



## Annual Update 2025



**OVER \$165,000 RAISED  
AT THE MARCH 2025 GALA**

Your contributions have supported opportunities for ACES students and staff



STEAM Food Insecurity and Sustainability class



Culinary Creations at the Bridge



Healing Salt Cave

**Save the date-22<sup>nd</sup> annual Gala-March 26, 2026**

**Special thanks to our 2025 Gala Top Sponsors**



## 21st Annual Gala Highlights



**Sean Scanlon**

Sean Scanlon began his term as Comptroller in 2023. In 2014, Sean was elected State Representative for Connecticut's 98th District. In the House, Sean became a champion for health care reform, a passion rooted in his own life experiences coming from a family that was often uninsured or underinsured.

During his fourth and final term, Sean served as Chair of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee where he led the fight to create tax relief for working families like the one he grew up in and worked with Governor Lamont to pass the largest tax cut in state history.



**Carlos Reyes**

Carlos was a student at Whitney Academy and graduated in October 2021. He enjoyed working at community jobsites such as Town Fair Tire and National Paper & Supply, but his favorite job was to work at the ACES Job Center. He was recruited a few months before he graduated and was hired as a part time production worker. Carlos is able to complete many assembly tasks that are contracted with Highfield Manufacturing. His two main jobs are operating the lock assembly air table and rotary press. Carlos has shown dedication and commitment to his job.

***On March 27, 2025, the ACES Education Foundation celebrated its 21st annual gala at Anthony's Ocean View, New Haven, CT. The Foundation honored Sean Scanlon and Carlos Reyes.***

## 2025-26 Foundation Grant Awards

Due to your support, \$55,190.00 will be awarded, to the following grants as listed below, during the 2025-26 school year to benefit ACES students.

### **ACES at Aspire/Bridge**

- Field Trip Frenzy-\$1,175.00
- The Link Project-\$1,000.00

### **ACES ECA**

- Center for Emerging Media & Innovation-\$10,000.00
- ECA Interdisciplinary Arts Collaboration-\$10,000.00
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Dance-\$9,525.00

### **Family & Community Engagement**

- City Bus Pass Program-\$2,500.00

### **Mill**

- Mindful Movement-\$2,750.00
- STEAM Fusion-\$3,530.00

### **Village**

- Application of Myofascial Release-\$2,500.00

### **West Haven**

- Kicking up Confidence-\$2,610.00
- Wellness for Westies-\$3,000.00

### **Whitney Academy**

- Every Voice Matters-\$3,200.00
- Video Editing-\$3,400.00

## Fund-a-Need

The 2025 ACES Education Foundation's Fund-A-Need appeal raised \$18,150.00 to support the arts. Thank you to all who contributed to the appeal at the gala. Fund-a-need grant applications were approved in the amount of \$16,156.00 for the 2025-26 school year. Literacy grant in the amount of \$2,225.00 was also funded. Lastly, the Town Fair Tire Foundation generously funded the Family & Community Engagement grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.



### **Pet therapy**

Meet Finn, the newest member of the Mill Road community. He is a therapy dog in training under the guidance of Mill teacher Stephanie Patrigani. This project was possible through an ACES Education Foundation Fund-a-Need Grant.

# Scholarship Fund

## Alfred E. Hopkins Memorial Scholarship Fund for Advanced Study in the Arts



**Congratulations to our 2025 Hopkins scholarship recipients! Maia Coto, Morgan Hackley, Kaylin Harrell, Hannah Leamon & Viviana Rodriguez.**

Pictured from left to right: Maia Coto, Viviana Rodriguez, Hannah Leamon, Kaylin Harrell, Morgan Hackley, Kevin Buno & Thomas Danehy.

The ACES Education Foundation's Alfred E. Hopkins Memorial Scholarship Fund for Advanced Study in the Arts was established in memory of Alfred E. Hopkins, a beloved ACES central office administrator who appreciated and collected art. The scholarship began in June 2012.

The 2025 scholarship awarded five students \$1,000 each at the ECA graduation in June. Since its inception, the Hopkins Scholarship has awarded \$60,500 in grant funding to students pursuing the arts. Principal Kevin Buno is grateful for the recognition his students received.

ACES ECA Student, **Maia Coto**, Seymour, will be attending The Cooper Union (NY).

ACES ECA Student, **Morgan Hackley**, Branford, will be attending Hobart & William Smith Colleges (NY).

ACES ECA Student, **Kaylin Harrell**, Bethany, will be attending Marymount Manhattan College (NY).

ACES ECA Student, **Hannah Leamon**, North Haven, will be attending Clark University (MA).

ACES ECA Student, **Viviana Rodriguez**, North Haven, will be attending Emerson College (MA).

## 2024-25 Foundation Grant Awards

ACES students that benefited from some of the grants awarded during the 2024-25 school year.

### 3-D Printing in Graphics and Computer Tech - Whitney Academy North

Mr. Guglielmo and Ms. Raffaele at Whitney High School North are very excited to have their grant application approved for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond! Mr. Guglielmo and his students in vocational information technology and repair worked on unboxing the new Bambu Labs X-1 Carbon 3D printer and accessories, initial set-up, and continued maintenance. Ms. Raffaele and her students in vocational graphic design and fine art have worked on designing 3D prints digitally and assembly of 3D printed objects. Some of the completed 3D printed projects have even appeared for sale at ACES' holiday fairs and more will be on the way!



### From Seeds to Success – West Haven

Cindy Ratchelous

"Thank you to the ACES Education Foundation for the grant to purchase hydroponic growing towers for our West Haven Collaborative classrooms! The students have been harvesting the greens and herbs and researching what to grow next".



### Plant Propagation for Community Sustainability- ACES at Chase

Students learned how to propagate plants with woody stems. They are observing wisteria cuttings from our famed wisteria arbor behind St. Margaret's Hall.



### Culinary Creations at the Bridge - The Bridge and Aspire

The grant has been transformative for our students. It has allowed staff to teach vital hands-on culinary skills such as food safety, cooking and baking. Our students used their culinary creations to create a business model in which they were able to learn and apply skills about budgeting, advertising, and customer service. This has empowered our students with practical knowledge and real-world experience. This opportunity has not only enhanced their culinary expertise but also fostered creativity, entrepreneurship, and confidence in their abilities.





## Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the gala a success!

### **AUCTION COMMITTEE**

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Joan Hillo  
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Wendy Staschke  
Judith Terrill  
Melanie Tolmei  
Kevin Walton  
Kristopher Zabrensky

### **MUSIC PROVIDED BY ACES**

#### **ECA STUDENTS**

Audrey Holt  
James Hunter  
Hannah Klein-Berger  
Matiya Kouassi  
Avalene Morrison  
Claudia Persinger  
Bernadette Sheehan  
Eliah Shevelkin  
Leo Slattey  
Jason Thomas  
Naruna Vora Camp  
Roy Wiseman, Instructor

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

Paul Duda

## The Mission of the ACES Education Foundation

The ACES Education Foundation exists to support the educational purposes of ACES, educate the public about the programs & services that ACES provides.

### About ACES

ACES dedication to better serve its community is exemplified by the wide array of services and programs offered. These include adult and vocational programs, interdistrict programs, open and magnet school parent choice programs, minority teacher recruitment initiatives, behavior services for individuals on the autism spectrum, occupational/physical therapy, professional development and technology services.

Established in 1969, ACES strives each day to fulfill its vision of creating an equitable and socially just world, one life at a time. ACES serves its member districts and others through an ever-growing array of programs, services and schools that meet the needs of a changing educational landscape. For more information, go to: [www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org).

### About the Foundation

The ACES Education Foundation exists to support high-quality programming that strengthens the academic achievement and social skills of ACES students, consumers and staff by providing grant opportunities to ACES schools and programs. Since its inception, the ACES Education Foundation has raised more than \$1,619,000 benefiting thousands of ACES students and families.

## ACES Education Foundation Board of Directors

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Former ACES Administrator

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To make a donation, contact Joan Hillo  
Foundation Development Coordinator at [jhillo@aces.org](mailto:jhillo@aces.org)

Tax ID# 41-2108698

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