

# COMMON Education Foundation Impacts Future IT Professionals



**Dustin Greelis** is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is majoring in Computer Science and currently has a 3.2 GPA. Dustin realized early on that to be successful in college he needed to learn many skills besides those directly related to his major—skills of adaptability, integrity, and personal responsibility. He's now working on skills such as analytical thinking, research, and leadership. He realizes that all the things he learns throughout college will affect the way he lives his life in the future. These skills will keep him on the road to success.



**Christin Hall** is an RPG programmer and holds associate degrees from Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) in computer programming and information systems. She is working toward her bachelor's in software engineering at Florida State University. She is a member of the Information Technology Faculty Advisory Board at GTCC and a student member of Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Her interests include: reading, animal rights/welfare, physical fitness/healthy living, and Florida State Seminoles/ NFL football.



**Joseph Lessard** grew up in Rochester, MN where he was involved in the 4-H program, when he earned two trips to the state fair. He received a blue ribbon both times. He built his own computer for one trip and he wrote a C++ program for the other trip. He is now a computer science major at Colorado State University. He plans to be involved in the computer science industry for as long as his fingers can type.



**David Nakashian** is currently enrolled at Rutgers: The State University of New Jersey. He earned a 3.0 GPA last semester and feels he is going to maintain that. As well as concentrating on his studies, he enjoys participating in intramural sports, such as soccer and basketball. He also enjoys watching all sports and attending the Rutgers' team events, especially the football games.



**Amanda Walsh** is a junior at Central Michigan University. She majors in General Business Administration and also studies pre-optometry. Her current GPA is 3.81 and she describes herself as a hard worker and dedicated student. She's worked for JP Morgan Chase the past two summers and is also learning Web development. She thinks IT is extremely important and thanks the Common Education Foundation for supporting the development of IT.

## CEF

By Michelle August

**T**he COMMON Education Foundation is a non-profit organization with the purpose of fostering the development and growth of future IT professionals. This is accomplished through scholarships and educational opportunities for both IT students and their instructors. Students can apply for a \$1,000 tuition reimbursement scholarship and can attend COMMON conferences at a greatly reduced registration rate. Instructors can apply for a scholarship to attend a COMMON conference or to attend IBM Summer School. Please visit [www.common.org/foundation/index.html#scholarships](http://www.common.org/foundation/index.html#scholarships) for more information about any of our scholarship opportunities.

There were 11 professors from different colleges across the country that received registration scholarships to attend the 2007 Annual conference and we awarded five tuition reimbursement scholarships. The students receiving the tuition reimbursement scholarships are recognized on this page.

The applicants for the tuition reimbursement scholarship must be recommended by a COMMON member, attend an accredited institution of higher education (two or four year college or graduate program), and submit a completed application with their sponsor's signature, an essay, a letter of recommendation from one of their professors, and an official transcript.

The 2008 deadline is August 1. If you are interested in recommending a student, you can download the application at [www.common.org/pdfs/tuitionapp.pdf](http://www.common.org/pdfs/tuitionapp.pdf).

These scholarship opportunities are made possible by the generosity of our supporters, the COMMON members. In order for our efforts to continue, we need to ask for your continued support.

There are several ways that you could help shape the future of our IT professionals: donate items to our silent auction as an individual, encourage your LUG to take part in the LUG Challenge (by donating items), bid on items at the auction, buy raffle tickets at the nightly iSocials, purchase COMMON apparel, try your hand at our miniature golf station, volunteer some of your time to help staff the CEF booth, or just share your ideas with us to help make this organization even better. Please e-mail Executive Director, **Michelle August** ([michelle\\_august@common.org](mailto:michelle_august@common.org)) if you would like more information about any of these activities and be sure to stop by the CEF booth in Nashville!



Michelle August