

**Getting Students TO & THROUGH College**



**2022 ANNUAL GIVE**

**Supporting 119  
College Graduates  
... And Counting**



Dear Friend & Supporter,

Since our founding in 2011; Higher Edge has played a unique role in its students' college journeys ... and I encourage you to join the organization's team of supporters.

Far more than individualized advising that guides high school seniors as they navigate the entire college application process, the organization supports students through their college graduation. Together we build lasting relationships between students, families, and staff. Dahyir Croft, UCONN '21, BSN, RN said, "Higher Edge was a support system I never knew I needed. They were always one text or phone call away, even if you just needed to talk to someone about the good or bad days. They helped keep me focused and always had a helping hand out."

When college campuses shut down in March 2020 and the world pivoted overnight, our students stayed engaged. And when the country slowly began to reopen and switch to virtual interactions, our students remained connected. As individuals and communities look to heal and find their bearing, our students have had a continued network of advocates. As a result, our students are persisting, with a 93% return for their second year (well above the national average of 74%). What's more important to note is that Higher Edge's students are also graduating - 26 young adults earned their college degree in May 2022 and another 22 are set to graduate in May 2023.

Higher Edge's students are undoubtedly at the forefront of the organization's success and nothing exhibits this more than hearing directly from them. Some of their stories are shared on the following pages and so I ask - Can I count on you to make a gift? A gift to support more students like Dahyir, Wilma, & Lawrence on the path to their degrees. Their successes are most certainly our successes ... and together we can change lives, one college degree at a time.

In Community,

**Katie Hallisey**

Executive Director





**SINCE 2016;**

**119 HIGHER EDGE STUDENTS HAVE  
EARNED A COLLEGE DEGREE.  
TOGETHER ...WE CAN CHANGE LIVES  
ONE COLLEGE DEGREE AT A TIME**

**make a difference.**

**PAYPAL  
HIGHER EDGE CT**



**VENMO  
@HIGHEREDGECT**



**CHECKS ALSO ACCEPTED MADE PAYABLE TO:  
HIGHER EDGE**

**DONATIONS MAY BE MAILED TO:  
35 REDDEN AVENUE  
NEW LONDON, CT 06320**

# THREE RIVERS MIDDLE COLLEGE CLASS OF 2024

## DEHJAH



**Intended Major:** Genetics or Applied Mathematics

**School Involvement:**

President of National Honor Society, Vice-President of Student Leadership Club

**Work:** Cashier at Fiddleheads Food Co-Op

**Favorite Late Night Snack:** Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups

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***I have always had a passion for learning and want to pursue higher education to learn about things that could help me make a difference in the world.***

***Higher Edge has helped relieve a lot of the stress and anxiety that I've felt about the application process. From reviewing my college essay to guiding my family and I through all our FAFSA questions. Higher Edge has exposed me to several scholarship opportunities and given me lots of information about the application process I didn't know.***

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
CLASS OF 2025



ESTHER

**Major:** Health Science

**On Campus:** SSS (Student Support Services)

**Work:** Local Nursing Home

**Favorite Late Night Snack:** Chessman Butter Cookies



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*My inspiration for college would have to be my mother. My mom is the most hardworking person I know. She works 2-3 jobs just to make it happen for me. Growing*

*up she wanted nothing but the best for me which is why I aspire to become something great in life.*

*Higher Edge is definitely a blessing to be apart of . The program helped me in so many ways that I can think of. During this whole high school transition into college they have been nothing but a supportive and encouraging team. I am very thankful for them. Helping me with scholarships, financial aid and so much more. I honestly do not know how I would be surviving college if it was not for them.*

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
CLASS OF 2024

# WILMALIS



**Major:** Environmental Engineering

**Campus Involvement:**

BRIDGE, Undergrad Research Assistant with a focus on mountainous terrain & flooding patterns/damages in Asia and flooding/water monitoring in CT

**Favorite Late Night Snack:**  
Mandarin Fruit Cups

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***Higher Edge has been a great support system that understands what college is like while also having the experience to talk me through it. They keep me on track with things that may get lost in the background of all that school is and make sure I have everything I need ... and this is for anything. They were also really great with scholarships, making sure you are doing what you need to do and that it is on time!***



**ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE**  
**CLASS OF 2023**

# ROCKENSON



**Major:** Business Management with a focus on Marketing Management.

**Minor:** Computer Information Systems.

**Campus Involvement:** Men's Team, Vice-President of Campus Activities Board (CAB), Director of Diversity & Inclusion for Student Government Association (SGA)

**Favorite Late Night Snack:** Pop-Tarts

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***I chose to attend college because I want to learn the skills necessary to help me succeed in life.***

***Higher Edge helped to find the school that was best suited for me. They helped me understand the type of aid that was offered and made sure that I would be comfortable attending the school that I attend now.***

LYCOMING COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2022

\*GRADUATING SEMESTER EARLY

SHANEVA



**Major:** Neuroscience

**Minors:** Psychology & Philosophy

**Campus Involvement:** Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. Chapter President; Cultural Greek Council Vice President; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion President; Student Government Senator; Pre-Health Society Member; Black Student Union Member; Recreational Staff Supervisor

**Favorite Late Night Snack:**  
Smoked BBQ Ruffles

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*As a first generation college student, success was never only for me, but for my family as well. I wanted to pursue Neuroscience and get a hands on experience. I also wanted to broaden my horizons when it came to friends, experiences, and knowledge.*

*Higher Edge provided me the tools to make my dreams a reality: I was offered detailed and genuine guidance when pursuing college. Higher Edge took my confused thoughts and worked through them with me, and is why I ended up attending Lycoming College today.*



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
CLASS OF 2022

LAWRENCE



**Major:** Mathematics and Statistics

**Campus Jobs:** Latinx Student Leadership Council Coordinator, Writing Center Tutor, Writing Fellow, Pioneer Diversity Intern

**Campus Organizations:** B.A.I.L.E. (Bringing Awareness into Latino Ethnicities), DSA (Dominican Student Association), Latino America Unida Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity Inc.

*Higher Edge has supported me by providing me with the courage and motivation to not give up when life sometimes gets too overwhelming. It gave me the reassurance that I belonged in the world of academia to achieve greater success.*

*My advice - Don't be afraid to try new things! College is a time to explore. You'll be surprised with the amount of things college life has to offer.*

# HIGHER EDGE

## THE TEAM

**Katie Hallisey**

Executive Director

**Kayla Williams**

College Access

Program Manager

**Gracie Guzman**

Success Program  
Manager



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*We also encourage you to visit our website  
[www.higheredge.org](http://www.higheredge.org)*