

The Rebel Yell

NEWS

Women's center receives \$1 million endowment

Money will fund Friendship Re-Entry Scholarship for non-traditional, underrepresented students

By: [Aisha O'Brien](#)

Jackie Kaaa-Logan is a UNLV psychology student today, after more than 20 years out of school and service to the federal government. She returned to finish her studies to fulfill the dying wishes of her mother.

She applied to UNLV in April of 2004 and began studying in the fall. Her mother was diagnosed with brain cancer shortly after she moved from Florida.

"I took care of her while attending UNLV my first two semesters," Kaaa-Logan said. "She passed away in March 2005 and before she did, she made me promise not to quit school again, so I promised."

Kaaa-Logan is interested in studying Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in teenagers. When she finishes her bachelor's degree this semester, she will go on to graduate school, then hopefully become a researcher.

Dana Anat interrupted her studies for seven years working in the airline industry. Anat chose law "because of the valuable experience working for a large and well-known company and my exposure to their legal department."

She decided to go into political science and work toward getting into law school.

She says she faced challenges coping with the loss of financial security.

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center has provided these and other students financial aid through the Friendship Re-entry Scholarship to alleviate such challenges.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, a scholarship funding program for re-entry students, recently gave a \$1 million endowment to the women's center.

A friend encouraged Elizabeth Baldizan, director of the women's center, to seek funding through the Osher Foundation in 2006.

"I find it very telling how powerful the role of friendships have played in promoting, using and growing our scholarship program," Baldizan said.

In May of 2006, Baldizan received information from Lori Slinn, then program coordinator of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the Office of Education Outreach.

According to the Osher Foundation website, it "provides post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to re-entry students."

When it initially applied for funding, the women's center received \$50,000. This year, the foundation invited Baldizan to apply for the \$1 million endowment.

To date, the women's center has approved 31 students for the Friendship Re-Entry Scholarship.

Because re-entry students can have a hard time readjusting to university life, the women's center provides additional services to scholarship recipients, including five hours of tutoring, academic status meetings once a semester and help through UNLV Career Services.

The women's center also awards the Jean Nidetch Scholarship (up to \$2,500 for fall and spring), the Jerri Zika-Semenza Memorial Scholarship (fall semester \$1,000 grant) and the Re-Entry Scholarship (up to \$1,000 for fall and spring).

Based in San Francisco, the Osher Foundation also supports a network of lifelong learning institutions on 115 campuses across the country.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute organizes study groups for retired individuals and older students.

UNLV provides many scholarships and support for re-entry and underrepresented students as well.

Kaaa-Logan is also a recipient of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Institute assistance through the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach.

The financial aid office has information for all funding on its website at financialaid.unlv.edu.

The deadline to apply for the Friendship Re-Entry Scholarship is April 11. For further information, contact the Jean Nidetch Women's Center Scholarship Coordinator Laura Zemp at (702) 895-4475.