

# New scholarship to aid first-time college students at BC3 @ Brockway

Varischetti Foundation helps BC3 in role as Brockway's community college, president says

Oct. 10, 2017

(Brockway, PA) BC3 @ Brockway today announced a gift from the Frank Varischetti Foundation that will result in the creation of one-time scholarships of up to \$1,250 for eligible first-time college students who attend at least one face-to-face class at the Jefferson County site.

Students able to receive the Frank Varischetti Freshman Scholarship in the spring 2018 semester must be enrolled for a minimum of nine credit hours, have completed their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and have graduated from high school or attained a high school equivalency diploma with a minimum grade-point average of 2.0.

They must also live in Clarion, Clearfield, Elk or Jefferson counties.

"Words cannot express my sincere appreciation for the Frank Varischetti Foundation," said Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 president. "The foundation appreciates our role as Brockway's community college. The support offered to our terrific students is awe-inspiring. Higher education for students from Jefferson, Clearfield, Clarion and Elk counties is made possible by such support."

The award an eligible first-time college student can receive will be based on parental household income, financial aid and grade-point average and range from \$250 to \$1,250. It will be distributed at the beginning of the first semester in which an eligible student is enrolled.

## Director: Gift to help more students

Ruth Purcell, executive director of a BC3 Education Foundation that will administer the awards, said the scholarship funded by the Frank Varischetti Foundation "is just another example of the opportunities for students in the Brockway region that the Varischetti family supports.

"This new award will let students who are considering making the commitment to attend BC3 know right away that they will receive some level of scholarship," Purcell said. "We think that will strongly influence students to make the choice to attend."

Jill Martin Rend, director of BC3 @ Brockway, said the Frank Varischetti Freshman Scholarship will be a tremendous benefit to future students at her site.

“Given the fact that this scholarship will be available to every new student at BC3 @ Brockway, it will help attract more students from our local area,” she said. “Since we already have about 75 percent of our students graduating debt-free, this scholarship helps to increase the number of students graduating from BC3 @ Brockway without any student loan debt, ready to enter the work force, and able to contribute to our local communities. The ability to complete a quality degree from a local, affordable community college right in our region is fantastic.”

## Learn about \$400 Varischetti incentive scholarship at open house

BC3 @ Brockway students who continue to maintain at least a 2.0 grade-point average after earning at least nine credits per semester and completing their FAFSA would then be eligible to receive the \$400 Varischetti Family Incentive Scholarship.

“With the Varischetti Family Incentive Scholarship that encourages students to stay in school, this new Frank Varischetti Freshman Scholarship will draw them in so we will have full package of scholarship support available because of the generosity of the Varischetti family,” Purcell said.

BC3 @ Brockway students who participate in federal programs such as the Trade Adjustment Act, which funds educational expenses, are not eligible for the Varischetti awards.

Visitors to BC3 @ Brockway’s open house from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23 can learn about the Varischetti awards, BC3 @ Brockway’s innovative scheduling options, its career and transfer programs, and how 75 percent of BC3 students graduate debt-free.

BC3 @ Brockway will waive its \$25 application fee for those who apply for admission during the Oct. 23 open house.

## Varischetti Foundation mission: Help those in need

The Frank Varischetti Foundation, based in Brockway, was established in 2007 to commemorate the late Frank Varischetti while carrying on his vision of bettering communities and helping others, according to the nonprofit organization’s website.

With one employee and a pickup truck, he founded Varischetti Construction in the 1960s. He later purchased and renamed a sanitation company as Varischetti Sanitation, and in 1989 founded Apple Tractor, a construction equipment dealership. Two years later, according to the website, he established Varischetti and Sons Inc., a consultant service for the waste industry, as well as beginning to develop real estate. Four years later, he, his sons and Raymond Calhoun established Guardian Elder Care, which today owns and operates 46 nursing facilities, and includes a rehabilitation services company, a long-term care pharmacy and a home-health company.

Varischetti passed away on Aug. 22, 2002. The mission of the foundation in his name, the website states, is to continue his good will and keep his memory alive by helping those in need.

The Varischetti awards are included in the nearly \$200,000 in scholarships available annually from the BC3 Education Foundation.

“The Varischetti Foundation has gone above and beyond in helping to make BC3 @ Brockway more affordable and available to students,” Martin Rend said.

The Varischetti Family Incentive Scholarship helps BC3 @ Brockway students pay for tuition, Martin Rend said. It also provides an incentive for students to do well academically and complete their degree, she said.

“This scholarship has also helped students save money during the pursuit of their associate degree, so even if they transfer on to complete their bachelor’s degree, they are graduating with less debt,” she said.

## Four-year-old site attracts 100 students

Nearly 100 students attend BC3 @ Brockway, which opened in fall 2013, and offers 14- and 10-week sessions, and five-week online Fast Track courses, which are among BC3’s 89 fully online classes. Students can attend BC3 @ Brockway in the spring, summer and fall, full or part time. SAT scores are not required with BC3 @ Brockway’s open admission policy.

BC3 @ Brockway’s associate degrees in business management and office administration-executive help students develop the skills needed to enter the work force immediately upon graduation.

Credits in BC3 @ Brockway’s business administration, early childhood education, general studies, psychology and social work associate degree programs can be transferred toward bachelor’s degrees at public, private and online four-year colleges and universities.

Additionally, students who complete a BC3 @ Brockway degree in business administration, early childhood education, psychology and social work can transfer with junior standing to any Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institution, such as Clarion, Edinboro, Slippery Rock and Edinboro universities of Pennsylvania.

Students can also take pre-nursing courses at BC3 @ Brockway and finish their degree at BC3’s main campus or with other nursing programs.

Open house visitors can RSVP at [bc3.edu](http://bc3.edu).