

Scholarship rewards students passionate about education

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Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, a 1965 graduate of Rowan University's College of Education, knew she was destined to be a teacher from a young age. And as a first generation college graduate, becoming one was an accomplishment she and her family considered a tremendous achievement.

Now, through her generosity, she is rewarding students who share her unwavering passion for teaching with a newly created scholarship. The Dr. Marilyn E. Gonyo Scholarship for Excellence in Education recognizes students in their junior or senior year who are enrolled full time at Rowan studying education, with preference to those in the Teacher of Students with Disabilities and/or Reading Endorsement programs.

“When I look back at my experiences and seamless career progression, I really just happened to be in the right places at the right times,” said Dr. Gonyo. “Having received scholarships that really helped me along the way, I am so pleased to offer this opportunity to help someone else.”

In fall 2016, Nicole Wyglendowski '17 was chosen as the first recipient of Dr. Gonyo's scholarship. A double major in Elementary Education and English with a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement, she serves as a Peer Mentor for the Harley Flack Mentoring Program and is President of SAIL, a volunteer organization that provides support to people with disabilities.

“I've been blessed with a wonderful career and that is why I wanted to give back,” said Dr. Gonyo. “Financially I am at the point where I can support my wish to help students. I feel so thrilled, honored and privileged. This scholarship has given me tremendous pleasure being able to reward someone like Nicole for her hard work and big dreaming.”