

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Student Opportunity Scholarship is provided by the faculty and staff at Valencia College. Faculty and staff members donate generously to provide students with scholarships dedicated to the costs of their tuition, fees, books and materials. Their generosity, dedication and effort to support our students have gifted nine students for the 2012-13 academic year.

Deborah Karim, presently a sophomore in the electronics engineering program, is one of the 2012-13 Student Opportunity Scholarship recipients. In addition to her degree in electronics engineering technology, Deborah will also earn her A.S. in engineering technology and hospitality management. In 2008, Deborah experienced the hardship of being laid-off from her position as a commercial electrician apprentice within the construction field.

“As a long-term unemployed woman, I live under conditions of extreme poverty. I was going to be homeless by the end of the month and my life was pretty bleak. My classes at Valencia were some of the few good things going on in my life, but I struggled to keep up with my classes. The worry about a roof over my head and sometimes just being hungry are some of the obstacles to success that I have been dealing with. There is no curriculum to teach one how to survive and escape poverty, so I am doing the best I can.”

Deborah realizes one strong tool in the struggle against poverty – education. She continues to work hard at Valencia and stays active in the community. Her ultimate goal is to become an electrical engineer specializing in renewable energy and work in the hospitality industry.

“I am slowly making progress personally and at Valencia. I strive to maintain good grades and two of my nonfiction stories that I submitted to *The Phoenix* were selected as first and second place winners for 2013. You have no idea how much your scholarship means to me and I will spend my scholarship wisely.”

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

Trustee members are invited to attend the next President’s Forum, to be held on Thursday, Jan. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Orange County Regional History Center. These events allow community members to hear Valencia’s story and learn about our impact directly from the college president. Please RSVP to ggallagher@valenciacollege.edu or call 407-582-3155.

SCHOLARSHIP DONOR BREAKFAST

Please mark your calendars and save the date for the foundation’s scholarship donor breakfast on Thursday, Feb. 28. Donors will have the opportunity to meet scholarship recipients and hear first-hand the difference scholarships make in the lives of Valencia students.