VALEDICTORIAN FINDS SUCCESS AT AACC

Only after attending AACC, did Michelle DeSanctis realize that all her past jobs pointed to a career in education; she was meant to be a teacher. “I’ve been a marketing director, bartender, loan officer—all these different jobs. But they always migrated to some form of training job. Now, it all makes sense,” she said.

The 30-year-old AACC Valedictorian is continuing to work toward a bachelor’s degree in education this fall at the University of Maryland College Park. Just as she was a part-time student at AACC, she plans to attend UMCP part-time because it fits better with her schedule as the mother of two young children.

DeSanctis credits the IKO Foundation, which provided her financial aid through a scholarship, for helping her to learn all she could during her AACC experience. Her advice to students still in college is to keep on working toward their goals. “If it’s important, you find a way to do it. Don’t be afraid to ask for help because people will surprise you.”

HAYS NAMED NEW VP OF LEARNING

AACC has named Karen L. Hays, Ph.D., as the college’s new Vice President for Learning. Hays will provide leadership for the Schools of Arts and Sciences; Business, Computing and Technical Studies; Health Professions, Wellness and Physical Education; Continuing and Professional Studies; the Center for Workforce Solutions; and the Virtual Campus.

Said AACC President Dr. Dawn Lindsay, “Dr. Hays comes to us with a proven background in understanding educational trends, providing leadership, shaping direction and creating strong partnerships with both internal and external constituent groups. Most importantly, her collaborative work style lends itself to working with our dedicated faculty in meeting the educational needs of the communities we serve.”

Learn more: www.aacc.edu/newsonline/2013/06/newvplearning.cfm

Top: Michelle DeSanctis gave an inspiring speech at commencement in May. Bottom: Karen Hays began her college education at a community college, Miami Dade College.
ENTREPRENEUR EXCELS
WITH RATCLIFFE SUPPORT
Jesse Alton wants you to know he will be the next Carnegie, Edison or Gates. But every promising entrepreneur and innovator has to get his or her first big break somewhere. For Alton, that place was AACC, where he received the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation scholarship. Alton is full of business ideas. His latest venture, Native Flats, are disposable “Club-shoes” designed to rescue the feet of women after a night in heels. All Alton needs now are the support and skills to help turn his ideas into reality.

“My mentors and advisors at AACC were the best. I’ve developed key skills in supply chain management, as well as other entrepreneurial assets. Without their advice, I would not be where I am today,” says Alton. “My favorite part of this whole process is seeing an idea come to life.”

Because of his success at AACC, Alton received a full scholarship from the Ratcliffe Foundation to attend the University of Baltimore, where he’s now furthering his entrepreneurial studies.

NEXT GENERATION PAYS IT FORWARD
Sarah Shanefelter loved Anne Arundel County. She volunteered her time working with Mary’s Center in Glen Burnie, fed the homeless and provided outreach through Holy Trinity and participated in countless community events. When Sarah died unexpectedly last March, her grandchildren Jonathan, Elizabeth and Bryanna decided to continue her generosity through a scholarship at AACC. “I could think of nothing else than to honor her by helping others, since she is no longer here to do it herself,” says Jonathan Shanefelter.

Jonathan, who received the Jason Charles Schwenz Memorial Scholarship to attend AACC, worked with his sisters to create the Sarah Shanefelter Memorial Fund. The Shanefelters, who have all spent time at AACC, are thankful to those who helped them attain their education and are excited to be in a position to do the same for others. “I’m thankful to AACC for keeping college affordable for those in the community who seek it out. And I’m thankful to the donors who have helped create someone like me,” says Jonathan.

INAUGURAL ‘GREAT GIVE’ A SUCCESS THANKS TO YOU
The inaugural GREAT GIVE, the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County’s 24-hour online fundraising event held May 15 to May 16 was a huge success! The AACC Foundation finished with a total of 103 donors who raised $12,980 for our students. The college community definitely made a great showing. Of the 118 participating charities from Anne Arundel County, AACC placed 6th for overall number of donors and 9th for overall dollars raised.

The idea behind the GREAT GIVE was simple: What if we all came together in one 24-hour period to show our community spirit by giving to our favorite local charities? What a difference it could make!

Our supporters certainly made that difference for our college and our students, and we look forward to continuing this tradition during the 2014 Great Give.
“I would like to thank the foundation for providing me financial assistance to further my education. Not only was I able to take advantage of scholarship opportunities but the foundation made the search for scholarships convenient.” – NATHAN BRUNO