

Cambridge College Honors Scholars, Dedication to Community

On Wednesday, June 4th Cambridge College reminded the public how much of a difference the College makes in a student's life, and in turn, his or her community at its annual scholarship luncheon.

The College, which gave out over 300 scholarships in 2008, demonstrated how it remains true to the mission of providing academically excellent, time efficient and cost-effective higher education for a diverse population of working adults. "Someone once told me that when he thinks about Cambridge College, he thinks of it as the community's college. I was extremely proud of that designation," said Chancellor, Founder and Interim President Eileen Brown.

Five scholarship recipients shared their stories with the audience, describing how a second chance at education helped them improve their lives. "A year ago I was homeless," said Michelle Thomson, a 2008 One Family Scholar and Jane Saltonstall Scholarship Recipient. "With persistence and never giving up, I am now a scholar. In one year I will have my Bachelor's degree. Cambridge College gave me and my family back opportunity."

Julian Jefferson and Sheril Rhodes were also homeless at one point in their lives. Jefferson, a high school dropout who then found himself on the streets, said he never let go of the belief that he would be successful. "All I needed was to have belief in myself, Cambridge College helped me believe that I could be somebody," said Jefferson, a Henry Francis Barrows Scholarship recipient, who received his B.A. at the June 8th Commencement and will attend the Franklin Pierce College Law School in the fall.

Rhodes, a single mother of three, was left homeless due to circumstances beyond their control. "I know what I want out of my life and what I want to achieve," she said. Rhodes wants to own her own business someday but knew she wouldn't be able to support herself financially through school. A Cambridge College scholarship, through the Pathways to Success program, is helping her realize her dream. "I am proud of myself and I feel that my child will be proud of me."

Jerome Posey was a living example of what can come of a scholarship for a Cambridge College education. At the age of 50 and after spending six years in addiction recovery, Posey knew he needed a college degree to further his career but didn't know how he was going to manage or afford it. In 2004, the Charles Irwin Travelli Scholarship recipient graduated from Cambridge College and is now an educator himself. "Never in a million years did I dream I would be working in education," he said. "But I see how helping someone take the next step benefits them, as the College did for me. I'm learning every day, like Cambridge College teaches you to do. Don't be surprised if you see me back here someday."

For information on scholarship and giving opportunities at Cambridge College, log on to

<http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/about/giving> or contact
judith.groleau@cambridgecollege.edu.