

CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

Printable Summary

Charlotte W. Newcombe 1890 – 1979

Charlotte Rachel Wilson, a Philadelphia philanthropist, was born on March 28, 1890 in Philadelphia. Her father, a physician and a pharmacist, maintained an interest in pharmaceuticals, and, beginning in the 1890s, invested in Smith Kline, a Philadelphia drug company.

Before his death in 1931, Dr. Wilson secured a firm promise from his daughter that she would never sell any of the Smith Kline stock she would inherit. Her adherence to that promise over the next forty-eight years led to her fortune late in life. At her death, her residual estate was valued at \$32 million.

Mrs. Newcombe greatly valued higher education; during her lifetime she sent the children of several friends to college, taking a vigorous interest in their progress. In her will, Mrs. Newcombe charged her five Trustees with the creation of a scholarship foundation to bear her name and funded the foundation with approximately \$16 million. Her legacy continues under the stewardship of the Foundation's Trustees.

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation is a private, 501(c)3 foundation located in Princeton, NJ and has been making institutional awards since 1981.

Scholarships by the Numbers:

- 120+ Institutions Funded
- 70+ Endowed Institutions
- 48,000+ Students Supported
- \$70 Million+ Scholarships Awarded

Fellowships by the Numbers

- 1,400+ Newcombe Fellows Selected
- \$28 Million+ Fellowship Support

Staff Members



Dr. Gianna Durso-Finley
Executive Director

Gianna Durso-Finley came to the Newcombe Foundation in December of 2016. Prior to that, she was a Professor of Sociology and Assistant Dean for the Honors Program at Mercer County (NJ) Community College, where she had been employed since 2001. She also served MCCC as Director of Institutional Research and Assessment. Dr. Durso-Finley holds an A.B. (cum laude) in Anthropology from Princeton University, and an M.A. and PhD in Sociology from Brown University. Her scholarly research has focused on gender equity at work, labor relations in political transition, universal learning design in higher education, and the impact of pedagogy on students' worldviews.

She served as a site evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, where she specialized in evaluation of strategic planning and assessment. Dr. Durso-Finley recently traveled to Antarctica, her seventh continent. In addition, Dr. Durso-Finley has served on the Advisory Board for the Wrestlers in Business Network, a non-profit organization which supports youth wrestling in Trenton, New Jersey.



Lindsey G. Bohra
Associate Executive Director

Lindsey G. Bohra, MBA came to the Newcombe Foundation in December of 2016. She holds a BS degree in Management Science and Statistics from the University of Maryland, College Park and an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. From 2012 to 2016, she was the Executive Director of Lawrenceville Main Street, a volunteer-led non-profit dedicated to fostering a sense of community and continuing the revitalization of the historic downtown area by organizing events, building partnerships, cultivating the business environment, and enhancing the physical setting of the historic district.

Prior to that, she was a Product Manager for Kimberly-Clark Corporation and is experienced in marketing, social media, event planning, and small business development. She is currently President for The Lawrence Township Community Foundation board of trustees which provides grants to local non-profits. She is also a Special Events Committee Member of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, a 20+ mile bicycle and pedestrian recreational trail, after serving on the board for ten years. In April 2021, she completed a Women in Leadership certificate program from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.