Temple alum establishes scholarship for STHM upperclassmen

Once an underprivileged student from humble beginnings, Evens Charles takes pride in supporting his community.

That is why the founder and managing principal of Frontier Development and Hospitality Group, LLC, has endowed a scholarship for students from Temple University’s Fox School of Business and School of Tourism and Hospitality Management. Charles knows first-hand the financial obstacles facing motivated entrepreneurial students. Maxed out from student loan providers, Charles finished school because of a football scholarship he received during his junior year, after he had earned a starting position.

“Without that funding, I don’t know if I could’ve continued my education,” Charles said.

Following graduate school, Charles, BA ’94, M.Ed ’95, became interested in real estate. He taught himself everything he could, entered the business, and amassed a good amount of residential real estate. He was inspired to enter the hotel business in 2008, after attending a conference in Washington D.C., hosted by the National Alliance of Black Hotel Owners Operators and Developers Association (NABHOOD). There, he heard a speech by the association’s chairman, developer R. Donahue Peebles. He initially partnered with another Temple alumnus, Paul Patel of Pennsville Hospitality Group, who had the experience of running and operating hotels.

Charles gave $25,000, which was matched by the Dean’s Match program of the Fox School of Business. The $50,000 scholarship is awarded to underrepresented junior and senior students from the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. metro areas. The scholarship will alternate each year, between students from Fox and STHM.

“It’s a shame that many students with the desire and drive can’t always continue school because of finances,” Charles said. “If I can help to make a difference in the lives of even one or two students, it’s a start to giving back what I’ve been given.”

–Josh Fernandez

Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association selects STHM students as scholarship recipients

The Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association selected two students from Temple University’s School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) as recipients of the 2015 Michael M. Boyle Scholarship Award.

Neoshie M. Giles and Sara Lynn Will were honored Dec. 3 at the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association’s The Heart of Philadelphia & Scholarship Awards Luncheon at Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia. They were among seven recipients of the $1,000 scholarship.

The Michael M. Boyle Scholarship recognizes Philadelphia-area high school and college students who are pursuing careers in the hospitality industry. Students selected for the scholarship demonstrate outstanding leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to community service.

Giles, a senior, is a Tourism and Hospitality Management major, with a concentration in Event Leadership. The Philadelphia native wishes to pursue a career in event management. She is the president of Temple’s chapter of the Meeting Professionals International student professional organization.

Will, a sophomore, is a Tourism and Hospitality Management major. The Harrisburg, Pa., native is interested in a career in hotel management. She is active in Temple’s chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality student professional organization.

Established in 2001, the scholarship honors Boyle for his many contributions in helping to revive Philadelphia’s hospitality industry.

–Christopher A. Vito