

The **Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., [Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings](#)**



Dr. Shirley Adams announced her retirement from Charter Oak State College after a very rewarding and industrious career. She helped evolve the college from a credit aggregating institution to an online college with academic programs that lead our students to career satisfaction and economic improvement.

She has tirelessly managed the academics, the staff, and the many details required to keep our institution achieving academic accreditations and our students achieving academic successes.

It is our time to recognize and honor her dedication and commitment to Charter Oak State College, our academic programs, and our students by creating (and funding) a legacy in her name – **The Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund – *New Beginnings***.

To help establish this fund and leave a farewell message to Shirley – please visit this [link](#) – or return the form (by June 30, 2021).

Background:

Dr. Shirley Adams came to Charter Oak State College as Provost on August 1, 2002 with a passion for adult learners, for first generation college students, and for second chances. She worked tirelessly for the betterment of our adult students and advancing the academic programs at the College for almost 20 years.

In her own words, “I leave with mixed emotions. It is hard to leave a job that I have truly enjoyed for almost 20 years. Through all the years and all the changes, the focus has always been on our adult students. That is the reason I came to Charter Oak and the reason I stayed. Charter Oak gives a person a second chance, or sometimes a third or fourth chance, to earn a degree. And seeing the students graduate is immensely rewarding.”

As a very private person by nature, Dr. Adams shared a little of her life as a way to inspire our students to graduate and to continue to grow. She grew up on a 160-acre farm in the Midwest and at the age of 9 suffered tragedy as her father passed away. Together with her mother and brother, they managed the farm and struggled as single parent families do. They always had food on the table, which is one advantage of living on a farm, but not much money.

Dr. Adams was the first in her family and extended family to go to college. She was inspired (or pushed) by her librarian, Dr. Mabel Brown, to go to college. She was fortunate to receive a full tuition scholarship to a state college and a national student defense loan. She also earned money as a student worker and as a waitress in the summers to pay for her education.

In her journey through life, Dr. Adams fell into the wonderful world of working with adult students. She found her purpose and passion in lifting others up to their full potential through higher education credentials. She focused her career and her studies, her master’s and doctorate degrees, on adult students as well as. Working full time and juggling family responsibilities, while earning graduate degrees, helped her to understand what many adult students experience. As she retires from Charter Oak, she intends to continue as a volunteer working with adults, helping them meet their educational goals; and maybe teach them some yoga as well. (She became a certified yoga teacher a few years ago - which goes

to show, you are never too old to learn.)

Dr. Adams would also like to leave a legacy of financial support behind for our students. Will you join her in this endeavor?

Opportunity!

Dedicated to helping students return to college and begin again, the **Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings**, will be awarded in the fall of 2021. The student selected will be an adult with some college credit, who is in a low paying job or living in poverty and is a first-generation college student. Students that help to educate our communities, such as Early Childhood Education (ARC, Bachelors, or Masters) programs will be encouraged to apply, and will be given preference.

To help establish this fund and leave a farewell message to Shirley – please visit this [link](#) – or complete and return the form below. Our goal is to raise an initial \$5,850 by Fall 2021, and award 1 scholarship. We will then continue to raise funds until we reach the endowment level of \$10,000, creating a lasting legacy.

Help us to celebrate the legacy of Shirley by leaving a legacy of support for our students!

With appreciation,



Ed Klonoski
President

Please contact Carol Hall with any questions, chall@charteroak.edu or 860-515-3889.

Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund – New Beginnings



Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Amount \$ _____

Please take a moment to send your best wishes to Dr. Adams.

Please make checks payable to COSC Foundation – New Beginnings

Charter Oak State College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) | 55 Paul J. Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053 p: (860) 515-3889