

Bucks County Opportunity Council getting \$50K grant

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The Bucks County Opportunity Council will use a \$50,000 grant from The Provident Bank Foundation to help fund its Self-Sufficiency Program, council officials recently announced.

Among other goals, the program aims to help increase access to higher education for BCOC clients in an effort to get them off and keep them off the welfare rolls, they added.

The opportunity council is partnering with Bucks County Community College to enhance the self-sufficiency program's effectiveness in providing access to higher education, college and BCOC officials said. The two groups collaborate and jointly raise funds for the Gateway Scholarship Program for BCCC students. The grant from The Provident Bank Foundation will allow the college and the nonprofit council to grow the self-sufficiency



Bucks County Community College is partnering with the Bucks County Opportunity Council to use a \$50,000 grant from The Provident Bank Foundation to increase access to higher education for BCOC clients. [COURTESY OF BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE]

program and reach more people, officials said.

"The purpose of this grant

is to help people support themselves and their families with sustainable wages and

health benefits," foundation Executive Director Jane Kurek said in a news release.

"Our focus is to create the change needed to help our clients leave poverty permanently."

BCOC Executive Director
Erin Lukoss

"Through the Self-Sufficiency Program, they will have access to tools and opportunities to improve their quality of life. We are happy to support such a life-changing initiative, aligned with the mission of the foundation."

Representatives from BCOC said their research indicates that 82 percent of their clients are successful because they pursue higher education to gain new skills for the modern workplace. As a result, clients move from minimum wage, part-time jobs to ones that provide a family sustaining wage and benefits, council officials said.

"Our focus is to create the change needed to help our clients leave poverty permanently," BCOC Executive Director Erin Lukoss said.

STUDENT

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Riegelsville; and **Daria Mooney**, of Sellersville.
Katherine Longmuir, of Jamison, attending Kennesaw State

Hope, bachelor of science in aerospace engineering; **Angela Park**, of Newtown, bachelor of science in materials science and engineering; **Eric Lopresti**, of North Wales, bachelor of science in materials science and engineering; and **Sean Furgiuele**, of Yardley, bachelor of science in aerospace

Brandon Kwak, of Warrington, graduated from Marquette University with bachelor of science in biomedical engineering with a focus in biomechanics. Students attending the University of New Haven named to the dean's list for spring 2018 semester were **Madison Venezia**, of Chalfont, and

venues in New York City and Philadelphia. Representatives and faculty members of colleges, universities and professional entertainment companies attend the event to collectively present \$250,000 in scholarships to high school students interested in pursuing careers in musical theater.

Students attending Fairfield University named to the dean's list for spring 2018 semester were **Roberto Antonio Ramos** and **Tara Joan Weber**, of Doylestown.
Anita Gidwani, of North Wales, a doctor of physical therapy student at Emory and Henry College School of