Nursing Scholarship recipients receive tuition, books, and fees paid. The Ciento Family Foundation Scholarship recipients each received \$7,000 for the spring 2026 semester. Congratulations to the scholarship award recipients and for your continued success in your educational journey!



Gayle F. Riley Memorial Scholarship

The Gayle F. Riley Memorial Scholarship was established by the Alpha Delta Kappa – Chi Chapter, Bridgeton in January 2026. The scholarship is for a student in an education related field requiring a 3.0 gpa. The \$500 annual scholarship can be transferred to any 4-year college or university in the state of New Jersey.

Foundation Events

Cumberland County Education Foundation

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



SCHOOL counts!

School Counts is a program of the Cumberland County Education Foundation

Presenting Sponsor
Newfield
National Bank

Cumberland County Education Foundation
P.O. Box 2090 Vineland, NJ 08362-2090
www.CumberlandEducationFoundation.org

With your help...

01



College students in Cumberland County get aid to cover educational expenses, such as tuition, books, and fees to advance college attainment.

02



High school students in Cumberland County get aid to cover educational expenses, such as tuition, books, fees and technology to advance college readiness.

03



Help Education Programs throughout the county:

- School Council
- Gift of Success
- Clay College
- Life Happens Fund
- Academic Programs

Making a DIFFERENCE



"Your contribution to my education has been more than just financial. Your gift has been a beacon of hope and a stepping stone toward my career as a registered nurse."

Join us in caring for our Cumberland community since 1967



Renault Winery and Golf Club, 72 North Bremen Ave., Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215. Contact: (856) 897-5250. Website: www.CumberlandEducationFoundation.org

Giving the gift of education lasts a lifetime. We partner with dynamic individuals, over 500 businesses, and many organizations to help our community reach great heights through scholarships and educational program funding for Cumberland County residents.

Connect today!

Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Executive Director
info@cumberlandeducationfoundation.org
(856) 897-5250
www.cumberlandeducationfoundation.org



Scan QR Code to Visit Our Ways of Giving

Cumberland County Education Foundation
445 The Green, Vineland, NJ



2024-2025 IMPACT

Education Program Support	Students Awarded	Scholarships/Grants
\$100,000+	400+	\$500,000+

Cumberland County Education Foundation

Presents the Inaugural

Queens of the Greens



Ladies Nine and Dine Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 10, 2026 Running Deer Golf Course

- 3:00 pm Registration
- 4:00 pm Shotgun Start
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Crowning of the Queens of the Greens
- \$150/player or \$600/foursome

Scan the QR code for registration and sponsor information
Proceeds Benefit the Educational Assistance Scholarship Program



Thank You!

for a successful event



Foundation Board of Directors pictured left to right: David Hemple, Dr. Jacqueline Galbiati, Dr. Jill Mortensen, Donna Carolla, Lilly Kezman, Anthony Carter, Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Keith Figgs, Sherry Kezman Soutiere, Mark D'Onofrio - Not Pictured, Bob DeSantis, Gary Galloway, Nick Fiochi, Dr. Christine Ward Garrison, Dr. Shelly Schneider, Dr. Mary Grucio, Tony Mancini, Sharon Baxter

On November 21, the Cumberland County Education Foundation (CCEF) participated in the The Voice of Vineland presented by Century Savings Bank for their 160th anniversary. The evening of "quality" entertainment benefited many charitable organizations in Cumberland County. The Foundation's act was Neil Diamond showcasing the loved song "Sweet Caroline." The popular song was celebrated by over 400 attendees. The Foundation raised \$20,000 for their scholarship programs for Cumberland County residents.




The Neil Diamond, "Sweet Caroline" Group
Pictured Left to Right:
Ken Dondero,
Dr. Maria LeBlanc,
Sherry Kezman Soutiere,
Lilly Kezman



Foundation Sponsored Programs and Events

On October 22, students, community members, book clubs, and Cumberland Foundation board of directors gathered at the 22nd One Book Event in the Frank Guaracini, Jr. Fine and Performing Arts Center. Set in 1970s Appalachian Ohio, Robin Yocum's novel, *The Essay*, tells the story of a teenager born into poverty and hopelessness, seemingly destined to repeat the failures of generations of men in his family. At its heart is a reaffirmation of how, often, it's the silenced voice that is the most powerful, and, as its title suggests, it is today's much-beleaguered essay that is this story's second unlikely hero. Robin Yocum is the Edgar-nominated author known for his fiction set in the Ohio River Valley. His latest novel, *The Last Hitman*, is set to be released in December 2025 by Crooked Lane Books. The next One Book event will be in October 2026. For more information on Cumberland Foundation events, visit our

One Book Committee members pictured with Mr. Robin Yocum, author of *The Essay*.



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 (ACT), the Cumberland County Education Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships for the Cumberland Campus ACT Program students. The Foundation gifted \$14,000 for the spring 2026 semester to students not receiving financial aid for their academic studies from the Bingo fundraiser proceeds.

Foundation board of directors pictured with ACT Program scholarship recipients for the spring 2026 semester.



Thank You!

The Cumberland County Education Foundation hosted its 12th designer handbag bingo on Friday, February 6th to support scholarships and programs for Cumberland County students in higher education. This SOLD OUT event raised nearly \$20,000 to assist Cumberland Campus students. Thank you to our bingo players and sponsors who helped make this possible!

Diamond Sponsors

Mark & Sandy D'Onofrio,
Foundation Board
RAP Performance & Apparel
Mr. Bob DeSanto,
Foundation Chairman

Couture Sponsors

Dr. Shelly Schneider,
Foundation Board
Dr. Mary Gruccio,
Foundation Secretary
Preferred Financial Services
Sherry Kejzman Soutiere,
Foundation Board
Print Solutions Plus
Dr. Keith Figgs,
Foundation Board
Lilly Kejzman,
Foundation Board

Table Sponsors

Samantha Cruz Party
Pryor Party
Kalatschan Party

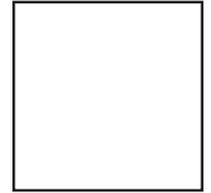
For more information on how you can help make a difference in the lives of Cumberland students, visit www.cumberlandfoundation.org

Basket Sponsors

Dondero's Jewelry
Larry's II
Wheaton Arts
Cedar Rose Vineyards
RCSJ A.C.T. Program
Dr. Maria LeBlanc, Executive Director of Foundation
Five Points Inn
Merighi's Savoy Inn
The Flower Shoppe
Green Olive Restaurant
Terra Nonno Winery
Clay College
The Green Olive II
The Daily Journal
Salon Fabrojae
Renault Winery

B I N G O
Save the Date!
Our next Bingo is Friday,
October 2nd, 2026!
Millville Elks Lodge, 6pm





Thank you to everyone who made this season memorable!

Making a DIFFERENCE

