

6 Years of Transformation

Over the past 6 years, we have continually set ambitious goals, broken our own records, and scaled our impact; ultimately serving over 6,000 scholars with extraordinary results in our 6 Metro KC counties, including an annual persistence rate of over 90%. Our growing impact is due in large part to the strong partnerships we built together.

What is possible when we all work together for young adults and adults – regardless of income, age, ethnicity, or zip code – to reach their fullest potential? What happens when we have an amazing workforce, partners, donors, and board members who help our scholars’ through obstacles to ensure they feel supported and achieve their goals? In one word: **Transformation.**

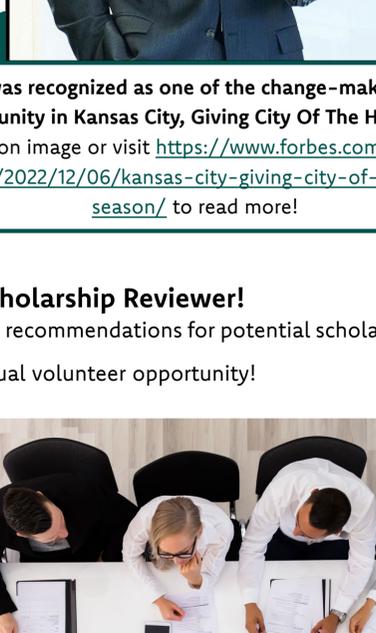
A lot has happened in the world the past few years but 2022 has been an incredible year for KC Scholars in terms of enriching our Kansas Citians’ community, including the announcement made last month of our newest program–Great Jobs KC. We have an opportunity to help thousands of Kansas Citians move from underemployment or unemployment into economic stability. Great Jobs KC is responding to feedback from adult learners and regional business leaders. Adults want a faster path to a high demand, high paying job. Business leaders recognize that at a time of record-low unemployment and noted skills gaps, there is a desperate need for skilled workers. Reducing barriers to employment and encouraging participation in the workforce will foster opportunities, health, and economic growth for all.

By investing in the postsecondary education and credential training programs for scholars, and connecting them with regional employers, together we can grow a strong regional talent pipeline and ensure the best and brightest live, work and contribute here.

Our greatest strength has always been the quality of our people. They are dedicated. They are diligent. And they are committed to making this amazing organization even better. It is a privilege to work at their side. KC Scholars tries to embody and promote amongst our scholars, families, community, partners, donors, board and staff: be present throughout the journey; be available during key moments; be around for the long term.

Look at what we are capable of when we unite as a community of deserving people. Our scholars are the future leaders of this city and by making them a priority and giving them a fair chance, we are transforming Kansas Citians together.

Earl Martin Phalen



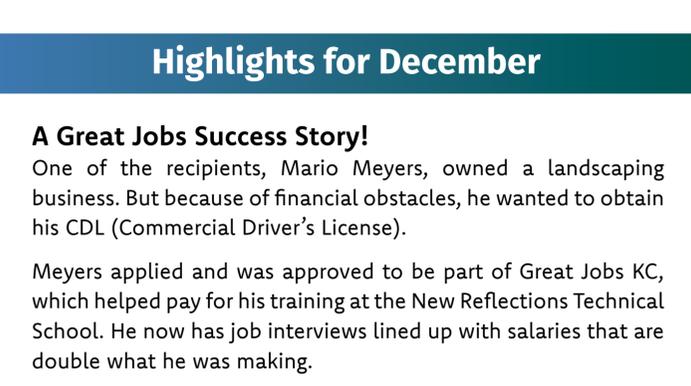
KC Scholars was recognized as one of the change-making institutions in the community in Kansas City, Giving City Of The Holiday Season

Click on image or visit <https://www.forbes.com/sites/shivanivora/2022/12/06/kansas-city-giving-city-of-the-holiday-season/> to read more!

Become a Scholarship Reviewer!

Review essays & recommendations for potential scholarship recipients!

Completely virtual volunteer opportunity!



WHY VOLUNTEER WITH KC SCHOLARS? KC Scholars will need more than 200 community members to review essays & recommendations. This is a great way to become part of a large movement to help more Kansas Citians complete college & be employed, live & contribute in the KC region.

HOW DO YOU APPLY TO BE A VOLUNTEER? Apply online beginning January 9 at kcscholars.org. Deadline is January 31. Volunteers will be selected & notified by February 5.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT? 18-20 hours between mid-March through early April. The volunteer opportunity is 100% virtual.

NEED MORE INFORMATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Amy Shapiro at ashapiro@kcscholars.org. Deadline to apply to be a KC Scholars Scholarship reviewer is January 31, 2023.

Highlights for December

A Great Jobs Success Story!

One of the recipients, Mario Meyers, owned a landscaping business. But because of financial obstacles, he wanted to obtain his CDL (Commercial Driver’s License).

Meyers applied and was approved to be part of Great Jobs KC, which helped pay for his training at the New Reflections Technical School. He now has job interviews lined up with salaries that are double what he was making.

“It was going to be \$5,800 to attend the school, so it was going to be a significant amount of money for me having two kids and a wife at home,” Meyers said. “I don’t know how I was going to find that.”

To qualify, applicants must be 18 years or older, make less than \$45,000 a year, and live in Cass, Clay, Johnson, Jackson, Platte and/or Wyandotte counties.

“Adults are the ones who take care of their families, so we see this as a great way to strengthen families here in Kansas City,” Phalen, CEO of KC Scholars said.

The [application](#) takes less than 20 minutes to complete.

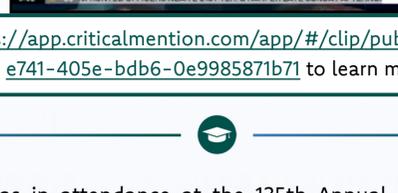
Follow the link for the full story!



Visit [New KC Scholrs program helping combat underemployment, labor shortages \(kshb.com\)](https://www.kshb.com) or <https://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2022/11/30/great-jobs-kc-finds-untapped-talent-for-employers.html> to learn more!



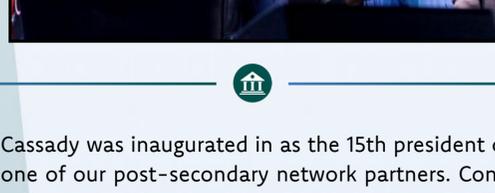
Carrine Spinks, a 2022 adult learner graduate and Angie Besendorfer, Executive Vice President, appeared on the WDAF morning show in October announcing the adult learner scholarship application opening.



Visit <https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/public/5f38dae8-e741-405e-bdb6-0e9985871b71> to learn more!



KC Scholars was in attendance at the 135th Annual Dinner for the KC Chamber to support the growth in the Kansas City community. We love all opportunities to build a stronger Kansas City!



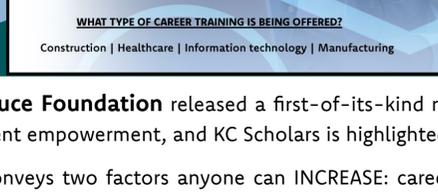
Dr. Sandra Cassady was inaugurated in as the 15th president of Rockhurst University, one of our post-secondary network partners. Congratulations Dr. Sandra, your hard work and tenacity are something we all admire!



Dr. Sandra Cassady was inaugurated in as the 15th president of Rockhurst University.



Our very own CEO, Earl Martin Phalen, had the opportunity to be a panelist for the 2022 Education and Workforce Summit. His vision is one of many inspiring examples for his passion for education and inspiring our Kansas community.



@The DeBruce Foundation released a first-of-its-kind research report on employment empowerment, and KC Scholars is highlighted in it!

The report conveys two factors anyone can INCREASE: career literacy and network strength. And it reveals how organizations can help people be more empowered on their career journeys. Visit <https://debruce.org/debruce-insights/employment-empowerment-report/> to learn more.

To learn more and discuss this opportunity with a Scholar Advocate please click [here](#).

*Applicants must earn \$45,000 or less and reside in our 6 Metro KC counties.