

THE SULLIVAN-DECKARD SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2019



THE OFFICE OF INCLUSION AND MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY





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THE SCHOLAR'S CREED

Society will draw a circle that shuts me out,
But my superior thoughts will draw me in.
I was born to win, if I do not spend too much time trying to fail.
I will ignore the tags and names given to me by society,
Since only I know what I have the ability to become.
Failure is just as easy to combat as success is to obtain.
Education is painful and not gained by playing games.
Yet it is my privilege to destroy myself,
If that is what I choose to do.

I have the right to fail,
But I do not have the right to take other people with me.
God made me the captain of only one life-my own.
It is my right to care nothing about myself,
But I must be willing to accept the
Consequences for that failure.
And, I must never think that those who have chosen to work,
While I played, rested, and slept,
Will share their bounties with me.
My success and my education can be companions
That no misfortune can depress,
No crime can destroy, and no enemy can alienate.

Without education, man is a slave,
A savage wandering from here to there,
Believing whatever he is told.
Time and change come to us all.
I can either be hesitant or courageous.
I can swiftly stand up and shout:
This is my time and place.
I will accept the challenge!

Adapted from Marva Collins' Way

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



My name is Jarrett Pratt, and my life's mission is to support students in discovering their full potential in academia and in life. As a licensed intervention specialist and alum of the Inspired Leaders Program at Cleveland State University, I have a special interest in supporting those impacted by foster care and to assist them in improving their lives and communities by promoting education, self-efficacy, and encouraging social responsibility.

Many individuals in foster care experience an abrupt end in services from the care system upon turning 18 years of age, as they are then considered fully independent adults. Children in care range in age from 0 to 21, and on average, will remain in state care for nearly two years. In many cases, sibling groups are separated, and children move from placement to placement and experience no sense of permanency while in the care system.

According to the U.S Department of Education, more than 400,000 children and youth are in foster care at any given time, and each year about 20,000 of these students emancipate or age out of the foster care system. Nationwide, less than half of the youth in foster care finish high school with a diploma, and of those who do, less than 3% graduate from a 4-year college with a degree. Changing this narrative was and is the primary goal for the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program and all of the Fostering Success and Leadership Programs offered by the Pratt Center.

Over the past five years, I have had the privilege of working with The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program. Initially, my responsibilities were to provide support in implementing the vision & mission of the program. Over time that role grew into developing strategies for enrollment and retention of Scholars, design and delivery of learning support programs, coordinating special events, strengthening community partnerships, and securing public and private funding. My primary focus has remained on developing positive academic outcomes, maintaining effective collaborations, and building mutually beneficial partnerships for Scholars, Cleveland State University, and communities. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve, and I am also committed to the mission of the Pratt Center and all of its Fostering Success and Leadership programming.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Pratt".

JARRETT G. PRATT, M. Ed
Director of Student Success,
The Pratt Center



Foster Care – (noun) Federal Definition

24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility.

OUR STORY

PROGRAM HISTORY



From left to right: Frank Sullivan, Barbara Sullivan, Dr. Charleyse Pratt, President Ronald Berkman, Jeniffer Deckard, Daryl Deckard

In collaboration with Frank and Barbara Sullivan, former Cleveland State University President, Dr. Ronald M. Berkman, sought to design a national model to improve post-secondary outcomes for highly motivated youth impacted by foster care. At the behest of the late Dr. Charleyse S. Pratt, the collaboration expanded to become The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program. This intended 5-year cohort model was created through the generous support of a \$2.3 million gift from Frank & Barbara Sullivan and Jenniffer & Daryl Deckard in 2014. Scholars could then pursue a program of study together characterized by shared experiences, interactions, collective efforts, and a mutual commitment to educational goals.

Shortly after its creation, the Sullivans realized the necessity of these shared experiences and committed an additional \$1 million gift to create a home for Sullivan-Deckard programming in The Pratt Center, a unique multipurpose space where students from a variety of cultural backgrounds can learn to successfully navigate university life. On February 16, 2017, Dr. Charleyse S. Pratt, Cleveland State University's Assistant Vice President for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement and Director of the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program, addressed her Scholars for the last time at the ceremony for The Pratt Center, which was named in her honor.

The successful implementation of the Sullivan-Deckard program led to the creation of the Helen-Packer Scholarship Opportunity by a gift from Dr. Howard and Carol Berusch. Another investment for support to persons impacted by care is the Mathilde Jane Gutow Endowment Fund, established by Thomas and Marsha G. Hopkins. A gift from Joseph and Ann Stockwell has annually supported sophomore and senior summer programming to ensure success for our Scholars and all students serviced by the Pratt Center. These gifts ensure that all program participants have the resources to overcome primary risk factors of this population such as: cognitive dissonance, economic instability, food scarcity, and homelessness.

These gifts and programs are partnered with community-based wraparound services to provide academic coaching, economic security, physical and emotional support, and year-round housing. Going forward, a grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education will provide opportunities for The Pratt Center to expand programming further to include short term certificate and work development credentials for any persons impacted by foster care. In July of 2019, The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program was included in the State of Ohio's budget to support additional scholarships.

*The Sullivan-Deckard Scholars Opportunity
Program welcomed its 5th cohort of students in the
Summer of 2019.*

SULLIVAN-DECKARD SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

THE SEVEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Financial aid for tuition, books, and instructional resources.
2. Year-round housing with an approved meal plan.
3. Academic coaching and institutional support services.
4. On-campus employment with career advising and mentoring.
5. Campus and community engagement with over 40 volunteers pledged to provide additional student support.
6. Peer assistance, mentoring, and support.
7. A structured Transition Plan for university life and academic success.

GOALS

- **Navigate** scholars towards successful completion of a bachelor's degree, with scholars entering a cohort model of shared experience and study, interactions, collective efforts, and mutual commitment to educational goals.
- **Promote** degree completion by improving program initiatives and integrating program services.
- **Reach** a wider network of youth, as well as stakeholders within the university and the greater community.
- **Maintain** a valuable and lasting relationship with participants during matriculation and beyond.

WHAT SETS US APART?

Our Summer Programming and Transition Workshops start in June rather than Fall semester to help scholars transition from care, become acclimated to university life, and establish a GPA with **Freshman Foundation** curriculum and **General Education** courses.

This head start provides a pathway to success for Scholars during their first-year college experience.

"I have the right to fail..."

"Time and chance come to us all."

"This is my time and place..."

"Without education, man is a slave."



ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Scholars in the program reflect a wide range of interests and are encouraged to explore the options that would typically not be available to this population.

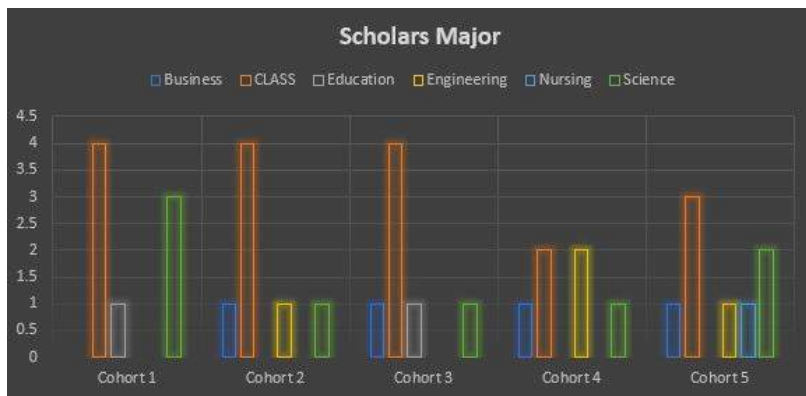


Fig. 1. Scholars Major, 2015-2019. Graph from *The Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement*.

College	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	Cohort 5	% Total
Business		1	1	1	1	11.11%
CLASS	4	4	4	2	3	47.22%
Education	1		1			5.56%
Engineering		1		2	1	11.11%
Nursing					1	2.78%
Science	3	1	1	1	2	22.22%
Undergraduate Studies						0.00%
University Studies						0.00%
Urban Affairs						0.00%

Fig. 2. Scholars Major, 2015-2019. Graph from *The Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement*.

*CLASS: College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Students must formally apply, fulfill all admission requirements, and be accepted into Cleveland State University.

Participation in the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program is voluntary.

Prospective students must be:

- Foster care youth who are high school seniors, at least 17 years of age, and have been in foster care for three years or more.
- Positioned for high school graduation and college admission by fall semester.
- Will age out foster care by the date of high school graduation and are under 20 years of age.
- Legal residents of Ohio and eligible for in-state tuition rates.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

The Pratt Center delivers high quality 1:1 student and peer support for freshman Scholars due to its inclusive environment and family-like atmosphere.



WHAT WE PROVIDE

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS

The Scholarship offerings for the programs at The Pratt Center were created initially through gifts of the Sullivans and Deckards and continued support from others has increased the opportunities available to persons impacted by the foster care system.

- Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program
 - As of Fall 2019, there have been thirty-nine scholarship participants with three graduates and twenty-one Scholars persisting towards an undergraduate degree.
- Helen Packer Scholarship Opportunity Program
 - This mirrors the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program and stands as a four-year scholarship for one awardee.
- The Pratt Center
 - In congruence with the Scholarship Programs, The Pratt Center provides expansive support in the form of Destination Graduation, Student Navigators, and access to mental health and wellness services.
- Mathilde Jane Gutow Endowment Fund
 - In 2018 Thomas and Marsha Hopkins created the Mathilde Jane Gutow Endowment Fund to support all persons impacted by care enrolled at Cleveland State through stipends for books, meal plans, and gap tuition assistance.

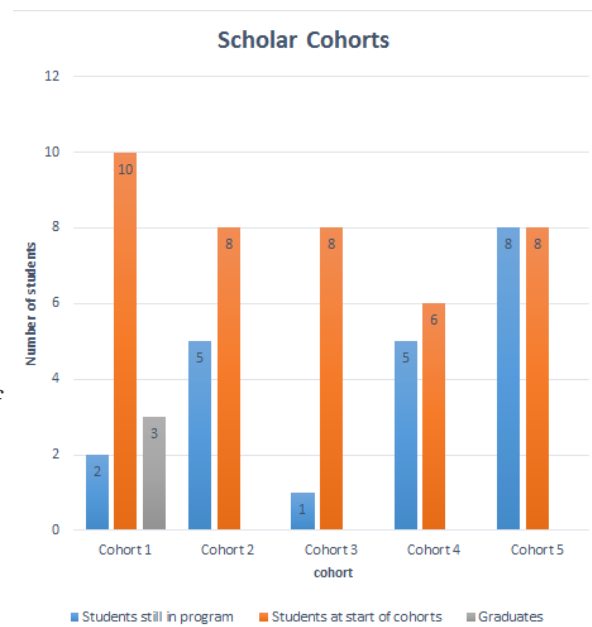


Fig. 3. Scholar cohorts, 2015-2019.
Graph from The Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement.



Division of Diversity, Inclusion
and University Engagement

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MUST:

- Participate in all scheduled Program activities, events, and programs which include: regular meetings with the Program Coordinator, daily study-table sessions, program-related seminars, workshop presentations, and leadership development activities as directed by the Program Director.
- Maintain an overall 2.5 Grade Point Average or higher and maintain satisfactory academic progress. Scholars must adhere to standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by Cleveland State University.
- Maintain a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, but not to exceed 15 credit hours per semester while enrolled at CSU.
- Meet with an Academic Advisor.
- Live in CSU student residence halls throughout the period of enrollment at CSU.
- Accept work study through financial aid, on campus, for a minimum of 10-12 hours per week each semester.
- Refrain from obtaining employment off campus.
- NOT own a vehicle or have a vehicle on campus during their freshman year.
- NOT participate in pledging for a sorority or fraternity during their freshman year.
- **Attend all classes according to the requirements of the instructor(s). If at any time during the semester the Scholar's academic performance results in academic probation (below 2.0 GPA), Scholars must agree to an academic intervention plan.**



Shajuana Gaston

Graduation Date: December 2020

Major: Social Work

Minor: Non-profit administration

Career Goals:

Open up my own international group home/community resource center.

Hobbies/favorite pastimes:

Reading, writing, spoken word, dancing (contemporary/liturgical), being outdoors.

CSU favorites:

Downtown Cleveland is a great place to meet people/network/etc. So many different communities to be involved in.

SD scholarship meaning:

Means a lot to me, without it I'd be trying to figure out my tuition which would be hard being that I have no other support outside of the program for my academics. I appreciate the people around me, and the skills and network that I have gained offered by the program.

To program supporters:

Keep supporting. Your support is not in vain. If you feel there is more than one way you can help feel free to involve yourself with the students more.

CENTER FEATURES

NAVIGATORS

Student Navigators are professionally trained students who promote a "Navigation to Graduation" strategy of academic success, retention and degree completion for diverse students. A unique and vital element of The Pratt Center, Student Navigators work closely with Scholars and CSU staff throughout campus to promote excellent scholarship and standards, and to provide thorough assistance to ensure graduation for Scholar cohorts.

1:1 FRESHMAN STUDENT SUPPORT WITH MEAL & BOOK SCHOLARSHIP
WORKSHOP FACILITATION
PEER MENTORSHIP
TUTORING

PRATT CENTER BUZZ NEWSLETTER
SEMINAR & WORKSHOP DESIGN

INTEGRATED SERVICES

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
STAFF WITH STRONG SKILL SET
FREE TO STUDENTS

ACADEMIC EVENTS

LUNCH AND LEARNS
SECRETS OF THE SCHOLARS GAME DESIGN
TWO-WEEK TRANSITION SUMMER WORKSHOP
DESTINATION GRADUATION STUDENT SUMMIT
FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS
SNACK AND CHAT LEARNING PROGRAMS
LEARNING EXCURSIONS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SERVICE LEARNING
VOLUNTEERING

LEARNING INVENTORIES
FIRESIDE CHATS



Brianna Baynes
Graduation date: December 2018
Major: Health Science

Brianna is currently working as a Health Insurance agent licensed in four states, including Ohio. She was recently accepted to Cleveland State's Accelerated Nursing Program to begin January 2020. After successfully completing the program, Brianna will work as a trauma nurse. She plans on moving to Texas after graduation and starting a family.

To incoming scholars:
Don't stress over things you can't control. Keep pushing through obstacles and never give up. You have all the tools you need to succeed. **USE THEM.** Ask for help whenever you need it.

SCHOLAR TO DOLLAR BREAKDOWN

Our programming is a needs-based, last dollar in scholarship that covers the essential elements of attending college and beyond. The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program exceeds the ordinary and extends to many more aspects of learning and financial support to help encourage and engage Scholars in their path to success.

- Summer Transition Program
 - CSU faculty instructors
 - Navigator training and workshops for Scholars
 - Book readings and group learning sessions
 - 24/7 summer support system for incoming Scholars
- Learning Excursions
 - The National Underground Railroad Museum
 - Amish Country
 - Cedar Point
- Summer Courses
 - Early success and increased GPA for Freshman Scholars
 - **Theatre: Principles of Acting**
 - **Introduction to Black Studies**
 - **ASC: Introduction to Student Life**

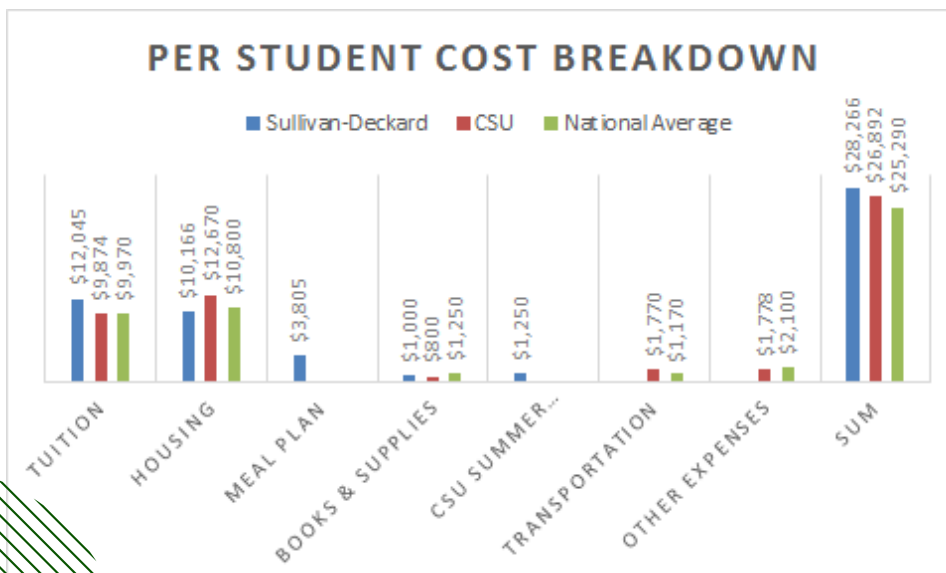


Fig. 4. Per Student Cost Breakdown. Graph from *The Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement*. National average statistics from Value Penguin Average Cost of College in America: 2019 Report



Robert Lozier

Graduation date: May 2021
Major: Sports Management

Career Goals:

Become an athletic director at either the high school or collegiate level, or work for a professional football team.

Hobbies/favorite pastimes:

Playing sports, working out, playing guitar.

CSU favorites:

The city of Cleveland, Cleveland sports, the size of the campus.

SD scholarship meaning:

Pretty much everything. It changed my life so I put in to the scholarship what it gives to me.

To program supporters:

They don't realize how much they are affecting my life, especially Fill This House and the gifts they supply for our dorms. We are all very grateful for their contributions.

To incoming scholars:

Don't lose sight of your goals. Don't get discouraged when the road is rough. We're here for a reason: to graduate, so always keep that in mind.

Recent accomplishments:

Multiple deans list appearances, 2019 Scholar of the Year (first ever recipient). Advocated for a bill that eventually passed that provided state funding to the program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2015-2016

- Operation Warm-Up: A collaboration with the National Council of Jewish Women sorting clothes for homeless
- Creation of Sullivan-Deckard/Helen Packer Opportunity Scholarship Program
- Scholars assisted in cleaning both Providence House & The Gathering Place; helped at risk youth
- Scholars from Cohort One traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for implementation of House Bill 50 which raises funds to help foster youth transition out of care
- Purple Project: Annual conference for foster care youth to network and gain resources
- Yearly Learning Excursion to Amish Country
- Two-week Summer Transition Workshop

2016-2017

- Operation Warm-Up: A collaboration with National Council of Jewish Women sorting clothes for homeless
- Joseph & Ann Stockwell annual gift to support Sophomore Summer Transition Workshop
- Pratt Center dedication launch with \$1 million gift from Barbara & Frank Sullivan
- Pratt Center recognized by state senator
- Mosaic House changed its name to The Pratt Center
- Scholar, Brianna Baynes, hosted a NEOMED convention
- Learning Excursion to National Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Purple Project: Annual conference for foster care youth to network and gain resources
- Yearly Learning Excursion to Amish Country
- Two-week Summer Transition Workshop

2017-2018

- Operation Warm-Up: A collaboration with National Council of Jewish Women sorting clothes for homeless
- Joseph & Ann Stockwell annual gift to support Sophomore and Senior Summer Transition Workshop
- Learning Excursion to Newport Aquarium and National Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Social Learning Lunch & Learn "Champions for Change" focused on increasing social advocacy for the Cleveland, Ohio area and donating goods to decrease poverty
- Thomas & Marsha G. Hopkins establish the Matilde Jane Gutow Endowment Fund
- Purple Project: Annual conference for foster care youth to network and gain resources
- Yearly Learning Excursion to Amish Country
- Two-week Summer Transition Workshop



MaryAnn Dowdell

Graduation date: May 2019

Major: English

MaryAnn is currently applying to international fellowships. In addition, she is in the process of publishing a local fiction magazine that focuses on inspiring black female writers. MaryAnn is also the Cleveland State ambassador of the Cleveland Public Library's Diversity Institute, where she assists in developing CPL's diversity model. Lastly, she is continuing her role as a Student Navigator in the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement.

To incoming scholars:

Appreciate the time you have at CSU.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

2018-2019

- May 8th 2019: MaryAnn Dowdell, member of Cohort One and now an alumnae of The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Program, delivered the student address to honor Frank and Barbara Sullivan, Jenniffer and Daryl Deckard, and recipients of The President's Medal at Cleveland State University's 2019 Radiance Gala. This annual Gala honors the university's prestigious donors and partners.
- Three Scholars from Cohort One graduated from Sullivan-Deckard Program.
- Sullivan-Deckard Program has been incorporated as Line Item expense in the Ohio state budget.
- Collaboration with local high schools to create resource map for K-12 students to expand The Pratt Center presence and assist community preparation for future college scholars.
- Expanded and improved responsibilities of Student Navigator positions to utilize graduate level knowledge and increase Center outcomes, programming, partnerships, and retention for Scholars in the program.
- Reinstatement of Destination Gradation Student Summit with a renewed focus on youth aging out of foster care.
- Scholars collaborated with MedWish to help support medical care and send supplies to developing nations.
- Presented Sullivan-Deckard Program info at Black Male Summit at Univ. of Akron.



Makayla Lang
Graduation date: December 2018
Major: Psychology

Makayla is working full-time at Wingspan Care Group that manages three mental health agencies. These agencies received a five million dollar grant to improve the lives of transitional aged youth which includes a large population of foster youth. She is planning on enrolling into grad school for social work.

To incoming scholars:
Stay focused, get your heads in the game and breathe deeply because you can make it if you set your hearts to it.



PARTNERSHIPS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Through the generosity of the Sullivans and the Deckards, and in collaboration with our community partners, The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program is creating an avenue of access that will allow highly motivated students impacted by foster care to thrive within the university community.

Cleveland State University was one of nine colleges and universities nationwide honored by The University Business Magazine with the 2016 Models of Excellence Award. Sponsored by CASHNet, the Models of Excellence program highlights innovative approaches to encouraging and nurturing student success on campus.

President Harlan Sands, J.D., M.B.A.

President Emeritus Ronald Berkman Ph.D.

Frank & Barbara Sullivan

Daryl & Jenniffer Deckard

Dr. Howard & Carol Berusch

Thomas & Marsha Hopkins

Joseph & Ann Stockwell

CSU Administrators, Faculty & Staff

Office of Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement

The Pratt Center

Student Navigators

Sullivan-Deckard Scholars

Fill This House

Department of Children and Family Services

National Council of Jewish Women

Community of Hope

Conference Services

CSU Catering

CSU Duplicating



Division of Diversity, Inclusion and University Engagement



Cuyahoga County

Job and Family Services



Tri-C® Reach
SCHOLARS



Allen Fleming

Graduation Date: May 2022

Major: Exercise Science

Minor: Non-profit administration

Career Goals:

To become a personal trainer at a gym and then

Grad School for a physical therapy doctorate program to ultimately become a personal trainer at a large hospital.

Hobbies/favorite pastimes:

Soccer, video games.

CSU favorites:

The professors are very attentive and helpful.

SD scholarship meaning:

The community of the Pratt Center is a big help. It's like another resource. The program introduced me to a lot of resources, which is helpful.

To program supporters: You're contribution is huge. Without your contribution, the program wouldn't be able to run the way it runs.

To incoming scholars:

Take advantage of all of the resources because it's all very helpful.

Recent accomplishments:

Deans list in first collegiate semester. Went to Columbus to meet with the senate house to advocate for funding for the program.

SULLIVAN-DECKARD SCHOLARS & STUDENT NAVIGATORS



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