

The Stambaugh Huntley Scholarship Fund



Helen Huntley and Chris Stambaugh

Chris Stambaugh has served as an adjunct instructor at PHSC for several years, witnessing firsthand the challenges that students encounter, such as financial strain and the demands of working or having a family while attending college. To provide students respite from some of these financial burdens, Stambaugh and his wife, Helen Huntley, recently established an endowed scholarship fund to assist PHSC students.

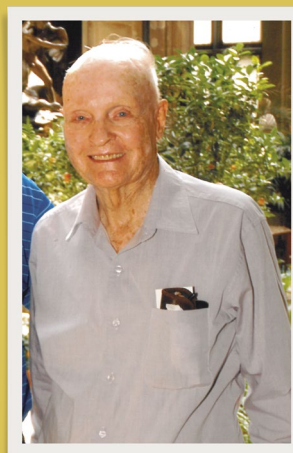
Beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year, the Stambaugh Huntley Scholarship Fund will assist highly motivated and needy students who have completed at least one semester at PHSC while maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher and are pursuing a degree in health care, public safety, drafting and design technology, engineering or information technology.

Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund

The PHSC Foundation recently received a \$60,000 grant from the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Given the financial challenges for students brought on by the pandemic, the Community Foundation provided a \$20,000 increase over last year's grant amount which provided scholarships for 58 PHSC students.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund will continue to provide scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need with a preference given to part-time students who are parents and may not qualify for other financial aid.

Roberts was a generous lifelong donor to PHSC. He relocated to Sarasota and upon his death in 2009, established the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund at the Community Foundation. Since 2011, the fund has provided \$480,000 to assist PHSC students through scholarships.



Edward K. Roberts



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Sarasota County

SCHOLARSHIP

SPOTLIGHT: MAYRA PEREZ SPEARE



What influenced your decision to attend PHSC?

I think too many reasons led me here; I believe it was meant to be. The major reason was a need for knowledge. I wanted to find better opportunities and attending PHSC was the best decision I could have made.

I was 18 years old when I moved to Florida from Mexico City. Before I started my journey at PHSC, I attended ESL (English as Second Language) classes and then I received my GED. I thought I was not going to pursue higher education, so I got a job at a big retailer where I worked for two years until realizing I was not happy. I felt that I was not learning or growing anymore, so I quit my job and decided to attend college. My boyfriend (now husband) also supported and encouraged me to start college. I had my doubts because English is my second language, but PHSC helped me recognize my potential.

What are you studying?

I recently earned an AA, an Associate of Science in Business Administration, and my fifth business certification. I started my bachelor's in Organizational Administration last summer.

What is your fondest PHSC memory?

I have two favorite memories. The first was back in 2019 when I was pregnant. I was a student worker at the library and the staff threw me a surprise baby shower. It was totally unexpected. It made me feel loved and cared for.

The other was when I got elected president of the Student Government Association. I was supported by many students. I still cannot thank them enough for the opportunity to serve them.

Is there someone at PHSC that you admire and why?

I have met so many amazing people at PHSC, many that I admire, especially at the West Campus Library, Academic Success Center, and Student Life and Leadership.

One person I especially admire is Nancy

Claassen, our staff assistant at the library. She raised two amazing kids by herself and still managed to finish a college degree. She was a big support for me when I was pregnant. She often made sure I was fed and she helped me understand many things about being a mom. She was an angel to me for supporting and guiding me as she did.

What did receiving this PHSC Foundation scholarship mean to you?

To me, the scholarship is a huge help that keeps me focused on school. It takes financial stress off my shoulders so I can continue my education. It gives my family and me some hope that we will have a better future thanks to the opportunities we have now.

What does the future hold for you?

I am not sure, but I am confident that the future will be a success because I have invested my time and effort to become a better person and professional. I wish to help others and continue to serve our community. In the future, I hope I get to inspire others to follow their dreams.

Why do you think philanthropy matters?

Philanthropy is a beautiful thing. You must own a big heart to help someone you do not even know and still give them the tools they need to grow and succeed. Philanthropists change lives for good.

Would you like to say anything to those who make scholarship opportunities happen for the students of PHSC?

If it were not for our donors, I would not be here. Being a college student, a mom, a wife, and holding a job has not been easy, but I have had the support I needed to stay on my feet and continue my journey. I want to thank all donors; each one of you make a difference.