



Rowan College

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

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Give Something Back's Historic Gift

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Robert O. Carr, Give Something Back Founder

Give Something Back Scholarship Largest Gift in RCGC's History

On Nov. 10, Give Something Back (Give Back) awarded \$500,000 to Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC) and \$1 million to Rowan University to fund scholarships for Pell Grant-eligible students who have faced economic hardships or other challenges, such as the incarceration of a parent or foster care. The donation is the largest gift in RCGC's history.

A nonprofit organization founded by philanthropist, entrepreneur and author Robert O. Carr, Give Back supports college-bound students from low-income families by providing scholarships and mentoring programs, helping them to graduate in four years with little or no debt. Since 2003, the organization has prepaid more than \$36 million in scholarships to help more than 1,500 students in seven states.

Although to date Give Back has provided opportunities for students enrolling in four-year schools, the latest contribution is significant as RCGC is the first community college in the country to be funded by the organization. Because community colleges have open enrollment, this gift makes a degree possible for exceptional young people who may not have been high achievers in high school due to trauma and instability but who have the drive and ability to achieve a college degree.

In recognition of this historic gift, RCGC unveiled the Give Back Scholars Library. The newly renamed library will stand as a reminder of the powerful influence that higher education can have over the course of a life and the importance of ensuring every student has access to that life-changing opportunity.



RCGC President Frederick Keating (left) and Give Something Back founder Robert O. Carr in front of the College's Giveback Scholars Library.

The scholarship funding allows RCGC and Rowan University to build on several longstanding collaborations. Among other initiatives, the scholarships can be used by students in the Rowan Choice program, a partnership that allows RCGC students to live on the Rowan University campus for their first two years of college, immersing themselves in Rowan activities and opportunities while taking classes at RCGC at a reduced cost. Upon successful completion of their associate degree, participants meeting GPA and other eligibility requirements can continue their education at Rowan or any of Give Back's other university partners.

The Give Back program involves much more than simply paying tuition, room and board. Historically, the organization has worked with select school districts, inviting freshmen to apply for entrance into

the program, which, if successfully completed, will include a four-year scholarship to college. To qualify, these high-achieving students must be eligible for full Pell Grants and, if selected, must meet additional criteria, such as maintaining good grades, taking honors and AP courses and demonstrating admirable character. Upon high school graduation, students also must meet the college standard admissions requirements and be admitted to the school they have selected.

For more information:
RCGC.edu/GiveBack

or watch
 RCGC.edu/news/giveback