

# ALUMNI NEWS

Welcome:  
GRATEFUL STUDENT,  
FUTURE DONOR **2**

---

Bridge to  
Excellence:  
TRANSFORMING  
GCC'S CAMPUS  
FOR SUCCESS **4**

---

Saying Farewell:  
LISA BROOKS RETIRES  
AS DIRECTOR OF GLENDALE  
COLLEGE FOUNDATION **8**

---

Glendale College Foundation Board

## WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT

Jennifer Schultz Bertolet starts her role  
as President August 1. Page 5

Stable. Charitable. Adaptable. Founded in 1983, Glendale College Foundation has a strong history of adapting to changes within the community and world with support of charitable community members and alumni.



**Welcome:**

# GRATEFUL STUDENT, FUTURE DONOR

**Glendale Community College (GCC) is a place where dreams are nurtured and transformed into reality.**

Natalie Dawoodi, a dedicated and ambitious student, shares her inspiring journey and the pivotal role GCC has played in shaping her academic and personal growth.

She is a prime example of a student who benefits from GCC's generous supporters.

Dawoodi's story began as a high school student contemplating her future. She weighed the options of attending a four-year university or starting her educational journey at a community college.

"I took a few classes at GCC during high school and witnessed the amazing community here," Dawoodi shares. "I also looked at the transfer rates from GCC to top four-year institutions and realized that my chances of attending a prestigious university were much higher if I started here. It was an easy choice for me."

Dawoodi says her journey at GCC has been remarkable. As an involved student, she has taken advantage of the numerous resources and supportive community at the college. She has also been highly involved in student government, even serving as the president, which she says enhanced her learning outside of the classroom.

"GCC has an array of resources, whether you need academic support, mental health assistance, job opportunities, or volunteering experiences. The campus offers a sense of community and collaboration, which is incredibly important to me."



Natalie Dawoodi  
Glendale Community College Student

Dawoodi considers the symbolism of bridges on campus, including the name of the college's capital campaign, "Bridge to Excellence," which is geared toward building top-of-the-line facilities for athletics, science, and performing and media arts.

---

**...realized that my chances of attending a prestigious university were much higher if I started here. It was an easy choice for me."**

---

"We actually physically have a bridge from our parking lot to the campus. We really are about having a bridge from going to the community college to wherever you're going next," she says, adding, "That is exactly what GCC stands for. They are that bridge that guides you to whatever you're doing next, whatever that may be."

Dawoodi reflects on the impact donors have on students and says she applauds their generosity, and that she plans to give back to GCC when she can.

"I would absolutely want to do that one day, to give back to a community that did so much for me," she says. "Donors play a big factor in giving back. They have helped so many students financially. I would love to do that one day."

Contributions and continued support from donors make a profound difference in the lives of students like Natalie. Investing in their education allows them to achieve their dreams and create a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

To learn more about Glendale Community College and how you can make a difference, visit [www.glendale.edu/donate](http://www.glendale.edu/donate) or call (818) 551-5201.



Dr. Ryan Corner GCC Superintendent/President thanks Dawoodi for serving as a GCC Trustee.

# Bridge to Excellence: TRANSFORMING GCC'S CAMPUS FOR SUCCESS

The Bridge to Excellence Capital Campaign has gained momentum, bringing GCC closer to creating a thriving and innovative learning environment for our students. Starting with athletics.

Chris Cicuto, GCC Associate Dean of Athletics, says that research shows that exercise plays a vital role in college students' well-being, fostering a sense of community and improving overall mental health.

"The Kinesiology and Vaquero Athletic Complex is a game-changer for our students, programs and teams," Cicuto shares. "The complex provides state-of-the-art equipment and resources, allowing our students to thrive academically, personally and athletically."

He adds that the new building serves as a hub for exercise science, health, athletics and physical fitness for the campus and community.

Enhanced science buildings are equally important, as noted by Dr. Corner, Superintendent/President of GCC.

"Science education requires cutting-edge facilities to offer students hands-on experience and advanced research opportunities. These new buildings will equip our students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in scientific fields."

Equally impactful is the performing and media arts building, as emphasized by Jennifer Schultz Bertolet, incoming Foundation Board President.

"Performing and media arts transform lives. With a dedicated building, equipped with state-of-the-art resources, our students will have a platform to express their creativity and pursue their artistic passions."

Contributions to the Bridge to Excellence Capital Campaign will make a lasting impact on the lives of

GCC students. Donations, no matter the size, impact their future and empower them to pursue their dreams.

GCC is thankful for the generosity of its donors for supporting and enabling the college to continue providing the high-quality education and comprehensive support services that students deserve.

To find out how you can make a difference, visit [www.glendale.edu/capitalcampaign](http://www.glendale.edu/capitalcampaign)

## Glendale College Foundation has so far raised:

<b>Athletics</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>\$141,304</b>
<b>Performing &amp; Media Arts</b>	<b>\$576,500</b>
<b>Undesignated</b>	<b>\$40,950</b>



# BERTOLET BRINGS WEALTH OF LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE TO BOARD

Jennifer Schultz Bertolet will embark on her role as President of GCC's Foundation Board on August 1. Bertolet, who works as the President of David N. Schultz Inc., brings a wealth of leadership experience and a deep-rooted connection to the community.

Having served as the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Chair for two years, Bertolet's commitment to community growth and development is evident. However, it is her passion for GCC that drives her to take on the role of Glendale College Foundation Board President. Bertolet's familiarity with the college and her involvement on the board have given her an appreciation for the institution's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of students and the community.

Asked about her leadership style, Bertolet highlights her emphasis on collaboration and teamwork.

"I strive to be open and listen attentively, ensuring clarity in my requests for assistance. I embrace challenges and work with the team to find solutions and offer support," she explains, adding, "Everyone on the board brings amazing perspectives and experiences. It's wonderful to work with that collective wisdom."

Looking ahead, Bertolet has set ambitious goals for the Glendale College Foundation Board, including reaching fundraising targets for the ongoing Bridge to Excellence capital campaign and expanding the board with diverse and experienced members. She also looks forward to supporting the college by encouraging professors and students to apply for grants and helping them, along with staff, get their applications approved.

With the Bridge to Excellence campaign on her mind, Bertolet expressed her enthusiasm for its impact.

The campaign is geared toward developing three high end, state-of-the-art facilities for athletics, science, and performing and media arts. Each building will be outfitted with the equipment needed to give students the world class learning experiences they deserve.

"It's really important to let students see where they can go with their studies," Bertolet said. "The facilities will bring so many more resources to the students. At a community college level, it's even more impactful to donate to a project like this. Our donors are changing lives."



Jennifer Schultz Bertolet  
Incoming President, Glendale College Foundation

With her passion, expertise, and dedication, Bertolet is ready to take on this new chapter and lead the Glendale College Foundation Board toward greater heights. The GCC community can expect an inspiring and impactful presidency under her guidance.

## Honoring the Past, Building the Future: ALUMNUS INVESTS IN GCC'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

Glendale Community College (GCC) has always held a special place in the heart of Dale Van Dellen, a successful entrepreneur known for his philanthropic endeavors.

The 1976 graduate of GCC founded Account Control Technology (ACT), a call center company, 31 years ago. When he sold it in 2021, ACT had grown into a thriving company with 5,000 employees and \$360 million in sales.

Coming from a humble background, Van Dellen thanks GCC's instructors for believing in him. Ultimately, he believed enough in himself to start his successful endeavor, which now allows him to give back to the place where it all began.

Van Dellen's journey in higher education was not without its challenges. He shared that his grades weren't particularly high, and undiagnosed dyslexia posed obstacles along the way. He expressed gratitude for the instructors and staff.

"I was treated very well. The teachers were unbelievable," he said. "They could see that I was struggling, and really helped me."

He recognizes the vital role that his education at GCC played in his own life and believes that supporting the college is instrumental in transforming lives and empowering students to achieve their dreams.

"I firmly believe that community colleges are essential for students who may not have had the highest test scores but possess the willingness to try."

Van Dellen's contributions have been diverse and impactful.

He fondly remembers his experiences in GCC's Baja Marine Biology Field Station. As part of a three-week field study course, he immersed himself in the world of science and formed lasting memories. Inspired by



Dale Van Dellen  
Glendale Community College Class of 1976

this experience, Van Dellen has generously contributed close to half a million dollars to the Baja Marine Biology field station, ensuring that future students can have similar unique learning opportunities.

Additionally, Van Dellen donated \$250,000 to Performing & Media Arts Building, an exciting piece of the Bridge to Excellence capital campaign that will further enrich the educational experience for students pursuing creative fields.

Having benefited from the exceptional support he received at GCC, Van Dellen believes it is important for him to do his part to give others the same opportunities he had.

"When you get to a point where you can donate, you should," he said, adding, "Take out your checkbook, write a check, and help GCC continue to grow."



GCC's Baja Marine Biology Field Station

## Saying Farewell:

# LISA BROOKS RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF GLENDALE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Lisa Brooks has been with Glendale Community College as the executive director of Glendale College Foundation since 2009. On August 1, she will begin life in retirement.

She plans to stay involved in Glendale's Kiwanis, currently as president, travel to visit family across the globe, and explore creative pursuits that she has put on hold while dedicating her time to the community college she loves so much.

Brooks sat down to reflect on her time at GCC and express the confidence she has in the future of the Glendale College Foundation.

### How did you discover GCC?

I drove past the school often over the years and became curious about it. I actually researched the community college mission, and I thought it was great. So when there was a job opening, it just made such good sense to apply. It was a job that required all of my skills: fundraising, communication, and non-profit management.

### What have been some of the highlights during your tenure with the Glendale College Foundation?

When I started, Glendale College Foundation already had a solid base. It was among one of the most successful in the state.

Building on that base, I'd say a few highlights include: developing a successful grant program; opening funding to the entire college and granting funds to a variety of projects; creating emergency funds to assist students with critical needs; organizing successful anniversary celebrations that raised over \$100,000 each; generating increasing profits through our golf tournament and major giving program; and building a strong board and foundation staff.



Lisa Brooks  
Executive Director Glendale College Foundation

### What makes GCC stand out?

I think that Glendale is unique in that it's a very warm, loving place for most students. They feel that it's much more hands-on for them, and that they get the personal attention of their professor. They get to meet with first-rate faculty members, one-on-one, who really have their best interests at heart.

What I've heard often from alumni is that even though

they went on to pursue other degrees, their experience at Glendale Community College was life-changing for them. It was the first place where they learned to love learning. It was the first place where they felt confident in their own abilities. It was the first place where somebody believed in them.

**What do the donors mean to GCC?**

Donors are people who care about the cause for which we stand, and ensuring future generations of students are going to get the skills that they need to lead the life they want.

They're not only supporting students who go on to four year colleges. They're also supporting firefighters, machinists, and other students who step right into important jobs where they are urgently needed.

Donors are the ones who help us provide the fund-

ing to be able to give our students, and essentially the community, what they need.

**How do you feel about retiring?**

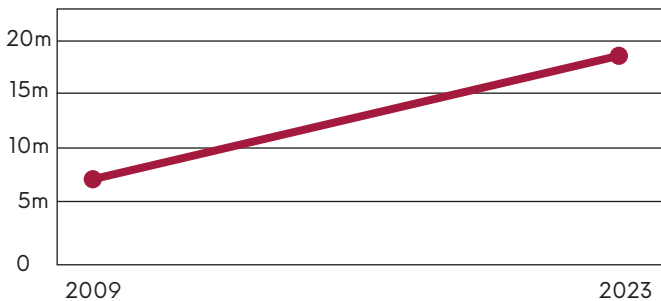
I feel good about retiring because I'm leaving a very strong, skilled staff, an engaged board, a highly developed system of tracking, a robust database, and a strong GCC Superintendent/President and cabinet who are student-centered and future-oriented.

I feel confident that the new executive director will be able to build on what I've done, just as I built on what my predecessor had done, and move the Foundation to the next level.

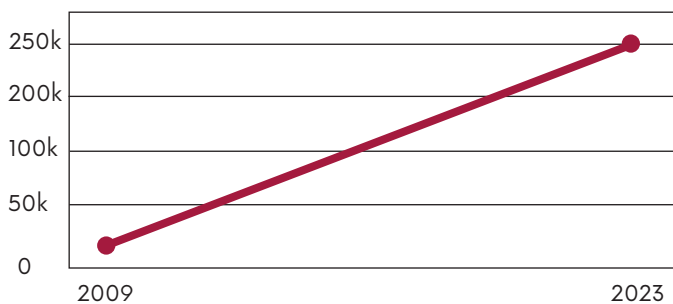
A new person with new ideas and new skills is going to be a great advantage to the Foundation, and I'm excited for what's ahead!



**GLENDALE COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION SINCE 2009**

**FOUNDATION ASSETS**   
**2023 TOTAL: \$18,621,000**




**GCF GROWTH OF RECORDS** 



**BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION**   
 Fundraising endeavors have reached **100%**

**GRANTS TO FACULTY AND CLASSIFIED PROFESSIONALS**   
 The Foundation has awarded **\$1.543M in 200 grants** to the college's Arts & Culture, Career & Work Training, Science and Technology, Athletics & Fitness, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Operations & Facilities

**PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE ESTABLISHED**   
 Raises critical funds for undesignated giving

**LEGACY SOCIETY CREATED**   
 33 members plan to or have left **\$25,000 or more** to the Foundation, representing more than \$3 million.