

# Lake Tahoe Community College Donor Investment Report

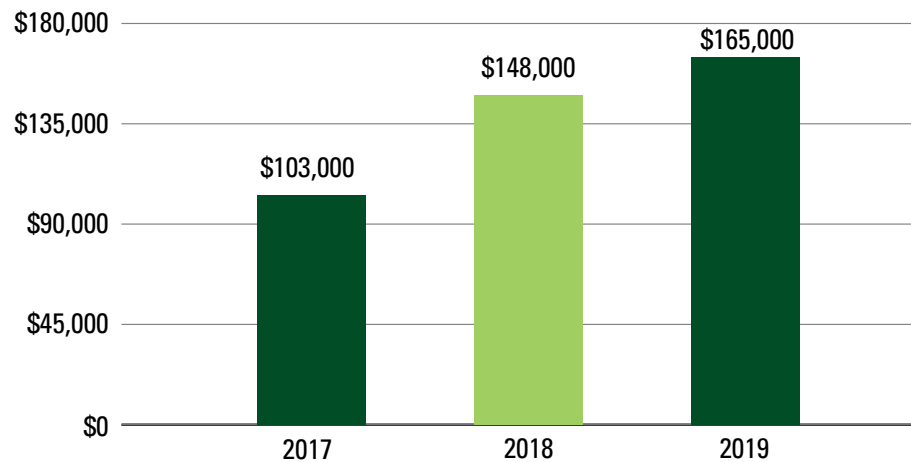
Education – A Gift that Lasts a Lifetime!

Fall 2019

## Oh, What a Difference a Year Makes!

Your support has made a significant positive impact on students' lives through scholarships, access to field trips, life-changing experiences, and the annual scholarship awards ceremony.

At the June scholarship awards ceremony, 90 continuing and transferring students received 150 awards. Scholarship support increased again for the 2019/20 academic year to an all-time high of \$165,000!



Scholarship donations have increased significantly over the past three years thanks to donors like you!



Justiss Roque (L) pictured with LTCC counselor Cristi Ellingford, received \$6,500 in scholarships that are helping her this year at Sacramento State.

## Helping Students Succeed

### Student Profile: Justiss Roque

After graduating from South Tahoe High in 2016, Justiss Roque enrolled at LTCC. She knew she wanted to help others and discovered sociology, which gave her the tools to do just that.

Her own disability introduced her to the Disability Resource Center (DRC), whose staff became a valuable support system as she adjusted to her new college life. She ended up working at the DRC, which

further cemented her desire to work with the disabled.

Justiss graduated from LTCC in June 2019, and she received scholarships from AAUW, HERO, and Soroptimists International of South Lake Tahoe. Thanks to these generous scholarships, she is currently attending Sacramento State, where she's pursuing a degree in social work. Keep up the great work, Justiss!

## Student Profile: Tonisha Wesley

Tonisha Wesley grew up in Sacramento in a single-parent household. She didn't have much family support, but she found a tremendous amount of support at school and teachers who inspired her to reach for the stars!

Tonisha graduated high school in 2012, but she had to cut her plans for higher education short when she discovered she was pregnant. She spent the next five years working as a behavioral therapist for special needs children while raising her daughter.

Tonisha moved to Tahoe in July 2018. Immediately after arriving,

she enrolled in a summer class at LTCC and began working at the Child Development Center. LTCC staff and students were very welcoming and helpful, providing her with resources that ensure she reaches her education goals. They also inspired her to give back as a peer navigator for the Lake Tahoe College Promise. In this role, she welcomes incoming Promise students and helps them get acclimated, much like she was welcomed when she arrived.

Tonisha received the Janice Tait and Soroptimist scholarships,



LTCC counselor Cristi Ellingford with Tonisha Wesley.

which will help her reach her educational goals. She plans to earn a degree in Psychology so she can become a marriage counselor.

## Student Profile: Marcel Rowley

Marcel Rowley is an LTCC student who is majoring in both Wilderness Education and Outdoor Leadership and Business. He also serves as the Veterans' Center Liaison at LTCC, providing resources and assistance to veterans who attend the college. Marcel is

a four-year Army veteran who spent 15 months in Afghanistan. In addition to his studies, he runs his own laser engraving business and is a father to three children!

Marcel received the Mitch Underhill and Soroptimist 'Live Your Dream' scholarships this year. After he graduates, he

plans to use his business and wilderness education skills to start a nonprofit at Lake Tahoe to get veterans out into the wilderness. These wilderness retreats will provide an escape to veterans working through the rigors associated with transitioning out of the service.



Marcel Rowley, donor Sara Underhill, and fellow scholarship recipient John Peter Konopak pictured at the Scholarship Awards ceremony in June 2019.

**The Angel of Tahoe strikes again with a \$100,000 donation for a new bus to take athletes to soccer games and students on field trips!**

# Student Success Grants Fund New Equipment and Unforgettable Experiences

Your donations to the LTCC annual fund directly supported Student Success Grants for 2018/19. Grants were awarded to the Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, and Equity departments, giving students valuable and unique education-enhancing experiences.

One grant allowed the Chemistry department to purchase essential lab equipment, including a gas portable instrument and a vacuum pump. The instruments have helped students in the General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry sequences.



Chemistry students can complete their lab exercises thanks to the new instruments purchased with an LTCC Student Success Grant.

Sean Ryland, chemistry instructor, said,

“Without the vacuum pump purchased with the help of the LTCC Foundation, only half the students would be able to complete the exercises each lab period.”

The Mathematics department purchased 20 Chromebooks for use in pre-calculus and calculus class exams. The Chromebooks live in the library, and students can check them out when not in use for

exams. In the last year, students and faculty checked out the Chromebooks 725 times for both individual and classroom use!

The Geology department used its grant to offset trip expenses for 13 LTCC students in Geology 131AA: Grand Canyon. This four-unit, field-based course introduced students to the geology, hydrology, natural

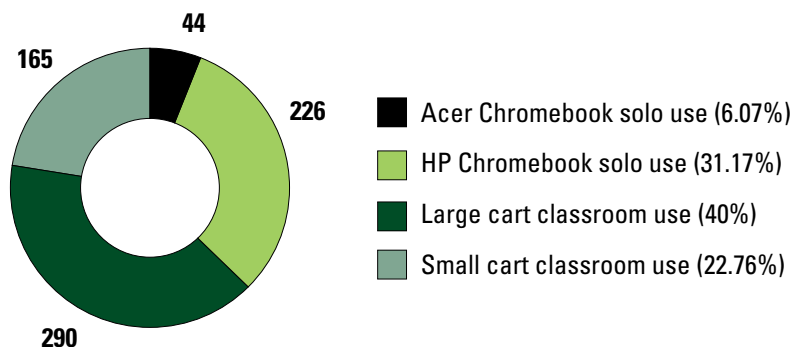


LTCC students hike to Anasazi granaries over 1000 ft above the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

history, and management issues of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. According to instructor Scott Valentine, “For Earth Science students, field experiences like these are rare, priceless gems that greatly contribute to the breadth and depth of their studies.”

*“The opportunity for this hands-on course provided an environment that promoted learning, exploration, and camaraderie. We were able to immerse ourselves in a time capsule spanning millions of years, with each destination providing a valuable lesson in geology, ecology, and indigenous history. Foundation assistance allowed me to effectively budget my time and resources to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.”*

— Chris Spellman, Geology student



Thanks to a Student Success Grant, the Library was able to double the number of Chromebooks it has on hand for math exams and student use.

## Donor Profile: Roberta Mason, beloved LTCC co-founder, continues her active role on-campus!

In 1964, Roberta L. Mason was one of a small group of citizens who began laying the groundwork for a college in South Lake Tahoe. The group's efforts were successful, and Roberta continues to be a supporter and advocate for LTCC to this day.

Currently, Roberta serves as a valuable member of the LTCC Foundation Board of Directors. She was instrumental in securing the \$5.8M donation from Lisa Maloff for the University Center. Roberta's term on the foundation board started in 2015, immediately after she retired

from her position as a trustee of the college (a position she held for 40 years!).

In addition to her support of LTCC, Roberta has served on a multitude of education-related committees and councils and is a member of the Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe and the American Association of University Women.

In 2014, in appreciation of Roberta's five decades of hard work on behalf of the college and its students, the Board of Trustees voted to rename the LTCC Library in her honor.



Happy birthday to Roberta Mason, who turned 90 this September!

Roberta is truly the mother of LTCC. No single person has contributed more to the creation, success, and growth of LTCC as Roberta Mason has. Roberta is pretty much guaranteed to be in attendance at every college function, no easy feat!

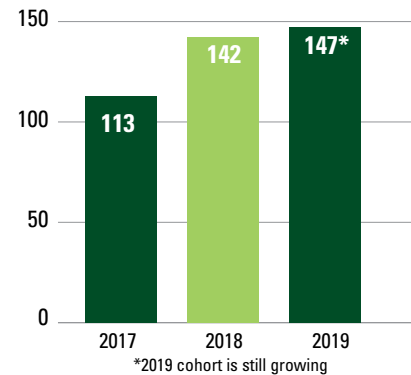
## Lake Tahoe College Promise Donation Update

The Foundation set a goal to raise \$17,000 in 2018/19 to support the Lake Tahoe College Promise. Donors far exceeded that goal, providing \$221,000 in donations to support Lake Tahoe Basin high school graduates attending LTCC full-time for the first time! That's a 1,200% increase over the goal!

Stay tuned for an opportunity to support the College Promise to ensure all Lake Tahoe Basin high school graduates have financial and other support necessary to continue to higher education!

**Give today and help graduates of Lake Tahoe high schools afford college, continue their education, and give back to the community!**

### Lake Tahoe College Promise Student Enrollment



## Save the Date!

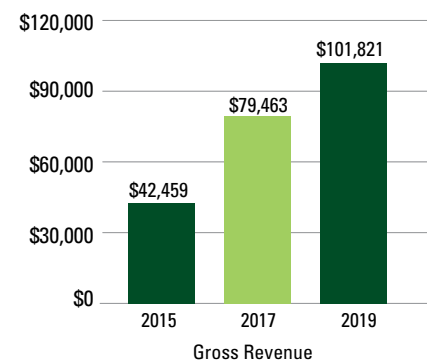
Saturday, July 18 6-9 pm

Enjoy an evening of live jazz, food, wine, and beer while meandering along the garden paths and supporting LTCC students. We're excited about new additions and upgrades to make this event better than ever!



Retired LTCC faculty member Roger Welt, PhD and his daughter Chelsea enjoying a beautiful summer evening of music, food, wine and beer at Taste of Gold!

### Taste of Gold Fundraising Growth



In the past four years, Taste of Gold revenues have grown by 140%!