

FOR RELEASE

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**Charter Oak State College Foundation Announces
Scholarship Match with Liberty Bank**

Focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

For Immediate Release

NEW BRITAIN, CT - October 27, 2021 - Liberty Bank and Charter Oak State College Foundation have joined forces to fund a new Scholarship program aimed at parents, single or married, living at or near poverty in Connecticut.

“Liberty Bank is excited to award an additional \$4,000 to the Parents Intent on Improving Tomorrow (PiiT) program. By working together with our teammates, customers and communities, Liberty Bank continues to reinforce the importance of fostering and maintaining an environment that makes everyone feel welcomed, appreciated, valued and celebrated. As we work to build *the* Community Bank of the Future, we are committed to making key investments in organizations, programs, partnerships and activities focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I).” announced Glenn Davis, COSC Foundation Treasurer and First Vice President, Community Development/CRA Officer at Liberty Bank.

“We challenge the community to match our donation, as we strive to provide scholarships for parents in need, particularly African American and Hispanic men. The Challenge begins today and will culminate at the Foundation’s Employers Appreciation Breakfast on November 18, 2021 – just under 30 days to raise \$8,000!”

Rebeka Scalia, the Foundation President, explained, “the PiiT Scholarship was established as a solution to the Foundation’s 2020 Shea Lecture Call to Action findings and was modeled after the proven Women In Transition (WIT) program, also funded by generous donors. The PiiT Scholarship expands the demographics to include **single or married women and men** - mothers and fathers.”

The PiiT program is an intentional resource aimed at removing barriers to higher education degree completion with the intent of helping ease economic and racial disparity. The Charter Oak State College Foundation and its partners strive to provide the financial means to our student parents of color, living in poverty.

“Scholarships are often just the lift needed for degree completion and better employment.” Carol Hall, Executive Director of COSC Foundation suggested. “This economic mobility provides security and improves our student’s lives and that of their children, improving our workforce and our communities.”

The Parents Intent on Improving Tomorrow program at Charter Oak State College Foundation provides an opportunity for individuals and corporations alike to invest in our community members and help create brighter futures for our most at-risk population.

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Join the **Liberty Bank Challenge** and aim intentional resources at removing inequality, simply visit - <https://bit.ly/EmployerAppreciation2021>. Or to learn more contact Carol Hall, Executive Director at chall@charteroak.edu, 860-515-3889.

About Charter Oak and its Foundation

Founded in 1973, **Charter Oak State College** (www.CharterOak.edu) is Connecticut's public online college, offering associate and bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields including Health Information Management, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education and Business Administration. The College offers master's degrees in Health Informatics, Health Care Administration and Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership. Charter Oak is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education and governed by Connecticut's Board of Regents for Higher Education.

The Charter Oak State College Foundation (www.CharterOak.edu/Foundation), established in 1977, is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting flexible and comprehensive degree completion opportunities for adults and technology innovations through the work of Charter Oak State College. The Foundation is a vehicle for accepting private gifts, donations, and bequests. Governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, the leadership provides direction for development activities and stewardship of the Foundation's assets. The Board is committed to assisting students meet their educational and career aspirations - ***Creating Brighter Futures, One Degree at a Time.***

About Liberty Bank and its Foundation

Established in 1825, **Liberty Bank** is one of the oldest and largest mutual banks in the country. With more than \$7 billion in assets, Liberty has 62 banking offices across Connecticut. As a full-service financial institution, Liberty offers consumer and commercial banking, cash management, home mortgages, business loans, insurance and investment services. Named 'Top Workplace' by the Hartford Courant every year since 2012 and designated a 2021 Best-In-State Bank in Connecticut by Forbes Magazine, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.

Since its inception in 1997, **the Liberty Bank Foundation** has awarded over \$14 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within Liberty Bank's market area. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for people of low or moderate income by investing in three areas: education to promote economic success for children and families; affordable housing; and nonprofit capacity building. www.liberty-bank.com.