

**the mission***Provide Educational Scholarships***the commitment***Help Vermont Students***the goal***Secure Brighter Futures*

## Take Our Survey— Win a Concept2 Rowing Machine

Regular readers of our newsletter know that we usually profile several Curtis Fund scholars in each issue. These profiles serve as reminders of how important our grants have been to those pursuing a post-secondary education. But now we want to hear from you. We have created a survey\* and we hope you'll take a few moments to answer some questions.

Why? Because learning more about you and how achieving your goal of a degree or certificate has affected your life will help us build a better community of Curtis Fund scholars. The more we know, the better we can serve former grantees and help future ones.

We're aware you have a lot of demands on your time, so we have made it easy to participate in this survey. Here is what you need to know.

- The survey should take **about three minutes** to complete.
- We will share the results in a future newsletter, but **all responses will be completely confidential.**
- Accessing the survey is easy.
- You can use your phone or tablet to **scan the QR code** which will take you directly to the survey.
- If you don't want to use the QR code, you can find the survey by going to our website **www.thecurtisfund.org** and **clicking on the SURVEY button.**
- The survey will close on **MARCH 21st at midnight.**
- We value your time and we want to make this fun so everyone who submits a survey response will be **entered into a drawing to win a Concept2 Model D RowErg!**

On March 22nd we will draw one name from all survey respondents and announce our winner on our website. We hope you'll participate! Thank You!



*\* If you have any questions about the survey, we are here to answer them. Please send an email to [shana@thecurtisfund.org](mailto:shana@thecurtisfund.org) or call 802-324-4833.*

**“Just like The Curtis Fund, Concept2 is working to build community, which is why we are so excited to offer this prize.”**

—JUDY GEER, OWNER, CONCEPT2



### THE CURTIS FUND THANKS CONCEPT2 FOR A GENEROUS GIFT

The Curtis Fund is grateful to Concept2 for donating its Model D RowErg as a prize for one of our survey responders. We are especially excited to offer this prize because so many people are seeking new ways to exercise, safely from home, and equipment is hard to find and beyond many people's budgets.

Founded by former Olympian rowers and in business since 1976, Concept2 is a Vermont company that makes the best rowing machines in the world. The Concept2 rower is an ergometer, a device that measures work, so it provides accurate and consistent feedback to the user and makes online challenges, indoor competitions, ranking—all the stuff that creates the community around C2 machines—possible.

Learn more about this incredible prize and terrific Vermont company by visiting Concept2's website at [www.concept2.com](http://www.concept2.com).



## OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT

In our last newsletter, we profiled several of our Credentials of Values (CoV) recipients who received training and education in nursing. Our CoV initiative was launched three years ago thanks in large part to a generous, multi-year grant from the Hoehl Family Foundation and an anonymous donation. This scholarship program provides for training and education for people pursuing careers that do not necessitate a college degree yet are just as valuable to a vital society. We know about the impact The Curtis Fund grant had on these grantees, but we wondered about the impact felt from employers. We recently spoke with Robert Patterson, Vice President of Human Resources and Clinical Operations at Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC) and want to share his perspective.

Like many health care institutions, CVMC faces ongoing challenges to attract nursing staff. To address this shortage, CVMC has developed an internal training program so Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNA), who work under the supervision of registered nurses and

other medical staff providing both medical and non-medical care, can become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). This innovative two-year program allows full-time employees to continue earning a salary while taking classes toward their LPN degree.

Applicants must apply for financial aid, which can include scholarships such as The Curtis Fund Scholarship. If the student-employee stays at CVMC for 3 years, they will have their loans reimbursed.

The Curtis Fund is committed to aligning itself with state workforce goals and, as an aging state, there will be a pressing need for even more skilled healthcare workers in Vermont. The Curtis Fund's CoV program is funding scholarships to provide educational opportunities like those offered by CVMC. We're happy to know our Curtis Fund scholarships are helping, not only our grantees, but also the Vermont employers who require their talents and skills .

**Joseph Boutin,**  
*Chair, The Curtis Fund*  
*Board of Trustees*

***“A high percentage of our students are first in their families to receive a postsecondary degree and they are really appreciative that their employer is investing in them. We are creating a pipeline for entry-level staff to become LPNs and then possibly RNs. And, when staff sees you doing this it helps with recruitment.”***

— ROBERT PATTERSON, VP HUMAN RESOURCES AND CLINICAL OPERATION, CVMC

# *The Curtis Fund Welcomes* SHANA TROMBLEY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shana Trombley has joined The Curtis Fund as its new Executive Director. Shana brings over 25 years of fundraising and public affairs experience to the team. Her appointment reflects the ongoing goals of The Curtis Fund board to build and strengthen relationships with donors, grow major gifts to the Fund, and increase the visibility of the Fund’s work to provide more financial assistance for more Vermont students seeking a postsecondary education.

Prior to moving to the Green Mountain State, Shana lived in Chicago where she worked for several nonprofits in public affairs, governmental relations, and fundraising. Moving to Vermont, Shana worked for Governor Peter Shumlin’s administration for 6 years. Prior to joining The Curtis Fund, Shana spent 3 years at the Intervale Center, where she worked as the Donor Relations Manager, helping donors pursue their goal of developing a sustainable, community-based food system that is good for farmers, the environment, and the local economy.



***“I believe in the power of philanthropy to transform both individual lives and the community as a whole. The Curtis Fund has touched the lives of over 11,000 Vermonters who have realized their dreams of a better future through the pursuit of postsecondary education, and I’m thrilled to use my experience to grow our impact over the coming years.”***

—SHANA TROMBLEY



*An LNA learns about finger stick procedures and techniques.*





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## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

*Donate today!*

### *Your Contribution* **WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Please consider making a donation to The Curtis Fund today, so more aspiring learners can succeed. The Curtis Fund needs your help to continue its mission. Every donation makes a difference and changes the lives of very deserving students.

Please consider making a gift today. Thank you so much!

*All contributions are tax deductible to the limit of the law. Please donate online at <https://www.thecurtisfund.org/donate> or send your check in the enclosed envelope. Thank you!*

*Are you a current or former recipient of a Curtis Fund Grant?*  
**SHARE YOUR STORY!**

## PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY.

*We want to hear from you!*

### Three ways to find the survey:

1. go to [www.thecurtisfund.org](http://www.thecurtisfund.org) and click on the link
2. scan the QR code included in this newsletter to be taken directly to the survey
3. go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CurtisFundScholarsSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CurtisFundScholarsSurvey)



**ONE LUCKY RESPONDER WILL RECEIVE A CONCEPT2 MODEL D ROWER!**