

## Thanks to Give Something Back, more to attend Rowan, RCGC



*Robert O. Carr discusses his \$1.5 million gift to assist students at Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan University.*

**R**obert O. Carr continues to make a difference for disadvantaged youth who want to pursue their education at Rowan University.

A philanthropist, entrepreneur and author, Carr, through his non-profit organization Give Something Back, has announced his second \$1 million donation to

Rowan University—along with a \$500,000 donation to Rowan College at Gloucester County—to fund scholarships for students with the most need.

“This contribution reflects Give Back’s new commitment to select students into the program who have been impacted by foster care and/or parental incarceration,” said Carr, founder and chairman of Give Back. “This is a population that experiences overwhelming obstacles; many of them never go to college and very few graduate. Those not in college often wind up in jail, homeless or worse.”

Give Back previously awarded \$1 million to the University in 2015 to enable 50 economically disadvantaged but academically talented students to attend at no cost. Fourteen Give Back scholars are presently enrolled at Rowan College and Rowan University.

Although Give Back has provided opportunities for students enrolling in four-year schools, the latest contribution is significant as RCGC is the first community college in the country to be funded by the organization.

The funding will allow RCGC and Rowan to build on several longstanding collaborations. The scholarships can be used by students in the Rowan Choice program, a partnership that lets RCGC students live on Rowan’s campus for their first two years of college, immersing themselves in activities and opportunities while taking classes at RCGC at a reduced cost. Upon successful completion of their associate degree,

participants are automatically accepted into the University.

At Rowan, students supported by Give Back participate in the Rowan First Star Academy. The Academy is implemented by the South Jersey First Star Collaborative, a partnership between First Star, the University and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children), and United Advocacy Group, serving foster youth from Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem counties and funded by the Pascale Sykes Foundation. The Rowan First Star Academy focuses on creating lifetime networks of support for the participating youth and their families (natural or foster).

Carr created Give Back to help talented youth of modest means attend college in Illinois in 2003. The organization expanded to New Jersey in 2015, making its first gift to Rowan. Since then it has funded scholarships at Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Saint Peter’s University, The College of New Jersey and William Paterson University, and has extended its program to Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania, and continues to grow.

The Give Back program involves much more than simply paying tuition and room and board. Historically, the organization has worked with select school districts, inviting freshmen to apply for entrance into the program, which, if successfully completed, includes a four-year college scholarship. To qualify, high-achieving students must be eligible for full Pell Grants and, if selected, must meet additional criteria such as maintaining good grades, taking honors/AP courses and demonstrating admirable character. Upon high school graduation, students must meet the college standard admissions requirements and be admitted to their selected school.

“We are honored that Give Back is entrusting us with another million-dollar gift to create access for talented young students to attend college,” said Rowan’s president, Dr. Ali Houshmand. “Mr. Carr’s mission aligns perfectly with our commitment to make higher education more affordable and accessible for students in New Jersey.”

Carr recently launched a new payment processing company, Beyond, that will help sustain Give Back for years to come. Give Back is the beneficiary of all of Carr’s personal earnings in this venture and is the majority shareholder. “Simply by being our client, you help make a difference for students who have faced adversity,” added Carr. **RA**