



INAUGURAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2019-2024

FIVE YEARS

OF WORKING FOR A BRIGHTER
AND BETTER TOMORROW FOR
THE STUDENTS, ALUMNI,
EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES OF
EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EHALUMNIFOUNDATION.ORG



OUR MISSION

The mission of the East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation is to promote excellence, innovation, and creativity in education for East Hartford Public School students through networking, mentoring, and fundraising.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beatrice Alicea-Martin, *Vice Chair*
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 Mackenzie Manning

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 Awet Tsegai
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A sincere thank you to our former board members who have contributed to our mission: Kathy Begin, Sal Cianfaglione, Lara Dotson-Renta, Candy Guastamachio, AJ LaPlant, Maile Manliguis, Sarah Rojas, Amanda Singh, Kim Tipton.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Five years ago, a group of East Hartford alumni, parents, teachers, and supporters gathered together to identify ways that we could support students and staff in East Hartford Public Schools. We each shared a sense of pride and appreciation for our educational experiences and the ways we wanted to give back to the next generation of East Hartford students and the educators who support them. Our meeting led to the founding of the East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation.

Over our first five years we have worked to support our mission in three primary ways:

MENTORING:

Leveraging the East Hartford alumni network to mentor current students

NETWORKING:

Creating meaningful alumni-to-alumni connections to grow social networks

FUNDRAISING:

Raising funds to enhance the educational experiences of East Hartford students

With the incredible support of community members like you, we are making a difference for our students and our entire school community.

Through our first five years of work we have:

- Awarded \$82,710 in scholarships to 49 exceptional graduates of East Hartford Public Schools.
- Awarded \$17,170 in grants to 33 teachers and staff across East Hartford Public Schools.
- Recruited alumni speakers for career and community service days.
- Coordinated community networking events at area businesses.

We have accomplished so much in our first five years, and we are excited to continue our efforts to support East Hartford's students, teachers, and staff. We would not have fulfilled our mission without your ongoing generosity. Together we will continue to promote excellence, innovation, and creativity in education for East Hartford Public Schools.

With sincere appreciation,

BRITTNEY CAVALIERE
Chair, Board of Directors

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS WE HAVE AWARDED \$82,710 TO 49 GRADUATES OF EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Through your financial support, coupled with the generous donations from committed alumni, the following scholarships have been established and distributed:

EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

(Awarded 2000-2024) Offered annually to up to five graduating students pursuing an undergraduate degree or a vocational training program.

EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

(Established in 2024) Offered to East Hartford Public School graduates who are actively pursuing an undergraduate degree; a certification through a vocational training program; or a graduate or professional degree.

ALICEA SCHOLARSHIP FOR REDEFINING NORMS

(Awarded 2021-2024) - Offered to an aspiring first-generation college student. Primary sponsor: Beatrice Alicea-Martin (EHHS class of 2010) along with other friends and family

COACH KONOPKA "FOR THE TEAM" SCHOLARSHIP

(Awarded 2021-2024) - Offered to a student athlete pursuing continued education with a focused interest in public service (education, law enforcement, healthcare, social services, military, environmental protection). Primary sponsors: Michael Doros (EHHS class of 2000), Jonathan Doros (EHHS class of 1997), Darin "JD" Williams (EHHS class of 2000), and other friends and family

DOTSON-RENTA FAMILY FUND

(Awarded 2021-2024) - Offered to a student whose character, intellectual curiosity, and civic engagement capture the spirit of East Hartford Public Schools. Primary sponsor: Lara Dotson-Renta (EHHS class of 1999).

MELISSA MATEO BLANK AWARD

(Awarded 2021-2024) – Offered in memory of Melissa Mateo Blank - Class of 1999. Melissa was a lover of words and good writing, a great believer in the transformative power of education, and a teacher. This award is given to an outstanding student who displays tenacity, grace, and academic achievement. Primary sponsor: Lara Dotson-Renta (EHHS class of 1999) and the Blank Family.



\$82,710

..... AWARDED TO

49 GRADUATES

▶ **KOSKI-BISSONNETTE BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP**

(Awarded 2024) - Offered to a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in business or a business-related field. Primary sponsor: Bryan Koski-Bissonnette (EHHS class of 2017)

▶ **MELODY A. CURREY PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP**

(Awarded 2023-2024) – Offered in memory of Melody A. Currey, former Mayor of East Hartford, to students pursuing studies in a field that will allow them to give back to the public as a public service professional. Melody Currey exemplified what it meant to give back on a daily basis and demonstrated how public service works towards the betterment of those within the East Hartford community and throughout the state of Connecticut. Primary sponsor: The Currey Family with alumni from the classes of 1992, 1997, 2000, 2013, and 2023 along with other friends and family

▶ **REIMAGINE TOMORROW SCHOLARSHIP**

(Awarded 2021-2024) - Offered to a student planning to pursue education or a career in a science, technology, engineering, arts, or math (STEAM) field. Primary sponsor: Jonathan Doros (EHHS class of 1997)

▶ **VELTRI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

(Awarded 2023-2024) - Offered in memory of Richard and Shirley Veltri to a student pursuing a four-year degree to prepare for a career in engineering, mathematics, nursing, or biological or physical sciences. Richard served East Hartford as a member of the Board of Education, the Town Council, and a state legislator while a research scientist at United Technologies Research Center. Shirley Veltri served East Hartford as a long-time school nurse at multiple East Hartford schools. Primary sponsor: Vicki Veltri (Penney High School class of 1982)

▶ **WHITFORD FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

(Awarded 2020-2021) – Offered in memory of Leonard and Elsie Whitford, lifelong residents of East Hartford dedicated to giving back to their community. Awarded to a student who demonstrates tremendous courage, compassion, and caring in serving their community. Primary sponsor: Lenoard E. Whitford (EHHS class of 1981), Denise Whitford, and Louise Whitford Rivard (EHHS class of 1977)

MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

East Hartford Public Schools is a vibrant and diverse educational community preparing students for post-secondary success whether it be college, training, armed forces or other career paths. We are proud of our students, and your support has provided 49 graduates with \$82,170 in financial support for their education.



“ I am now a junior at Syracuse University studying Public Health. The East Hartford Public Schools’ staff, from kindergarten through high school graduation, mentored me and helped me to grow as a student and leader in the community. The staff and the opportunities I was given in East Hartford helped me make the right decisions for my future. My scholarship played a major role in smoothing my transition to college. I greatly underestimated the expenses of deposits, textbooks, and even transportation. The EHAAEF scholarship allowed me to be less stressed about finances and more focused on my education! ”

Shannell Awuah, EHHS '20

Whitford Family Community Service Award Recipient

“ I am attending Johns Hopkins University on a pre-med track, majoring in biomedical engineering with a minor in applied mathematics & statistics. I’ve always known I wanted to be a doctor, and at EHHS I had the opportunities to take Anatomy & Physiology and Engineering Design I & II, which inspired me to go into engineering! My scholarship allowed me to purchase a new laptop and an iPad, so I can go paperless and not be anchored to my room on my PC. I am forever grateful for this scholarship that gave me the tools to take full advantage of my opportunities at college. One day I would love to create my own scholarship to help East Hartford students succeed in their education beyond high school. ”

Hermione Cordeiro Larkin, EHHS '21

Reimagine Tomorrow Scholarship Recipient





“ I am currently attending the University of Connecticut studying Communications/ Journalism with a minor in Political Science. East Hartford public schools shaped my decision to continue my path to higher education because of the endless support from the educators and faculty. I am a firm believer that navigating life and reaching your full potential is not done without support and thankfully, I was surrounded by a supportive community. Upon that, the endless opportunities and extracurriculars that EHPS and EHHS provide. I was able to explore my passions which pushed me to inherent talents in college. The scholarship helped my transition to college tremendously in terms of my family and I’s focus. My focus is more drawn to my studies and not the worry of the financial burden placed amongst my parents. ”

Victoria Silva-Soto, EHHS '22

Dotson-Renta Family Fund
Scholarship Recipient

“ Receiving the EH Alumni Association scholarship was an honor and helped contribute to a debt free first semester of college (along with other scholarships). This afforded me the opportunity to focus on my academics rather than finding a job right away on campus. The scholarship motivated me to do my best at Western CT State University as a representative of EHPS. I’m very thankful. ”

Chloe Scheer, EHHS '22 -

East Hartford Alumni Association and
Education Foundation Scholarship Recipient



SUPPORT FOR OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF

Our Teacher/Staff Mini-Grant Program has enriched the lives of thousands of students who have benefitted from programs that enhance the learning and social experience in our educational community.

Your contributions to the Alumni Foundation have supported the ongoing commitment by teachers and staff to provide innovative and impactful programs.

“ The EHAAEF, through their annual Grants program, supported the students at EHMS to build cultural sensitivity and awareness by playing sports from around the world. The Health/PE teachers who received this grant were able to create a unit and purchase equipment to allow students in all grade levels to experience different cultures through sports and games. We all learned how sports can vary between different countries, but that people from all cultures can build positive relationships and a healthy community through physical activity. The students really enjoyed the International Games unit, and we have added it to the regular Health/PE curriculum going forward. ”

Michael Craig
East Hartford Middle School -
Health/PE Teachers



OVER OUR
FIRST FIVE YEARS,
WE HAVE AWARDED
MINI-GRANTS TO
33
TEACHERS AND STAFF
TOTALING
\$17,170





“ One of the major questions our music department asked ourselves coming out of the pandemic was, “what are the essential experiences we need to create for our East Hartford students for them to truly commit and buy into a culture of music-making?” We made some important progress to establish culturally responsive content and practices, with a big emphasis on student-directed creative output. The funding from the East Hartford Alumni Foundation has allowed us to create a community performance setting outside of the school building for our EHMS and EHHS students, bringing them in contact with exceptional professional musicians who become role models and who show our students the possibilities they can achieve if they commit to creative practices on their instruments. Our students are thriving as they create new music out in the East Hartford community thanks to the opportunities afforded by the East Hartford Alumni Foundation. ”

Dan O'Brien

East Hartford Middle - 6th Grade Music & Band Teacher
and Global Jazz & Creative Music Ensemble Director

“

The drones purchased through the EHAAEF Grant allowed students to transform a hypothetical unit on beluga whale transport into a real-life experience. Students were eager to learn the content and skills needed to contribute to a successful beluga transport simulation using drones. Students were interested in continuing their work after school, which contributed to the development of a full after-school STEM program for the coming school year. We look forward to extending the beluga transport project to investigate the effects of other measurements (transport time, altitude, speed, turbulence), and incorporating the drones into other STEM units. I look forward to continuing and growing this project every year. ”

Amanda Cooper

Sunset Ridge Middle School - STEM Teacher



NETWORKING & MENTORING

We believe in the power of networking and mentoring as a way to support current students and alumni of East Hartford Public Schools.

We plan and execute a variety of mentoring and networking events that build community and bring people together.

Mentoring provides guidance, support, and wisdom, often illuminating paths to success that might otherwise remain hidden.

Networking, on the other hand, creates opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and relationship-building, expanding one's influence and access to resources.

By harnessing these powerful tools, we unlock potential, drive collective progress, and foster a community of mutual success and continuous learning.



BASKETBALL ALUMNI GAME

We've worked with teachers, coaches and alumni of our boys' and girls' basketball programs to host charity basketball games where funds were raised to support our sports program. We planned the event to include toy and food drives to encourage attendees to donate unwrapped toys and food that were provided to local families.



ALUMNI NETWORKING AT LOCAL BUSINESSES

We worked to bring people who care for East Hartford Public Schools together for fun, socializing and networking. Support for each other and our schools is core to East Hartford Pride, and we have fun in building that spirit.

ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Our Battle of the Boards Cornhole Tournament is an annual event that serves as a primary fundraiser to support our mission and programs. The tournament brings together a diverse group of players who come together to enjoy friendly competition, great food and great company.





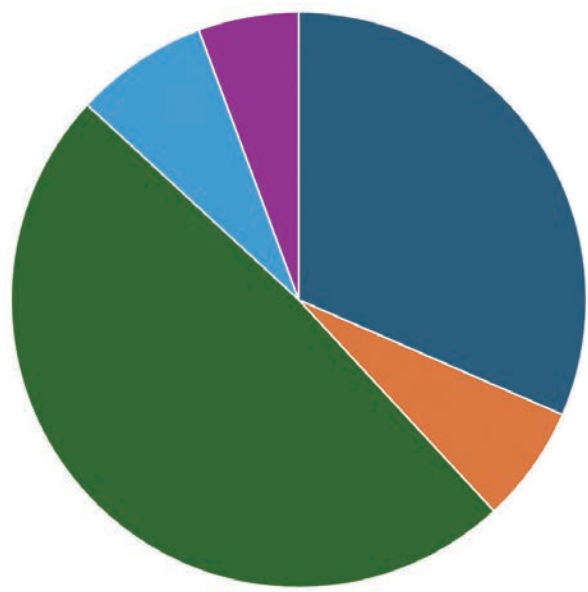
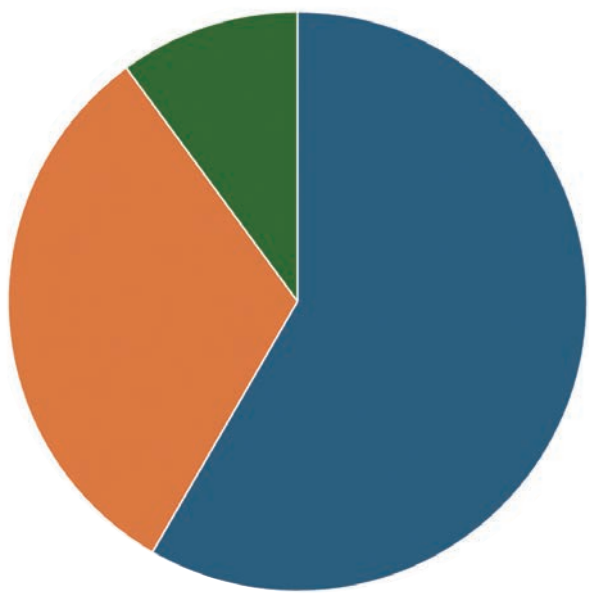
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FIRST FIVE YEARS

Financials/ Endowed Funds

TOTAL REVENUE: \$260,682.60

- 58%** CORPORATE SUPPORT: \$152,126.95
- 32%** INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT: \$82,274.56
- 10%** OTHER SUPPORT: \$26,281.09



TOTAL SPENDING: \$260,682.60

- 32%** SCHOLARSHIPS: \$82,210.36
- 7%** TEACHER/STAFF GRANTS: \$17,170.79
- 49%** SCHOLARSHIP/
GRANT RESERVE FUND: \$126,996.37
- 8%** ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: \$19,577.41
- 6%** FUNDRAISING: \$14,727.67

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We are grateful to the generous individuals and families that have supported us over our first five years. We also extend our gratitude to the local businesses and organizations that have provided us vital financial support through grants, sponsorships, and in-kind donations. Your support impacts the lives of hundreds of students, teachers, staff and families who make up the East Hartford Public Schools' community!

INDIVIDUALS

\$1 - \$499

Martha Adams

Stephanie Alicea

Anonymous

Harry Amadasun Jr.

Deb Arrieta

Russell Baboff

Suelee Balmer

Joseph C. Barber

Dana Batty

Katherine Begin

Anne & Paul Belanger

Joanne Berger-Sweeney

Pam Bergren

Caitlyn Bernabucci

Gary Berner

Benjamin Breault

Donald Bridge

Matthew Brokman

Karen Fish Burke

Greg Burwell

Kathy and Dan Callahan

Denise Camejo

David and Christine Cappiello

Kerry Carey

Joseph Carlson

Jessica Carrero

Stephanie Carroll

Herman Casaol

Marc Caruso

Alan Cavagnaro

Brittney Cavaliere

Vincent Cavaliere

James Caviness

Scott R. Chadwick

Stephen Chapron

John and Mari Choquette

Jane Ciarleglio

Jessica Ciparelli

Charles & Esther Clarke

Pamela Cleary

Tom Collins

Jeremie Cooper

Donna Costello

Daniel Crovo

Jeffrey Currey

Donald and Melody Currey

Gary Czajkowski

Albert DeNigris

Amy Desson

Lonnie Doros

Colin and Meghan Eichelberg

Rain Etienne

Mary E. Finnegan

Ann Flanagan

Anastasia Gaudreau

Joseph Gay

Henry Genga

Christopher Gentile

Joan and Rich Gentile

Lisa Gold

Shirley Gold

Levanuel Griffin

Peter Haberlandt

Douglas Haddad & Fabiana Silva

Susan Halpin

Tyrone Harris

David Heller

George and Toni Henry

Rick and Deborah Hewey

Rosemary Hogan

Robert and Pamela Howes

Scott Hudson

Jason Hwang

Becky Johansen

Linda Johansen

Michael Johnson

Todd Johnson

Michael Joseph

David and Tammy Kapij

Trenton Kapij

Richard and Donna Kehoe

Irene Marie Kennedy

Kirk Kirchner

Caitlin Knipper

INDIVIDUALS CONT.

Linda Kowalski
Shyju Kumbalaparambil
Jean Kurth-Zubretsky
Jennifer & A. J. LaPlant
Arianna Larson
Matthew Larson
Raymond Larson
Tim Larson
Gary LeBeau
Matthew LeBeau
Sam and Anita Leone
Jay B. Levin
Jeffrey and Laura Lewis
Mindy Lewis
Leo Lopez
Nathan Lopez
Michael Lupacchino
Geoffrey Luxenberg
Mackenzie Mace
Maile Manliguis
Lee Ann Manning
Mackenzie Manning
Jennifer Marinko
Alyse Marion
Katie Martin
Patrice McCarthy
Stephen McGowan
Kevin McMahan
Omar Montalvo
Nora K. Moran
Marissa Mounds
Rosemary Moynihan
Joelle Murchison

Evan Murdzek
Shawn Murdzek
John Murphy
Sandy, Alan, Mike, and Danny Nafis
Mark Naison
Matthew Necci
Michael Oken
Alysson Olsen
Alexandra Opalka
Dennis Padua
Angie Parkinson
Tina Parsadanov
Michelle A. Parsons
Susan Pawloski-Burke
Thomas Pearson
Elizabeth Peczuh
Anna and David Pelletier
Marilyn and Donald Pet
Jeanie Phillips
Ken Przybysz
Cassie Quattropani
Joshua Quintana
Joshua Reed
Margaret and Jonathan Reid
Tonya Reid-Kim
Matthew and Marilyn Ritter
Kariene Rodney
Ana and Carlos Rojas
Charles Rojas
Natalia Rojas
Jack Rovaldi
Geraldine Rozie
Elizabeth Russell

Kate Shattuck & Paolo Gabriel
Deborah & Dennis Sheridan
Geeta Singh
Christopher Smith
Greg Spadafora
Theresa Steele
Ann Marie Stevenson
Karen Stewartson
Heather Summerer
Janine Tayag
Peter J. Tierinni
Kim Tipton
Andrea Tomlinson
Curt and Jill Upton
Michael and Janice Walsh
Ken and Mary Beth Walter
Karen Weeks
Rosamund White
Sebrina Wilson
Adam and Grace Wisneski
John & Sharon Zadnik

\$500 - \$999

Gerald Cavaliere
Jonathan Cooper
Merisa Leclerc-Kelly
Christy Pedersen
Peggy Reid
Timothy and Marian Reid
Sarah Ribeiro
Jason and Sarah Rojas
Pamela Wentworth
Linda Yamamoto

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Beatrice Alicea-Martin
Steven Blank
The DeMello Family
Lara Dotson-Renta
Jennifer Hall
Bryan Koski-Bissonnette
Michael & Pamela Moynihan
Louise Rivard
Victoria Veltri
Darin Williams
Patricia Widlitz

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Jonathan Doros
Michael and Jessie Doros
Lisa and Bob Handel
Clayton "Skip" Gengras Jr.

\$10,000 - 14,999

Susan & Frank Bond Jr

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATIONS

\$1 - \$499

Acadian Asset Management
AFSCME Local 2727
Capital Consulting
East Hartford Brewing
Exelon Foundation
Felix DuVerger -
Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices
FOCUS Government Affairs

Joe Beale - Farmers Insurance
of Simsbury
Hartford Flavor Company
Metro Realty
One Wood Pub
Paddle Creek Brewing Company
Paul J. Fitzgerald -
Connecticut Insurance Associates
Roma Restaurant & Pizzeria
ShopRite of Manchester
The Travelers
TOTAL Communications -
East Hartford

\$500 - \$999

Shari's Dance Dream LLC
The University of Hartford

\$1,000 - \$4,999

L E Whitford Co, Inc
Eversource

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Coca Cola Beverages Northeast
Connecticut Automotive Retailers
Association - GHADA Foundation
Gengras Motor Cars
Goodwin University
Hartford Distributors Inc
National Development

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America

\$25,000 - \$50,000

Amazon
Pratt & Whitney

OTHER

\$1 - \$999

East Hartford Black Caucus
East Hartford High School
Cheer Fund
East Hartford Student Activity Fund
East Hartford Summer Youth Festival
Hartford Gay Men's Chorus
John Larson
Matt Ritter PAC
South Congregational Church

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Black and Puerto Rican Urban Institute
Currey PAC
Greater Horizons
Jason Rojas PAC

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Mayor Marcia Leclerc's Charity Ball

Design:

Anderson Kelly Studio

Photo Credits:

Brian O'Connor

Special Thank You:

East Hartford Public Schools


CONGRATULATIONS 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**MATILDA
APPIAH**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000
CLASS OF 2022



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**YASMINE
ESSEL**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000
CLASS OF 2021



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ADRIENNE
BRUCE**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000
CLASS OF 2018



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ANIYA
CARABALLO**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000
CLASS OF 2023



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**QUEEN &
RUTH**
MELODY A. CURREY PUBLIC
SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**GUSTAVO
GUZMAN**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000
CLASS OF 2021



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ZEEYA
TAI**
ALICEA SCHOLARSHIP FOR
REDEFINING NORMS
\$500



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ELIZABETH
KALUGIRA**
MELODY A. CURREY PUBLIC
SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ADDISON
ROJAS**
VELTRI FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,500



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**MELVIN, ADDISON,
AMILYAH, GIORGANA,
& ARIES**
EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION AND EDUCATION
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
\$2,500



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**BENJAMIN
BOLAND**
REIMAGINE TOMORROW
SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**HEIDI
OQUENDO**
KOSKI-BISSONNETTE
BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**SAMUEL
MONTOVANI**
COACH KONOPKA FOR
THE TEAM SCHOLARSHIP
\$2,500



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**JERRY
THODY**
DOTSON-RENTA
FAMILY FUND
\$500



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
**ALYSSA
COOK**
MELISSA MATED
BLANK SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000



EAST HARTFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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