

June 8, 2015

Mrs. M. Burch Tracy Ford
Chair, Grants Committee
Petit Family Foundation
P.O. Box 310
Plainville, CT 06062-0310

Dear Mrs. Ford:

We are pleased to submit our report to the Petit Family Foundation for the annual scholarship awarded at Bay Path University through the Anabella Villalobos/Petit Family Foundation Scholarship Fund. Since the scholarship fund was endowed in 2013, two scholarships totaling \$1,699 were awarded to an outstanding student who truly exemplifies the intent of the award – to ensure that promising young women from Connecticut surmount financial barriers to achieving their goals and aspirations in the sciences.

Scholarship Recipient

Kimberly Raymond '16, a native of Vernon, Connecticut, was the recipient of the Anabella Villalobos/Petit Family Foundation Scholarship for the second year in a row, with a scholarship of \$830. Kimberly, a forensic science major, was invited to participate in our highly selective Women in STEM Honors Program (WiSH), described in more detail in the next section of the report, on the basis of her academic merit. While pursuing her degree, Kimberly serves on the Student Event Committee and as a peer mentor at Bay Path and works with children in daycare during the summer months. She aspires upon graduation to attend medical school and use her education to help others. She gratefully acknowledges the support of the Petit Family Foundation, noting that scholarships are very important to her since she is financing her own way through college.

Institutional Update

Bay Path University is proud of its mission to advance women's higher education. On July 1, 2014 Bay Path achieved a significant milestone in its 118-year history when it officially became Bay Path University, building on over a century of progress in educating women. The transition to University status reflects the rapid growth and complexity of our institution and our bold vision for the future. In 2014, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* named Bay Path among the top 20 fastest growing private colleges and universities in the nation.

Bay Path serves a total population of 2,593 undergraduate and graduate students, drawing students largely from the Northeast. The majority of our undergraduates reside in New England, primarily Massachusetts and Connecticut. Our undergraduate population is diverse: 34% identify as women of color, 66% are first generation college students, and 53% are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, indicating a significant level of financial need. Scholarships are critical for the students we serve.

Equally important are expanded opportunities for our students to develop the confidence, skills and knowledge that will enable them to compete and thrive as leaders in their professions and communities. Several exciting initiatives that address this need are underway at Bay Path University. Our "Learners and Leaders" Project, funded through a five-year, \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Title III Strengthening Institutions Program, is already transforming undergraduate teaching, learning and student success at Bay Path through the redesign of gateway courses, including in the sciences, and the integration of the iPad and other technology into the curriculum. The "Women as Empowered Learners and

Leaders” (WELL) Program continues to evolve as a signature program at Bay Path designed to provide students with an integrated curricular and co-curricular undergraduate experience which strengthens student learning, academic, personal and career exploration and leadership development, beginning with the first-year experience and culminating in the senior capstone course.

The Center of Excellence for Women in STEM (CEWS), established in 2014, nurtures the career aspirations of young women pursuing degrees in majors such as biology, biochemistry, cybersecurity, forensic science, medical science and neuroscience and develops the scientific knowledge, research expertise and technical laboratory skills required by employers or to prepare students for graduate and professional programs in science and health fields. Within CEWS, top performing students are selected for the Women in STEM Honors (WiSH) Program. WiSH students can engage in faculty-mentored research as early as their first year, receive wraparound academic support and mentoring, and are expected to participate in career development activities and other experiential and service learning opportunities that prepare these top students to advance in their chosen professions. Bay Path was recently awarded a \$500,000 capital grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for the acquisition of laboratory equipment and instrumentation which will strengthen the quality of student research and expand opportunities for students to hone their scientific skills and competencies.

Leveraging the scholarship support from the Petit Family Foundation, Bay Path also received a five-year \$620,850 grant in 2014 from the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in STEM Program for scholarship and other support aimed at encouraging the aspirations of academically talented young women to pursue careers in the sciences.

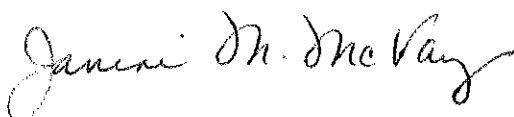
In support of initiatives like these, and to increase scholarship support for students with compelling financial need, Bay Path University is in the midst of a three-year \$9 million Campaign, “*It Begins Here*” to secure funds in support of the key priorities of our Vision 2016 strategic plan. These include:

- Transforming the traditional undergraduate experience;
- Increasing educational opportunities for adult women; and
- Expanding graduate programs in health sciences through the establishment of a new Health Science Center.

We are confident that we will accomplish what we have set out to do through *Vision 2016*. We are deeply grateful for the Foundation’s extraordinary generosity in its intent to bring the principal balance of the scholarship fund to \$100,000 over the next two years. By pledging an additional \$2,000 annually, beginning with a new scholarship award for fall 2015 until the fund is fully endowed, you are helping to ensure that promising young women in our region will have the financial resources to earn their degree and achieve their career aspirations in the sciences. It is truly an honor to include the Petit Family Foundation among our valued contributors to the Campaign.

On behalf of our students, whose lives are immeasurably impacted by your generosity, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,



Janine M. McVay
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Dear Petit Family Foundation,

I want to thank you for the scholarship that I was awarded. This is the second year that I have received it and it means so much to me. I appreciate the assistance that has been granted to me. School is a passion of mine. I love studying and it is my goal to use my schooling to help people. It is because of foundations like yours that students like me are able to succeed. Thank you for helping me on my journey to success. I appreciate your generosity more than you know.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Raymond