

Valencia Foundation
Report to the Board of Trustees
June 2019

Valencia's Johnson Scholars prepare for health careers

The healers, medical doctors and biomed scientists of tomorrow are in college today, carrying rigorous course loads that include upper-level science and math. At Valencia, these students are beginning post-secondary educational journeys with many years of study still ahead. Through a philanthropic partnership with Florida-based Johnson Scholarship Foundation, top Valencia students are eligible to compete to become a Johnson Scholar, which includes financial assistance to help cover tuition.

This two-plus-two scholarship is awarded to STEM students who plan to earn bachelor's degrees in biomedical sciences at the University of Central Florida. When scholars transfer as juniors, they continue to receive JSF funding through a UCF Johnson endowment.

The financial award begins during the student's first semester and increases each term the student demonstrates academic success and may amount to as much as \$3,000 a year. Since 2012, more than \$78,000 has been awarded to 26 Valencia Johnson Scholars. JSF has donated \$500,000 to Valencia, which was matched by private donations and endowed in perpetuity.

Based on the beliefs of JSF founder Theodore R. Johnson and his wife, Vivian McLeod Johnson, the foundation's programs are designed to help people who, through no fault of their own, do not enjoy the advantages of the affluent. Mr. Johnson knew that education is the best means to empower people who can, in turn, become more independent and participate more fully in society. Since 1991, JSF has awarded \$124.1 million to 123 partner institutions nationwide.

Daniel Salas, a Valencia alum and Johnson Scholar, notes: "Personally, I believe that scholarships are much more than giving away money. They impact the lives of students by allowing us to focus more on our studies so that we can one day give back to those who believed in us."

Daniel earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from UCF and proudly wore his Johnson Scholar medallion at graduation. Today, he serves as a student development adviser on Osceola Campus. He is working on a master's degree in sports and exercise physiology, will pursue a doctorate in physical therapy. He intends to become a physical therapist, helping people become not only healthier in body, but also holistically in mind and spirit. To read more about Daniel's journey, please visit: <http://www.vitaeonline.com/article/a-gift-that-keeps-giving/>.

Please note: Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 board dates will be available later this summer. We welcome trustee participation in all business, social and storytelling events.