


The Gift of Success



The Owens Community College Honors Program was created in 2008 to provide a challenging educational opportunity above and beyond the standard curriculum for exceptional students who strive for academic excellence. It offers students a wide range of courses in every department and program in the college. Smith and his wife wanted to do their part to attract high academic achievers to the College and saw the Honors Program as a means to do so.

The Smiths established the Art & Connie Smith Honors Scholarship in 2008, and it now exceeds \$25,000. As Chair of the Foundation Board, Smith is committed to giving back to Owens' students. He and Connie hope their example will encourage others to invest in Owens Community College's students and help make higher education available to everyone in Northwest Ohio.



In Spring 2010, the first Art & Connie Smith Honors Scholarship was awarded to Darlene Grey of Toledo. Grey is a non-traditional student who was laid off from her job at a factory, which subsequently closed. She knew she needed to get a good job that would enable her to help her children get a college education. She once worked as a medical assistant in a doctor's office and decided to come to Owens to study nursing.

"It's very difficult to go back to school as an adult," Grey said. "I was a little uneasy about competing with younger students." However, she found that she

enjoyed her coursework, and she has helped her classmates as much as they have helped her. Grey said "I didn't have a lot of pride in my ability at first" but she did so well that she was invited to join the Honors Program in her second semester at Owens.

"This scholarship is a Godsend that is truly helping me pay for school" said Grey. "I am so excited to be the first recipient of this scholarship and so grateful that there are people who are willing to help students like me."

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- DARLENE GREY