



TCC students who have recently been helped by the Eliminating Barriers – Student Emergency Assistance Fund; their need to apply for financial assistance is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund has received support through the North Texas Coalition, along with individuals, businesses and other community funders, for which TCC Foundation is most grateful! This support is better positioning TCC to respond to the needs of its students...keeping TCC “student ready!”

Names are changed for protection of identification of students

Shondra is a single mother of an 11 month old daughter; Shondra has a B grade average as she works to complete her prerequisite coursework to position herself to apply for TCC’s stout nursing program. She has been employed at the VA Hospital until....her daughter was showing symptoms of the corona virus. Shonda had to quit her job to care for her daughter and ensure that appropriate testing and quarantining were being followed for herself and her child. Without her income, she fell behind in her car payments. As she continued her online coursework at TCC – amidst a second round of COVID-19 testing and quarantining – Shondra applied for financial assistance through the Eliminating Barriers – Student Emergency Assistance Fund. She knew she could not afford to lose her car, as it gets her to work (and she intends to go back to work after the pandemic “settles downs.” – her words). Shondra’s request for help was approved and she was able to have a car payment taken care of. She is finishing up the spring semester, with finals occurring this week.

The financial support from the emergency fund has allowed Shondra to keep her car, remain in school, care for her child and retain hope for her admission into TCC’s nursing program.

Desiree is a first generation member of her family to attend college. She is currently attending TCC’s SE Campus, focusing her on studies in science. Upon completion at TCC, she intends to transfer to a four-year university to major in biology with aspirations to attend medical school. (“I’ve always liked to help people, so I thought that becoming a doctor would be a great way to help others through a medical vocation,” she said.) Desiree is a single mother of a 4-year old son and she is intent on creating a solid, secure life for them both. She works as a driver for two driving services...enter the COVID-19 pandemic which has severely curtailed the number of hours she’s been asked to work. She had accumulated two months of past-due phone bills;

knowing that she must have her phone to secure her work appointments which ensures her income, Desiree applied for financial assistance thru TCC's emergency fund. Her request was approved, her phone bills have been paid and she happily and in a great state of relief completed her finals for the spring semester. "I am grateful to have completed this semester with the financial help I received," said Desiree. "Being able to keep up my coursework and retain my job has been so helpful. Now I can keep going toward my degree."

Becky is a stay at home mom in her mid-30s. She decided to enroll in college to earn a degree and prepare her for gainful employment. Her husband works in a restaurant; when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he lost his job. Without any income their savings quickly dwindled to almost nothing. Becky's husband finally, after many weeks, secured some unemployment benefits but by then bills had piled high and Becky had defaulted on a student loan. Not one for reaching out for assistance, she finally decided to apply for TCC's Student Emergency Assistance Fund and was delighted to receive assistance in paying her electric bill, especially since the electricity was due to be shut off any day. "Can you imagine having a small child without any electricity? And staying focused on my school work without electricity....no way," Becky lamented. She has now completed her semester and is excited to prepare to transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology. Another completer!! Congratulation, Becky!

LaDonna is a TCC student, a single mother, and an 'essential worker' at a THR hospital; she's a technician who has recently returned to TCC after being out of school for a while....she wants to get into TCC's nursing program. She has a 7 year old daughter, so has to pay for child care so she (the mother) can go to work....yet her work hours have been reduced. "I thought about just dropping all my classes because I was getting behind in my bills, but then I thought that I would be teaching my daughter about 'giving up'.....so instead I decided to lean into the struggle and make it work; that's when I learned about the emergency fund through TCC. I applied and received help with my bills. This help came at just the right time.....please express my thanks to all those who support his fund; not sure I could have made it through the semester without this help." This single mom is taking her own online classes, working, and helping to manager her daughter's online schooling....she really has her hands full!! But she has completed her semester and is looking into enrolling in a summer class. LaDonna's attitude is: "I can do *something* (go to school, work hard to get into the nursing program, be a good example for my daughter) or I can do *nothing* (accept welfare payments, watch one year evaporate into the next, serve as no inspiration to my child). I'm choosing to do *something* and I am grateful that TCC is helping me complete my college dream."