Now in its second year, the Community Scholar Academic Scholarship program continues to provide exciting educational opportunities for local community college graduates. Upon completion of an associate's degree at one of five area community colleges, Community Scholars join BU as part-time evening students to pursue a bachelor's degree in one of Metropolitan College's many undergraduate programs. Currently, 29 Community Scholars are working toward their BU degrees; for many of them, being at Boston University would be difficult without the scholarship.

Alphonso Westley, one of this year's scholarship recipients, is a graduate of Roxbury Community College. He is enthusiastic about his experience at Metropolitan College.

"You really get the experience of being at one of the top-ranked schools in the country, and I feel fortunate that Boston University has decided to invest in me," says Westley, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Urban Affairs.

"The fact that people trust my academic preparation, as well as my integrity and character, is something I am proud of. At age 21, I have a secure job and am furthering my education in this awesome program: this is my biggest success."

Westley has found Boston University to be helpful in facilitating his transition from Roxbury Community College, and is impressed at how supportive MET's academic counselors have been.

Westley hopes to finish his degree in 2008 and proceed directly into a graduate program. His ultimate goal is to have a career working in the community with low-income individuals who are first-generation college students.

For outstanding students with academic aspirations beyond their associate's degree, a bachelor's degree is the logical next step. The Community Scholar program is designed to mitigate financial obstacles for students who wish to further their studies. MET earmarks 25 scholarships per year for graduates of five different area community colleges. The award covers 50 percent of tuition—and with many opportunities for part-time study at MET, students put their scholarships to good use.

Speaking to those who are just beginning the application process, Westley has some words of wisdom: "It is easy, just remember to bring all the necessary paperwork when you are applying and be sure to document who you talk to and the action you take."

Aspiring scholars can learn more by calling Katherine Meyer at 617-358-4610 or visiting www.bu.edu/met/scholarship/community.