

CORNERSTONES

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
FOUNDATION

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TRACEY HIDALGO STILL SEEING SCHOLARSHIP'S RIPPLE EFFECTS

When Tracey Hidalgo, a 2006 graduate of Monroe College in New York City, learned of a scholarship for Monroe graduates to attain an MBA at The University of Toledo, she consulted a map, researched the University's MBA program, and excitedly pursued the award.

While a big move for the Trinidad native, the opportunity was incredible: The Leslie Robbins Jerome Scholarship is a full scholarship in a well-respected program, including a paid position in the Graduate College. She became the first recipient of the scholarship, which was established by the Monroe Foundation and Stephen and Leslie Robbins Jerome (Bus '64), through their endowment at The University of Toledo Foundation.

"We have one of the best business schools in the country and the world," said

Mrs. Hidalgo. "Being able to obtain my MBA here gave me the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge that have helped me throughout my career."

Her education and experience could have led to job prospects anywhere, but she chose to put her skills to work at UToledo. She began her career in human resources and eventually moved on to international education, currently serving as assistant director in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

"I have been able to move through the ranks at the University because the education I received here prepared me for critical thinking, strategic planning, working both individually and with groups, and the ability to lead teams," she said. "Pursuing my MBA helped me see things differently, and the education

I received helped me develop as an individual."

Her decision to come to Toledo, however, has had other ripple effects.

"As fate would have it, on my first day on campus, I was lost and looking for directions," she said. "A student guide gave me directions and his phone number (in case I needed additional assistance). Two years later, we were married."



Tracey Hidalgo, the first recipient of the Leslie Robbins Jerome Scholarship, has felt the award's ripple effects throughout her life.

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TRACEY HIDALGO STILL SEEING RIPPLE EFFECTS

She and her husband, Francisco, are the parents of two children and will celebrate their 10th anniversary this year.

Her scholarship benefactor couldn't be prouder of these personal and professional successes. "Tracey has been able to achieve many prominent positions at The University of Toledo," said Leslie Jerome. "She had a wonderful experience at the University and in Toledo, and is a strong advocate for encouraging others to follow her path."

Seven other Monroe College graduates have been awarded the Jerome Scholarship at UToledo, where they are able to "maximize their potential and discover innovative career paths," Mrs. Jerome noted.

"I am a proud graduate and a former resident of Toledo. As the director of alumni relations at Monroe College, I believe Monroe College alums can get an extraordinary experience in a Midwestern town," she said. "Also, there are tremendous benefits of receiving a higher education in a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment like The University of Toledo."

Mrs. Jerome said she looks forward to continuing to work with the University to integrate the advantages and resources available. Current discussions include a possible program allowing UToledo students to attend Monroe College, taking advantage of internship and job opportunities in NYC, she added.

Mrs. Hidalgo, who was a distinguished Honoree at The Monroe Foundation Gala on May 16, said the Jeromes "are living examples of part of The University of Toledo's mission, 'improving the human condition.'"

"Sometimes, one just needs someone to invest in their future or give them that helping hand," said Mrs. Hidalgo.

"Thanks to the Jeromes' generosity, the lives of even more people are affected, creating a ripple effect," she said. "In my position, I am able to guide and positively influence and assist many students — because the support I received from the Jeromes helped me get to where I am today."

HUNTINGTON, UTOLEDO PARTNER TO CREATE NEW SCHOLARSHIP

A new scholarship made possible with a generous gift from Huntington Bank will provide opportunities for University of Toledo students to achieve their educational goals.

Sharon Speyer, president of Huntington's Northwest Ohio Region and an emeritus member of the University's Board of Trustees, presented UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber with a \$200,000 check in May to create the Huntington Bank Opportunity Scholarship.

"Access to knowledge is something we should aspire to for all of our children," Mrs. Speyer said. "Having said that, the cost of education can be a barrier for some. We wanted to create a program, with the University, to provide more opportunities to potential students to study and learn at this fine institution."

"This investment by Huntington in our students will have a powerful impact on not only the individuals awarded the scholarship, but also on the community we both serve as these individuals graduate and

become the future leaders in our region," Dr. Gaber said. "I want to thank Huntington for our strong partnership and its ongoing support of UToledo."

With the gift, Huntington has now given more than \$2 million to UToledo since 1975 in support of academic, athletic and student affairs programming.

The first Huntington Bank Opportunity Scholarships worth a total of \$50,000 were awarded to 40 students for the upcoming 2019-20 academic year.

Students are eligible for consideration if they demonstrate financial need after completing the Free Application for Student Aid, known as the FAFSA, and after completing the Office of Student Financial Aid's general scholarship application. Preference will be given to residents of Lucas County.

For information on how you can provide support to UToledo students by creating a scholarship fund, contact a member of The University of Toledo fundraising staff at 419.530.5603.



Sharon Speyer, president of Huntington's Northwest Ohio Region and an emeritus member of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees, left, presented UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber with a \$200,000 check to create the Huntington Bank Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded over the next four years to degree-seeking undergraduate students, based on financial need. Scholarships have been awarded to 40 students for the upcoming 2019-2020 academic year.

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DAY OF GIVING SET FOR OCT. 15 AND 16



Support The University of Toledo – and share your UToledo story – during our third annual Day of Giving.

The 36-hour campaign, “Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives,” will run from midnight Tuesday, Oct. 15 until noon Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Designate your gift to a University of Toledo Foundation fund that supports a specific cause or program you are passionate about.

Every donor and every dollar will make a difference in support of scholarships, athletic and educational programs, research, healthcare and community services.

Last year, we raised \$717,375 from 3,156 donors – including many students and first-time supporters.

As part of the celebration and to raise awareness of how to give, several events are planned for Oct. 15 on UToledo’s Main and Health Science campuses.

In addition, we want to know: “What’s your UToledo story?” We encourage you to tell us how the University has impacted and enhanced your life, by sharing your own UToledo experience on social media.

“Our Day of Giving offers Rockets everywhere a chance to make a real impact on our students, research and critical programs,” UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber said. “Each year, the generosity of our alumni and supporters worldwide helps fuel the success of so many determined people in our community. We’re thrilled to see that positive energy and momentum continue this year.”

Give online at rocketforward.utoledo.edu on Oct. 15-16, and be sure to share your UToledo story on social media at #RocketForward.

UTOLEDO LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE



Ohio drivers now have a choice of two University of Toledo designs when ordering license plates: a UToledo logo plate and a newly designed Rocket icon plate.

Ohio residents with a valid driver’s license may order the plates at any Ohio BMV agency

or at www.oplates.com. The specialized plates cost an additional \$35 fee, with \$25 directly supporting UToledo student scholarships.

“We’re pleased to offer our alumni and other stakeholders an additional opportunity to show their Rocket pride wherever they go,” said President Sharon L. Gaber. “Our goal is to get hundreds of UToledo collegiate plates on the road over the next few months to help fund student scholarships and raise awareness of the University.”

“Along with wearing Rocket gear, flying a UToledo flag at home or contributing to the University through the Foundation, purchasing UToledo specialty plates is another great way our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and our athletics fans can promote UToledo,” noted Bonnie Murphy, former associate vice president for auxiliaries.

For more details, visit utoledo.edu/license-plates.

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as of June 22, 2019

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Robin Whitney serves as president of The University of Toledo Alumni Association Board of Trustees. She is chief strategic planning, business development and real estate officer for ProMedica Health System. Ms. Whitney graduated from UToledo in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and received an EMBA from Bowling Green State University.

To make a gift, contact a member of the fundraising staff:

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