

December 2021

Greetings from the [Colby Foundation](#)!

We hope this finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe during continued Covid 19 pandemic. We are all probably not where we would have thought we would be by now but it appears we are making progress and hopefully 2022 will be the beginning of a new normal. COVID-19 has impacted all levels of education including medical schools where the Colby Foundation has and continues to maintain a commitment to educating medical students regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

This year we were forced to delay the Colby Cassani Endowed Lectureship Series (CCELS) at several schools who were still in transition from virtual to in person education. We are confident that we will be able to renew our traditional format of a half day of organ donation and transplantation education next year. The CCELS traditionally consists of three speakers; (1) a physician involved in organ transplantation, (2) the local organ procurement organization and (3) Starla's presentation from a donor family's perspective. Occasionally, local recipient families speak as well.

We were able to complete one virtual CCELS in April with Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, WA as part of a new ten year CCELS commitment. Starla's presentation was part of a two day program called "What Matters in the End." The symposium was presented to the local community as well as the medical students and included presentations by several physicians including Dr. Nadia Tremonti, a double boarded physician in pediatrics and hospice/palliative care. The focus of the two day presentation was not only organ donation and transplantation but in treating death with dignity. The organ procurement organization, Lifecenter Northwest was involved in education regarding the process of organ donation and what happens "behind the scenes." PNWU plans to continue this format and we are hopeful we can attend in person in 2022.

The annual University of Nevada medical school CCELS scheduled to take place in November 2021 was also suspended until the fall of 2022. We look forward to returning to PNWU, UNR and other schools in 2022 with onsite presentations.

We will be working on some updates to the [ColbyFoundation.org](#) website in 2022 to maintain a fresh and contemporary look to the website.

We wish to thank you so much for your past support of the Colby Foundation. It is with this amazing commitment that we are able to continue to touch so many young medical students who will continue with a new found understanding of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The combination of physician speakers together with members of the organ procurement organization, organ recipients and Starla Cassani's powerful donor family presentation creates a powerful impact that repeatedly changes how these young future physicians think and feel about organ donation.

Your contribution makes this continued great work possible as it directly supports the [Colby Cassani Endowed Lectureship Series \(CCELS\)](#) in medical schools across the country.

Your contributions enable future physicians to gain knowledge about organ, eye, and tissue

donation and insight into the experiences of organ donors, transplant recipients, and their families.

Your contribution most importantly promotes compassion in these young minds and brings the humanism of medicine front and center.

Thus far, over 9800 students have had the opportunity to attend a CCELS. Many thanks to the generosity of contributors like you! We take pride in hearing its impact on attendees.

How our endowment works

By invitation, medical schools apply for the
Colby Cassani Endowed Lectureship Series (CCELS)
to fund education about organ and tissue
donation and transplantation.

Awarded schools commit to presenting the CCELS
to medical students at least twice
in each student's four years of study.
They also bring information to the wider communities.

The Colby Foundation presents \$4000

every other year to fund the CCELS for a fixed term.

The schools practice prudent fiscal management,
the endowment grows over time, and the school continues to present the CCELS
indefinitely

It is with your commitment that we will continue to accomplish the **Colby** Foundation's mission to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation. Together we will ensure future healthcare professionals approach their patients and families with knowledge, understanding and kindness. We urge you to be as generous* as you can and thank you for your consideration.

We wish you a healthy, safe and prosperous 2022 and a very enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,
John and Starla Cassani
Founders and Trustees

a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation
EIN # 88-0445730

Trustees:
John Cassani, DO, MBA
Starla Cassani

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To donate online and use your credit card, you may go to ColbyFoundation.org or you may mail a check payable to:

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