

student aid

Success Stories



N·A·S·F·A·A

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

NASFAA gratefully acknowledges CenTrust Savings Bank of Miami, Florida for underwriting the publication of *Student Aid Success Stories*. CenTrust is a fully automated national lender that participates in the GSL, PLUS and SLS programs and offers an alternative loan program.

Beyond providing student lending services, CenTrust supports access to postsecondary educational opportunity through its active role in the NASFAA-sponsored Miami Early Awareness Project.

INTRODUCTION

Success is a relative term. For a judge, it might be appointment to the Supreme Court. For an enterprising individual, it might be starting one's own business.

But for someone whose family has limited financial means or who comes from a family where no one had ever pursued an education beyond high school, just the act of attending and graduating from college or a private career school can rightfully be said to make him or her a success.

It is with this definition in mind that the 1987-88 Minority Concerns Committee of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators embarked on a project to identify a broad range of individuals whose accomplishments earned them the label "success."

Though their stories range from tour manager to child therapy counselor to dancer to judge, one central theme runs throughout: their successes would have been jeopardized or impossible without the helping hand of federal student aid.

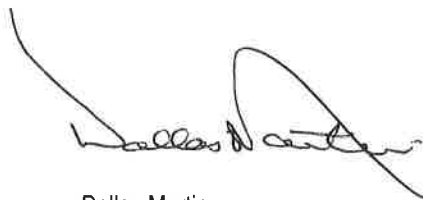
The 43 success stories in this book are representative of the hundreds of thousands of students who have succeeded since 1958 because federal student aid was there to offer financial help when it was needed the most. On the pages that follow, these 43 men and women explain, in their own words, how student aid allowed them to become successes in their chosen fields of endeavor.

As student aid administrators, the members of NASFAA are proud of their role in helping these former students attain their goals with the help of federal financial assistance. Talking to students as they go through the aid process, we get a glimpse of their hopes and dreams for after they graduate. We see the impact of financial aid every time a student tells us he or she would not be in school without that assistance.

So here's to student success — for the 43 successes in this book, for the many student successes across the nation, and for the future student successes who will receive that crucial financial boost for which federal student aid programs were designed.



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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

July, 1988

Dear Friends:

It is so easy to become wrapped up in numbers when discussing student aid -- so many thousands of students receiving so many millions of dollars -- that the individual student is often overlooked. Thus I am pleased that NASFAA is reminding us to stop and look at the individual student, and how important federal student aid is to his or her succeeding in life.

Much has been made recently of people who succeed in business. It is time that we praise those who succeed on a more personal level. The students profiled in this book are as much a success as any entrepreneur. And the federal government should be proud to have played such an integral role in helping them achieve their goals.

Of all the recognition I have received in my life as a public servant, none is more important than having one of the federal student aid programs named after me. I believe strongly that availability of student aid is linked to the vitality of this country and its citizens. The success of the former students in this book are proof of that.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

617 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX #1

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

June 29, 1988

Open Letter to the Financial Aid Community:

A fundamental responsibility of the Federal Government is to invest in its people. For that reason, I have always supported federal student aid. Prior to my election to Congress in 1978, I had the opportunity to see the real difference federal student aid can make. As a former classroom teacher and educational administrator, I knew many men and women who had the mental but not the financial ability to attend a college or trade school.

It takes hard work for a student to succeed in life. But particularly for those who begin life with a disadvantage such as poverty or a broken family, success needs to be nurtured and helped along. Some help comes from family and friends and from the community. And for more than a quarter century the Federal Government has been there to offer the helping hand of financial aid to those who need it.

Student aid makes a difference to so many of our students. I have seen that first-hand. That is why I am so pleased to be in a position as Chairman of the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee to help students succeed. Student aid is one of the best investments the Government can make; an investment in the future of our youth and the future of our nation.

I intend to do all that I can to make sure that this investment continues for generations to come.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Pat Williams

Health & Service





Mary Robinson
Student

**A.A., Orange County
Community College**

When a 41-year old divorced mother of six decides to return to school, she has a lot of concerns, money perhaps being the most significant. Financial aid alleviated some of Mary Robinson's concerns, and she took a job bagging groceries after school to afford the rest of her tuition. Working up to 40 hours a week did not allow much time to study for final exams, so Mary was forced to quit her job. Counselors at Orange County Community College came to Mary's rescue and placed her in a file clerk work-study job on campus. The many months of studying in her car, coping with pre-exam jitters and guilt feelings for not being at home cooking and cleaning have really paid off for Mary. She graduated from Orange County Community College and plans to continue her studies until she earns her bachelor's degree in social work.



Mona A. Atley
Mental Health Caseworker Manager
Sociology & Urban Planning, B.A.
Cleveland State University, Ohio

"I was forced to quit school for 8 years due to financial difficulties. During this period of time, I married and had 3 daughters. After becoming a single parent, I realized the need to be independently self-sustaining, which could only be accomplished by furthering my education. Financial aid made this possible and relieved the monetary strain of college."

"I am presently employed by the Center for Children and Youth Services where I counsel women and children of domestic violence. I am also pursuing my Master's in Public Administration. Without financial aid, I could have been a liability on the taxpayers, as opposed to an asset to my community. I will always be grateful for the assistance I received."



Joan Stanton
Child Therapy Counselor,
Psy.D. Candidate
Psychology, B.A.
Holy Cross College,
Massachusetts

"When I applied for college back in 1980, my concern was not whether my grades were good enough, or my essay was complete enough, but whether I would be able to afford it. My father had died, my mother was disabled, and all we had was a large stack of medical bills. But financial aid was there for me. A Pell Grant, scholarships, and student loans have given me a \$125,000 education. Without that, I would not be where I am today, a child therapy counselor, approaching the end of my Doctor of Psychology degree, looking forward to an enriched career of helping others."

Alice Louise Johnson
Staff Nurse
Nursing Diploma
Rapid City Regional
Hospital School of
Nursing, South Dakota

"Without financial aid I would have had difficulty obtaining my B.A. in English and my R.N. My specialty is Neonatal Intensive Care. I have had an article published in a professional journal and hope to write more articles in the future."



**JoAnn Blair
Nurse**

**Nursing Diploma
Orange County Community
College, New York**

After 14 years of welfare, JoAnn, a single mother of five children, decided to make her dream of freedom from welfare come true. JoAnn enrolled in the nursing program at Orange County Community College. The student loans she received to help her in college caused her children's food stamps to be cut from \$215 a month to \$15.

JoAnn discovered that her courses were so difficult that they gave her headaches. She also found that her children were hungry and needed attention, but JoAnn did not give up. She worked hard. Eventually, some of her food stamp money was returned. Her family and friends helped with the children, sent letters of encouragement, and donated food and money. "Every time I would think of quitting," says JoAnn, "I'd think about everyone who believed in me. I said, 'I'm getting this degree.'" JoAnn's dream came true in June 1988, when she received her diploma in nursing. She has accepted a \$25,000 a year nursing job at a hospital in Syracuse.



**Marilyn Eileen Thompson
Respiratory Therapist
Respiratory Therapy, B.S.
University of South
Alabama**

"Without financial aid I would not have been able to attend college, even at the undergraduate level. My family was unable to pay for my college education because there were three in college at the same time. Because of financial aid I was able to worry less about financing my education and concentrate more on my academic performance. As a result I graduated with honors and am now pursuing a Ph.D. in pharmacology."

**Marylee M. James
Ph.D. Candidate,
Boston University
Political Science/Sociology, B.A.
Furman University**

"During the three years I was at Furman, the financial aid director was more than a source of financial assistance — I could always count on him for advice on how best to use the money I had, and how to develop better financial management habits.

"It is a very long way, from the cold, bankrupt, and bitterly discouraged LPN of four years ago to the well-sponsored Ph.D. candidate of today who looks forward to an exciting research project in South Africa and a promising future in Third World development. Financial assistance and compassionate commitment have made all the difference in the life of one middle-aged lady who wanted to complete her education."



Education Administrators





Ann Hansen (Kull)
Director of Financial Aid
Elementary Education, B.S.
New Mexico State University

Ann became head of the household with 3 small children after the sudden death of her husband. Although many students would have quit, she strove, worked hard, and made it.

"If not for the financial aid and the personal help given me, I would not have had that extra incentive needed to return to college and complete my educational goals. The funding and support received made it possible to continue raising and caring for my family while completing my degree. I also feel the help I was given made me a better and more understanding financial aid officer."



Victoria Nuñez Bohn
Assistant Director of Financial Aid
Associate of Arts
Glendale Community College, Arizona

"In 1954 I got married and then spent the next 20 years raising a family of six and working to help supplement the family income. In 1974 I decided to realize my dream of getting a college degree. Financial aid made it possible for me to go to school and continue to work and contribute to household expenses. The availability of these funds played a major role in securing a degree and eventually led me to my present position. I am grateful to now have the opportunity to help others realize their dreams."



Philesha Renée Hall
Director of Security
Police Science, A.A.
Citrus Community College, California

A student with great financial need, Philesha had less than average high school grades and severely deformed teeth when she arrived at Citrus Community College in 1972.

"During school, I went through a long process to correct my teeth. It changed my life forever by giving me a confidence I had never experienced. If not for the assistance of financial aid and counseling received from the staff at Citrus, I would not have learned how to support myself, set goals, study hard, and achieve."

"After graduating from Citrus, I completed a degree in Community Services and Public Affairs at the University of Oregon. I now work full time and am finishing a master's degree in counseling, as I struggle with being a single parent."



Lynne A. Furman
Assistant Director of Admissions
Communications, B.A.
Cleveland State University, Ohio

"I needed additional funding to pay tuition. Financial aid from the federal government solved that problem and allowed me to concentrate on my studies instead of worrying about financial problems. Financial assistance became critical to my success after my father was laid-off for long periods of time."

"Upon graduation, I was hired to work in Columbus, Ohio as a Legislative Aide to State Senator Michael R. White, District 21 Cleveland. I held this position for two-and-a-half years until I became Assistant Director of Admissions at Cleveland State University. At the University, I am currently involved in several initiatives to recruit and retain minority students. My efforts involve seeking financial aid sources for minority students to help them concentrate on performing well academically, instead of worrying about financial burdens."

Maria Gallegos
Financial Aid Officer
Management, B.B.A.
Pan American University, Texas

"The financial aid that I received helped me tremendously. Without the assistance, I would not have been able to finance my education and could not have graduated. I am the first child out of seven in my family to graduate from college. Without the opportunity that was provided, I could not have made it."





Corine Spann Dismuke
Counselor

**Office Management, A.S.
Hillsborough Community
College, Florida**

"Without financial aid, I would never have been able to attend college. The college work-study monies proved to be most beneficial because the skills and knowledge I acquired led to my full-time position as a Financial Aid Specialist. Without financial aid, none of these accomplishments would have been realized, and I would still be on the welfare rolls."

Richard A. Bolger
Law School Placement Director
**Labor and Industrial
Relations, Personnel Management,
B.B.A. & M.B.A.**
Cleveland State University, Ohio

"I started college at a later age and have been able to set and reach goals that I never thought possible. My success was insured by acquiring an education and financial aid allowed me to do it."



LAW & GOVERNMENT





Ronald R. Helm
Founder/Partner of Law Firm
Law, J.D.
Pepperdine University School
of Law, California

Ronald R. Helm is a graduate of Abilene Christian University with degrees in history and education. After receiving his J.D. degree from Pepperdine, he joined the faculty and administration there. In 1984, Helm took a leave of absence from the School of Law to serve as General Counsel for ComputerLand Corporation in Hayward, California. Helm directed an in-house staff of 15 lawyers in California and Europe. His department also supervised the work of over 100 law firms worldwide.

Carlos R. Ortiz Alvarez
Judge
J. D.
Catholic University of
Puerto Rico

"I think of financial aid as an opportunity for all students who want to develop their abilities and reach professional goals. It also helps to eliminate socio-economic barriers.

"I am thankful that this aid was available to me when I needed it. In my undergraduate studies, I had a federal grant, then I completed my law studies with a federal loan. It would have been more difficult for me and my parents without these grants. It would have taken me much more time to reach my goals."



Jeffrey Kyle Richard
Senior Staff Assistant to the Speaker
of U.S. House of Representatives,
Jim Wright
Political Science and Economics, B.S.
Texas Christian University

"Tuition costs at Texas Christian would have been prohibitive for me had it not been for financial aid. I believed that I could live up to the tough academic standards, but it was financial aid that gave me the chance to prove it. In pursuit of a Master's in Public Policy degree at Harvard University, I again needed to rely on student financial aid. More than any other single factor, student financial aid — in the form of loans and grants — made possible my attendance at Harvard."

Marcia S. Bloom Bernicat
Foreign Service Officer
History, A.B.
Lafayette College, Pennsylvania

"I was the first person on my mother's side, and only the second on my father's side of the family, to complete a 4-year college degree program. Financial aid made it possible for me to attend a top notch institution and be exposed to numerous opportunities I might not have had elsewhere. Obtaining my master's degree from Georgetown University would not have been possible without financial aid like work-study and student loans. Before joining the State Department's Foreign Service in 1981, I worked as a first line supervisor with Proctor and Gamble for two years."



Michael A. Swann
Legislative Aide
Communications, B.A.
Cleveland State University, Ohio

"I had originally decided to quit school. If it had not been for my older sister's guidance and my persistence, I would have. The main obstacle that remained was learning the financial aid process and how to find out information."

"In retrospect, financial aid was the sole reason I was able to finish college (not including God). My thanks to all the people at the financial aid office at Cleveland State University for their help, guidance, and support. The message is clear: minorities can attend college, too."



Bert S. Sakuda
Attorney
Law, J.D.
University of Hawaii at
Manoa

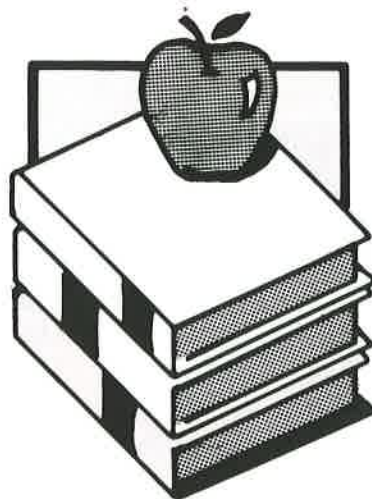
"The financial assistance program was a key component to the successful completion of my undergraduate and law school studies. The monetary aid allowed me to concentrate on my studies rather than on supporting myself, while the work-study program allowed me to receive payment for education-related work that helped me succeed in school. I doubt that I could have done well enough in college to gain admission to law school without benefit of financial aid."



Terry M. Giles
Attorney, President and Owner of Corporation
Law, J.D.
Pepperdine University School of Law, California

For the past five years, Giles has concentrated on business ventures. In 1985, he and his wife Patti founded the Giles Scholarship Fund, which provides funds equal to a year's full tuition and books to a third-year law student at Pepperdine University School of Law.

Teaching





Virginia C. Claire
Teaching Assistant
Math and Computer
Science, A.S.
Red Rocks Community
College, Colorado

"Without financial aid, I would never have been able to return to school. As a result of financial aid, I was not only able to receive my Associate Degree from Red Rocks, but I was also able to transfer to Regis College and receive my B.S. in Mathematics (cum laude). While at Regis, I was also on financial aid. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Colorado at Denver to work on my M.S. in Discrete Mathematics."

Evelyn Vadi
Elementary Teacher
Elementary Education and Spanish, B.S.
St. John's University, New York

"I am a single mother and know the importance of a good education. Financial aid enabled me to attain my goals and continue my education on a graduate level. I wish to express my thanks for the financial opportunity that was afforded to me. I look forward to a long and fruitful career in education."



Cynthia Wightman
Computer Aided Drafting
and Design Instructor
Associate in Specialized
Technology Degree
Triangle Technology, Inc.,
Pennsylvania

"If it weren't for the grants and VA benefits I received, I never would have been able to afford training at Triangle Tech. Looking back, I credit my success mostly to the financial aid I received, to the knowledge and encouragement of my instructors, and to my positive attitude about the drafting field."



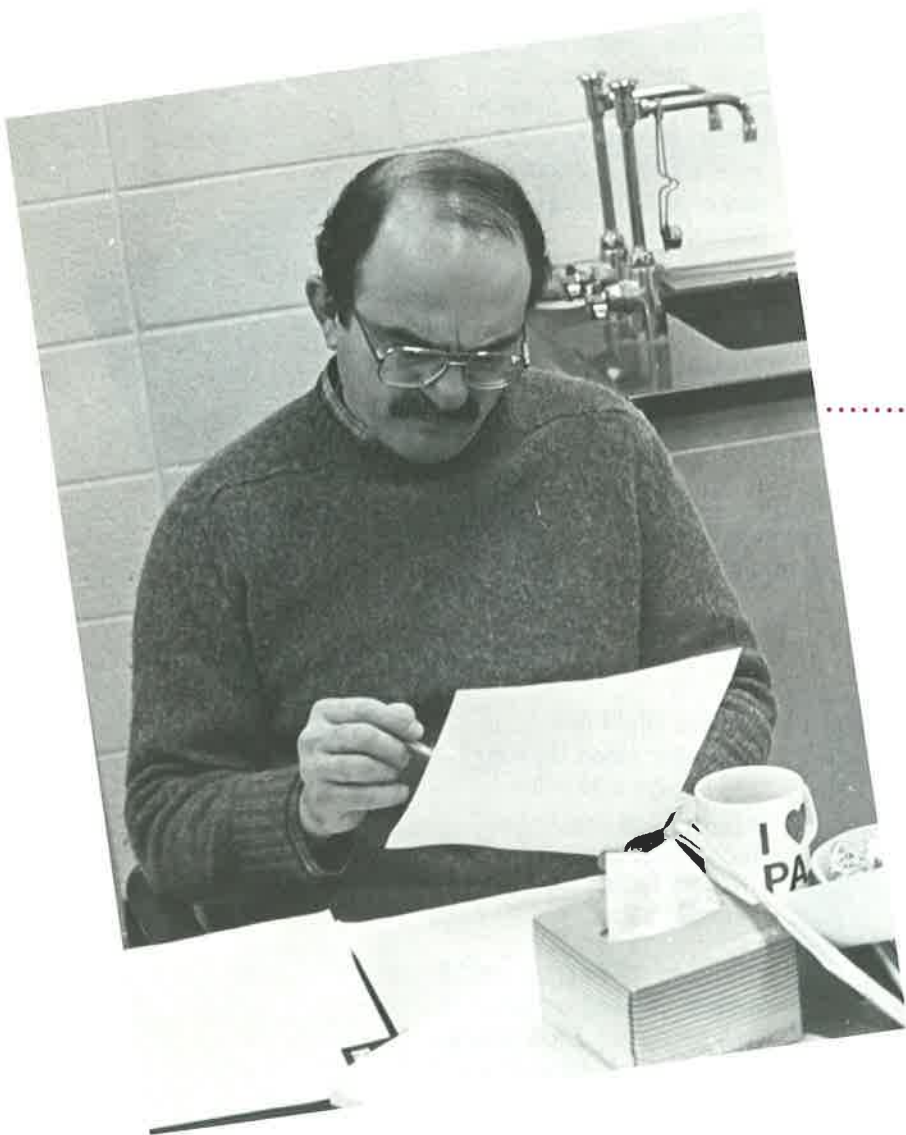
Sonja Zonetta McLean Williams
Music Instructor
Music, B.A.
North Carolina School of the Arts

"Receiving financial aid made it easier for me to concentrate more on my studies. I did not have to worry about where the money would come from to pay my tuition. I only wish everyone could receive some type of financial aid because it does make a difference in one's educational experience."



Michael R. Marshall
Assistant Professor of Biology
Biology, B.A.
Kutztown State University,
Pennsylvania

"I came from a broken home, my mother had an eighth grade education and worked all her life in the Reading textile industry for minimum wage. When many of my high school friends left home to attend college, I left for four years in the Navy. Attending college, even under the G.I. bill, was a continuous financial struggle. Without student loans, it would have been a lot worse, if not impossible. I'd like to emphasize how important it was to receive financial aid. My Kutztown education has taken me a long way [on to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology] and will hopefully also benefit my children by providing them with a better starting point in life than their dad had."



Jennifer A. Currie
Director/Instructor of
Cosmetology

Cosmetology License
Romars Hairstyling
Academy, Florida

"With Financial Aid, I was able to support myself and my children, obtain a Cosmetology license, become an Instructor of Cosmetology, and get into a place of employment that pays well in advancements and achievements. I am still educating myself, going to college at night to receive a degree in Business Administration. I now know how important an education is and feel everyone deserves to be able to receive one. I have written many letters to our congressmen stating this."



Dawn Little Thunder
Elementary P. E. Specialist/Coach
Physical Education, B.S.
University of Idaho

Dawn, a Native American, is a first generation college graduate from her family. Even though she has reading disabilities, she was able to overcome many obstacles to obtain her degree. She says that "financial aid made it possible to attend college."

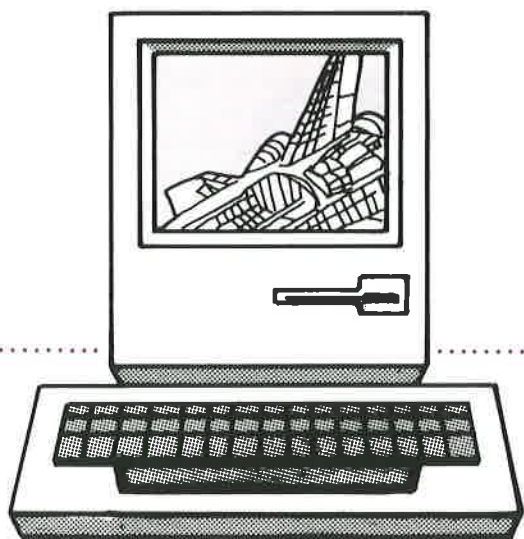


Linder Graham
Learning Disabilities Teacher
Education, B.S.
Cleveland State University, Ohio

"At the time I entered college, I was a single parent with two boys, recently separated from my husband, and unemployed. My only source of income was public assistance. Financial aid had a tremendous impact on my life. I was able to attend college (my life-long dream) and work at a job to help meet expenses other than tuition. I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and continued my education, earning 30 hours towards my master's degree."

"The job I had was on campus in the financial aid office. The people I worked for became a source of moral support, guidance, encouragement and strength for me. Now, I am a Learning Disabilities teacher for the Cleveland Public School System. I plan to complete my masters degree and to one day purchase a house."

Technicians



Nicki Gilkerson
Student/Switchboard Operator
Music, B.A.
Occidental College, California

"Financial aid has been the key to a continuing education and to the fulfillment of a long-time desire to return to school. A financial aid program especially designed to meet my special needs as a blind student allowed me to enter Occidental College immediately following my graduation from a community college. The program gave me the opportunity to continue toward my goal of a degree in music education."

"I have been able to arrange adequate transportation to campus, to afford tapes and tape recorders necessary to tape class lectures, to meet the additional costs of a new Braille writer and Braille supplies, and, most importantly, to secure adequate funding for the readers I must hire to read my textbooks onto tape. Having a good and reliable reader is one of the key elements in making it possible for me to compete with sighted students in a college environment, and I am especially grateful for that provision in my financial aid award."

"The effect of the financial aid I am receiving goes beyond merely providing me with an opportunity to return to college. It is a motivating force in the quality of my work." Nicki is the recipient of an Achievement Award from Time Magazine. Her guide dog, Buddy, a yellow Labrador Retriever, always accompanies her."





Bob Smith
Service Foreman

Refrigeration, AC & Heating, Certificate of Completion
Perry Technical Institute, Washington

"After completing my tour in the Air Force I found myself unable to find any kind of work other than as a laborer. One year I held 7 jobs. Being a married man with two small children, I knew I needed a trade, so I applied to Perry Technical Institute and was given student loans and grants. If it weren't for these programs I wouldn't have been able to go to school and learn a trade and earn a decent living for my family."

Carrie Rumon
Systems Analyst

Computer Aided Drafting and Design,
Computers Systems Management,
Computer Graphics/Mechanical,
Associate
Pittsburgh Technical Institute,
Pennsylvania

"At the present time I am a Systems Analyst for a successful engineering firm. I have been working for this firm for three years, and I have been steadily climbing the ladder of success."

"There is no way I could have earned this position in such a short time if I did not have an education. I was one of the lucky ones who was eligible for federal and state grants and loans. Without them, I do not think I would have pursued my education. Now that I am paying back the student loans, it really makes me feel that my money was spent on a good cause."



Arturo Martinez
Maintenance Technician

Electronics Technology, Associate of Applied Science
Texas State Technical Institute

"I received an education with the assistance of financial aid. My training has been a tremendous help to me in acquiring my present job. There is no doubt in my mind that everyone should apply for federal aid. It provides opportunities."

Dao Van Le
Mechanical Drafter
Computer Aided Drafting and Design,
Mechanical Associate in Specialized
Technology
Triangle Technology, Inc., Pennsylvania

Five years ago Dao left the small rice farm in Vietnam where he grew up to search for the American dream. Even though he had very little knowledge of English when he came to this country, he successfully completed his course of study at Triangle Tech, graduating with a 3.9 grade point average. Looking back over the last five years, Dao says that "Without financial aid, my dream of living and working in the United States would never have come true. Before I left my native country, my father told me that if I wanted to make anything of myself, particularly in the U.S., I would need specialized training. Financial aid gave me the opportunity to get that training at Triangle Tech. Now, I am earning a good salary as a mechanical drafter and I love my job."



Barbara Sedlacek
Junior Designer,
Newport News Shipbuilding
Architectural Computer Aided Drafting and Design
Associate in Specialized Technology Degree
Triangle Technology, Inc., Pennsylvania

Barb was diagnosed with a kidney disease and told she was in need of a kidney transplant. The transplant was successful, but she spent a total of 9 years being disabled.

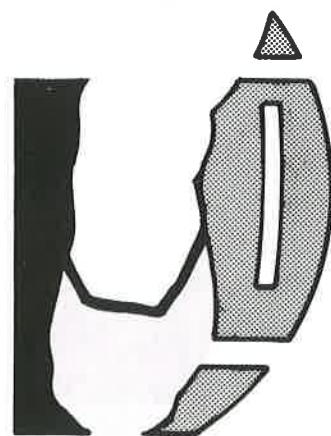
"I was on disability and didn't receive a whole lot of money each month. I couldn't work, so receiving financial aid was the only way I could pay for my school bill."



Bertha L. Brooks
Student Services Specialist
Business Administration, A.A. & B.B.A.
Mira Costa College, California

"As a single parent with four young children, I could never have made it through school without the help of financial aid. As a recipient of financial aid, I was able to attend school without worrying about finances. With financial and moral support, I was able to concentrate on my classes and make it to where I am today, helping other students to have the same chance at success that I had."

Performers

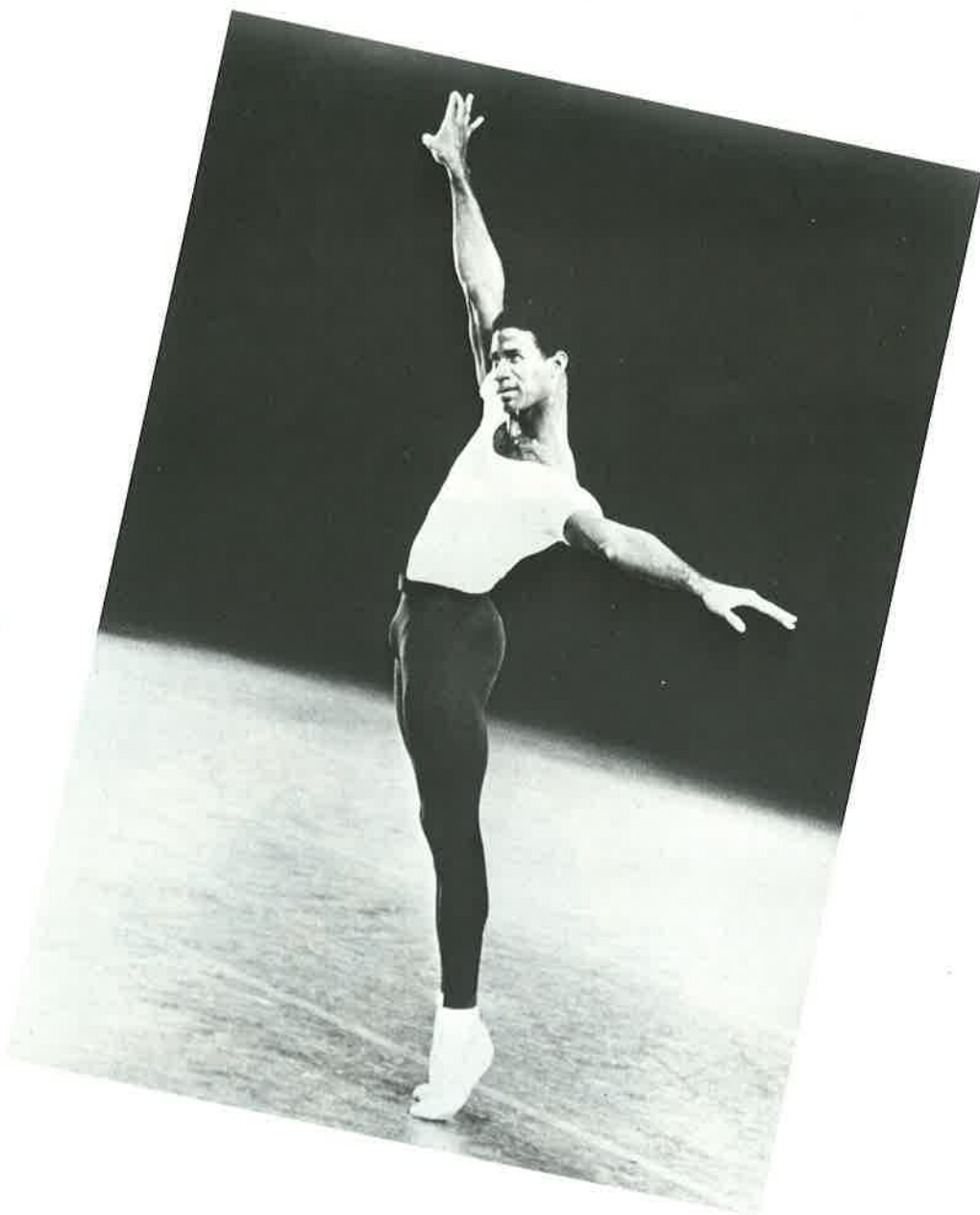


Mel A. Tomlinson
Dance Faculty

Dance Diploma, B.F.A.
North Carolina School of the Arts

Mel, one of six children, was born into a poor family. His father worked two jobs to support the family. Mel says that he has always loved the arts, but he never dreamed that he would one day become a professional dancer. A partial scholarship, work-study, and a student loan helped him get through the North Carolina School of the Arts.

While he was still in school, Mel danced professionally with the New York City Ballet and the Heritage Dance Theatre. Since his graduation from college, Mel has performed with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and the Joffrey Ballet. He is the recipient of the North Carolina Prize that recognizes achievement in the arts. Mel begins a position this fall with the Education Department of the Arts Council for the North Carolina Dance Theatre. In summing it all up, Mel says, "Financial aid helped me in my studies, lessened my parent's financial responsibilities, and challenged me to maintain the quality of my work."





Jesse Williams Solomon
Professional Football Player
Political Science, A.A.
North Florida Junior College

"I would not have been able to attend college were it not for financial aid. I had the opportunity to try out for the Florida State University football team, and I received a scholarship and played two years of college football. Most importantly, I received a degree in Political Science. I was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings and am now a starting linebacker."

"Without the availability of financial aid, I wouldn't be where I am today. My family did not have the money to send me to college. I now have the opportunity to better my economic situation and will be able to pay for my kids' college education."



Business





Hoyt Guthner
Tour Manager

Travel and Tourism, Diploma
National School of Technology,
Florida

Hoyt was born in Cuba and his family immigrated to the United States during the '60s. Reflecting on the impact of financial aid on his career, Hoyt comments, "I had no idea how I would pay for my education until my career counselor informed me of the availability of financial aid. Without financial assistance I would never have been able to complete my studies. In my present managerial position at International Travel I am happy to make flights of fancy become a reality."

Darryl L. Harris
Auditor

Accounting, M.A.
Washington State University

"I owe a large part of my success to financial aid. Not only did I receive the grants and loans that I needed to continue my education, but I also worked in the office as a student counselor and assistant. There is no question that without the assistance of financial aid, my desire to become a Certified Public Accountant would not have been fulfilled." Darryl is now an auditor with Price Waterhouse.

Félix A. Alvarez Bracero
President, Construction Corporation
Civil Engineering, B.A.
College of Agriculture and the Arts,
Mecanicas de Mayaguez (RUM), Puerto Rico

"Having the financial help to allow me to study was fundamental to securing my bachelor's degree. I thank God and the sources of financial assistance that enabled me to gain the knowledge and social preparation necessary for becoming a man of means in my country."



Delores Reyes
Director of Research

**Business Administration,
Computer Information Systems, B.B.A.**
Southwest Texas State University

Delores was excited about attending Southwest Texas State, but she wasn't sure how her parents would be able to send her. With two older brothers in college and an alcoholic father, she knew that there couldn't be further financial strain on the family's modest income. With the help of a caring financial aid counselor, Delores received enough money through work-study, grants and scholarships to cover her expenses. Delores says "I am eternally grateful for all of my counselors' assistance, for the people who raised money for the scholarships I received and for all the people who believed in me and encouraged me through the years."



Blaine A. Brown
Manager, Equal Opportunity Programs

Public Administration, B.S.
Kutztown University, Pennsylvania

"My twin sister and I were raised in a foster home along with nine other children. At age 18, we were declared independent adults. I can emphatically say that financial aid (a small scholarship, work-study, and a small loan) was my lifeline to independence. After graduation, I accepted a supervisory position in the Operations Division at Allstate Insurance Company. I have been with Armstrong World Industries since 1984. As Manager of Equal Opportunity Programs, I am responsible for reviewing, developing, and implementing recruitment, personnel placement, and employee development programs."

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