



Dr. Jo Alice Blondin Student Opportunity Fund

Empowering Students: Building Futures by Honoring a Legacy

DR. JO ALICE BLONDIN: A LEGACY BUILT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

When Jo Alice Blondin, Ph.D., arrived at Clark State College in 2013, she didn't simply assume the presidency — she set out to transform what a community college could be for its students, workforce and region.

Over 13 years as Clark State's fifth president — and across a 33-year career in higher education — Dr. Blondin has led with urgency, compassion and an unwavering belief that student success must come first.

Under her leadership, Clark State made bold, measurable investments in its future:

- More than \$40 million invested in technology and infrastructure to enhance the student experience and strengthen operations
- A 60% increase in State Share of Instruction funding — a direct reflection of improved student success and institutional performance
- Growth of the Clark State Foundation from \$13 million to more than \$30 million
- Nearly \$25 million in new federal and state grant funding to expand access and opportunity



But Dr. Blondin's legacy is not defined by growth alone — it is defined by purposeful growth.

She expanded academic offerings to meet workforce needs, adding four baccalaureate degrees and strengthening high-demand programs in fields such as advanced engineering, cybersecurity, precision agriculture, healthcare and semiconductor technology. She grew Clark State's footprint across the region, deepened partnerships with employers and K-12 schools and raised the college's profile at both the state and national levels.

Just as importantly, Dr. Blondin invested deeply in people.

She founded the nationally-recognized SOAR (Serving Our Own Through Advancement and Retention) program, personally mentoring dozens of employees and cultivating the next generation of leaders. She championed shared governance, inclusive leadership and trauma-informed practices — ensuring Clark State remained both innovative and humane. Her leadership was perhaps most visible during times of challenge. During the pandemic, Clark State remained strong: classes continued, employees were retained without pay reductions, students received emergency relief quickly and strategic investments positioned the college to emerge stronger than before.

At the center of every decision was a simple truth Dr. Blondin lived by: When students succeed, communities thrive.

The Dr. Jo Alice Blondin Student Opportunity Fund honors that belief. It reflects her lifelong commitment to removing barriers, responding with urgency and ensuring that no student's education is derailed by circumstances beyond their control.

This fund is not just a tribute — it is a continuation of her work.

"Dr. Blondin's focus has always been on students — helping them realize their dreams and navigate every challenge along the way."

— John A. Brown, Donor and Chief Retail Banking Officer, Park National Bank

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND LASTING IMPACT

Even small obstacles can stop a student's education in its tracks. The Jo Alice Blondin Student Opportunity Fund provides support for students facing urgent financial challenges — ensuring that no student's journey is derailed by unexpected hardship.

What the Fund Supports:

- Essential books, supplies or technology needed for classes
- Emergency childcare so parents can attend school
- Transportation or car repairs to reach campus or work
- Medical or dental bills not covered by insurance
- Housing or utility crises

Your Gift Ensures:

- Students stay on track to graduate
- Reduced stress and increased focus on academics
- Scholarships and emergency support for urgent needs

Impact of Your Support:

- 100% of your gift benefits students
- As an endowment, students today – and for generations to come – will have access to critical emergency support when life's unexpected challenges arise
- 90% of students who receive support continue to the next semester
- 100% of students who receive support report decreased stress and increased focus

Goal:

- \$2 million
- Provide timely assistance to help students overcome unexpected obstacles and stay on track.
- Honor Dr. Jo Alice Blondin's lifelong commitment to student success and access

JOIN US IN THIS LEGACY

Your support of the Dr. Jo Alice Blondin Student Opportunity Fund is more than a donation — it's a commitment to opportunity, accessibility and a student-centered future.

“Join us as a Founding Donor and help ensure that no student's journey ends because of an unexpected hardship. Together, we can build a lasting legacy of opportunity, equity and compassion — honoring Dr. Blondin's lifelong commitment to students.”

— Jordan Tyler, Donor and Manager, Business Development, JobsOhio

Be a Founding Donor. Create a lasting impact. Honor Dr. Blondin's legacy.