



March 30, 2019

An institution ahead of its time in 1973, it is fitting that in the year of the Women, Charter Oak State College, Connecticut's only public online college, is celebrating over 45 Years of Changing Lives! COSC was formed to help women (and men alike) re-enter the workforce and help to advance careers by offering an efficient and affordable means to gain credentials. Many may not know the Charter Oak legacy: Charter Oak began as an aggregator of credits and is now an institution offering over 350 online courses and graduate degrees. Charter Oak is recognized as a military-friendly college while staying true to its roots of being transfer friendly and offering credit for prior learning. Charter Oak gives adults another chance to earn a degree. Charter Oak changes lives!

The 45th Anniversary of Charter Oak State College was Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Farmington Club, Farmington, CT. The volunteer leadership of both the COSC Foundation and Alumni Association banded together and invited the Student Association to join the effort to raise funds and awareness, as COSC honored Faculty and Staff Emeriti. Rebeka Scalia, COSC Foundation President, stated the urgency of the fundraiser, "Tonight we are here to honor faculty and staff and to acknowledge the commitment to higher education and the impact a college degree has on a person and their family...Last year the Foundation received over 100 applications for financial assistance from our students. Simply put, we need to raise more to give more."

The faculty and staff in attendance and honored for over ten years of service to Charter Oak State College and the students were: **Core Faculty: Donald Brodeur**, Professor of Psychology emeritus, Sacred Heart University, **Irene Clampet**, Professor of Business & Marketing Program Coordinator, Three Rivers Community College, **Shyamala Raman**, Professor of Economics & International Studies Emerita, Saint Joseph College; **Teaching and Core Faculty: Robert Zabek**, Director of Student/Academic Information Systems, Connecticut Community College System, **David E.E. Sloane**, Professor of English, University of New Haven; **Staff: Pat Derech**, Registrar, **Dr. Merle Harris**, President, **Linda Larkin**, Director of Academic Services.

Dr. DJ Love, Julio Casiano, a long-time Foundation Board member volunteered his services to spin the tunes from the 1970s. The way-back award went to Ray Rivard, a 1988 COSC Graduate that also served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954-1957 during the Korean War period.

Over 100 guests were on hand to watch the unveiling of the newly produced [testimonial video](#) organized by the newly appointed Foundation Executive Director, Carol Hall. The alumni and students of COSC are an inspiration and their stories need to be heard! From a nearly homeless single mother of two to a proud leader and visionary, April Shines earned both an undergraduate degree and master's degree from Charter Oak and was recently promoted to associate director of organizational change in the United HealthGroup. We also heard from the first African American Woman to be appointed to the level of supervisor in the Connecticut Judicial system. Sharon Moyes-Johnson recants her journey and acknowledges that if she hadn't gone back to school to earn her degree, she wouldn't have been qualified

to apply for the position. These two women are just the tip of the amazing women to graduate through the virtual, rigorous, and fully accredited online degree program at COSC.

Today, the mission of Charter Oak remains the same, the staff and faculty are committed to the student success, and the Foundation, along with the Alumni and Student Associations, contribute financial assistance to deserving students, helping eliminate the barriers to higher education. An educated workforce also in turn improves our community and our economy.

Photo below includes: From right to left, Emeriti Award Winners with President Ed Klonoski, Linda Larkin, Dr. Merle Harris, Pat Derech, Robert Zabek, Shyamala Raman, Irene Clampet, Provost Shirley Adams, Donald Brodeur, and David Sloane.



45th Anniversary Celebration photos: <https://aq0u.app.link/e/Eeq3GzZRyV>

Charter Oak Changes Lives - Testimonial Video: <https://vimeo.com/325318634/8a73ce27bc>