RCC | Rockland Community College Foundation



2025 Impact Report

Reporting period is January 1-December 31, 2025

A message from the president



Dear Donors and Friends of Rockland Community College,

It is with deep gratitude and tremendous pride that I extend my heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the RCC Foundation. Your commitment to Rockland Community College continues to transform lives, open doors of opportunity, and strengthen the pathways that help our students achieve their goals.

Because of supporters like you, RCC remains a place where every student—regardless of background, circumstances, or financial means—has the opportunity to pursue a brighter future. Your philanthropy fuels scholarships, academic innovation, student emergency assistance, workforce development, and vital community partnerships. Most importantly, it gives our students the confidence knowing their community believes in them and stands behind their dreams.

As the 9th President of Rockland Community College, I have the privilege of witnessing the profound impact of your generosity every day. I see it in the determination of students who persist through challenges, in faculty and staff who are empowered with resources to elevate student success, and in the collective achievements of a campus committed to excellence and equity. Your investment not only strengthens our college but also benefits the entire Rockland County community.

This Donor Impact Report is a testament to what we have accomplished together. Each story, each achievement, each milestone reflects your belief in the transformative power of education. I am truly inspired by your partnership and honored to steward the mission we share.

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and the entire RCC community, thank you for your continued generosity, leadership, and unwavering support. Together, we are building the future—one student at a time.

Sincerely,

President

Dear Friends and Supporters,



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Thanks to your unwavering generosity, the Rockland Community College Foundation awarded $482,878 in student support over the past year. This extraordinary achievement is more than a number—it represents hundreds of dreams realized, obstacles overcome, and futures forever changed.

This year's theme, "Moving Forward," captures our collective achievements. Every contribution, partnership, and act of kindness has enabled our students to achieve more. Your support empowers first-generation college students, adults returning to school for new careers, and all those committed to making a positive difference in their communities.

The RCC Foundation is essential to maintaining access, equity, and transformative power in higher education. We don't just give scholarships; we invest in students' potential, perseverance, and promise. Thanks to your support, students are gaining confidence and are prepared with the resources needed to succeed academically and in their future endeavors.

Your dedication fuels momentum that extends well beyond our campuses. Together, we are enhancing Rockland County and the region, improving lives, and building a lasting legacy of opportunity for future generations. On behalf of the Foundation and the students we support, thank you for helping the RCC Hawks soar.

With deepest appreciation,

Karen A. Lewis

Executive Director
Rockland Community College Foundation

A message from the executive director

YOUR GIFTS MADE IT HAPPEN
INVESTING IN STUDENTS

Meet Valery Dutan Guartan, a student in the Honor's Program and President's Society

How has the RCC Foundation impacted your ability to focus on your studies at RCC?

Receiving the stipend from the President's Society allowed me to prioritize my academics over working. This support was especially important given the increased workload in the Honors Program. With this focus, I excelled academically enough to qualify for Phi Theta Kappa, unlocking additional scholarship opportunities I can use when I transfer. Overall, this stipend has enhanced my academic performance and will support my future academic and financial plans.

What is the single most important thing you want donors to know about their impact on you and your RCC experience?

If I could share a message with RCC donors, it would be about the broader impact of their contributions beyond just meeting students' financial needs. Their donations allowed me to worry less about finances and focus more on my studies, leadership, and service to the RCC community. The influence of their generosity is evident in the projects I've undertaken on campus, the students I've championed, and the leadership abilities I've gained. Their kindness makes a meaningful difference in the lives of students like me. Overall, my experience at RCC has been more enriching and purposeful thanks to their support, something I hope to repay someday.

Valery is in her final semester at Rockland Community College and plans to continue her studies at New York University School of Professional Studies after graduating this May, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Leadership and Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management.





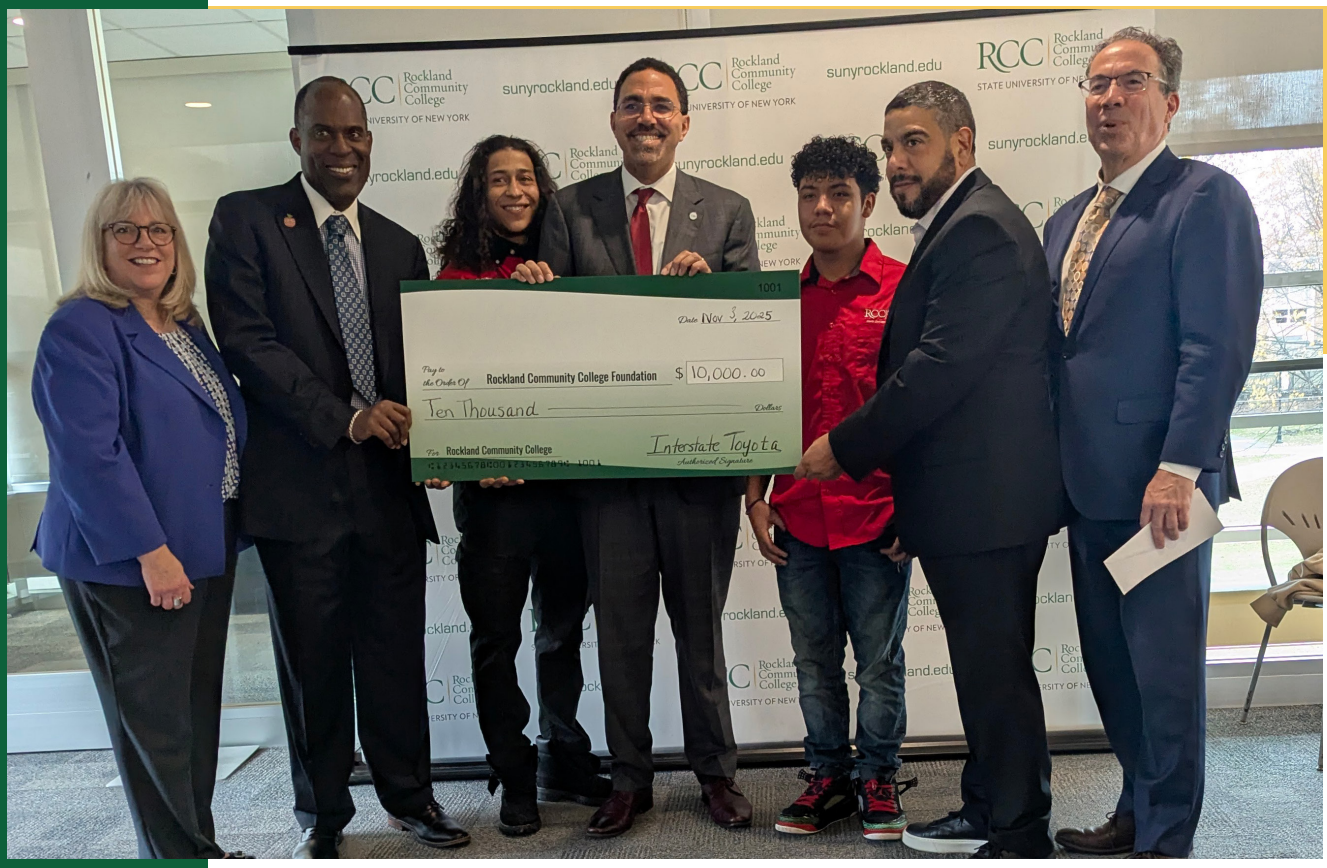
What was your biggest challenge before receiving this support, and how did it change after?

Before this support, my main challenge was balancing work and commitments at RCC. I worked part-time and helped my mother with her job responsibilities, which left me struggling to focus on academics. The President's Society stipend let me work less, focus more on my studies, and immerse myself in student life by getting more involved. Overall, the support changed my experience from exhaustion to balance and improved my academic performance.

Besides the stipend support, the true reward of the President's Society was the professional development and networking that was available through the speaker series and engaging with leaders on campus and in the community. Through this experience, I have become more aware of my long-term goal of working in human resources or a similar field where I can advocate for employees, improve organizational systems, and foster better workplaces. The President's Society provided valuable opportunities that helped me identify a management career path and grow my skills and network. It also clarified my commitment to workplace fairness and employee treatment, shaping my career future.







During his visit to Rockland Community College, SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr., and his leadership team met with students, community leaders, faculty, and staff to discuss workforce development and SUNY Reconnect. He also acknowledged Interstate Toyota's support. Pictured with Chancellor King are (left to right) Dr. Karen Lewis, Dr. Bert Shillingford, Miguel Perez, Kenny Jhonathan Llanos, Teddy Maldonado, and Dr. William Mullaney.

Interstate Toyota Establishes Scholarship

Interstate Toyota created a generous donation to the Rockland Community College (RCC) Foundation to establish the Interstate Toyota Scholars Scholarship, a new fund designed to support second-year students pursuing careers in automotive technology.

The $10,000 contribution, matched by Toyota, underscores Interstate Toyota's longstanding commitment to Rockland County and the community. The dealership continues to demonstrate its dedication to giving back through local initiatives that uplift students and strengthen the region's workforce.

"We are deeply grateful for Interstate Toyota's commitment to our students and to the vitality of Rockland County," said Karen A. Lewis, Ph.D., Executive Director of Development at the Rockland Community College Foundation. "This scholarship will help prepare our students for high-demand automotive careers while reinforcing strong partnerships between local industry and higher education."

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & LOCAL IMPACT

Congratulations Class of 2025

748 graduates

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT 2024–2025

5,974 credit students, 1:21 student-to-faculty ratio, 688 non-credit students, 1:29 student to faculty ratio.

6,662 Total # of credit and non-credit students enrolled in 2024-2025.



34 Countries Represented by F1 Visa International Students

83 International Students Total



A majority of international students are from Japan, Bangladesh, and Brazil

The Riversville Foundation



Over the years, the Riversville Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 250 RCC students, expanding their future opportunities. In October 2025, administrators, donors, and 40 Riversville scholars gathered for a celebratory luncheon hosted by Rockland Community College (RCC) and the RCC Foundation, honoring this year's Riversville Scholars. As a longstanding partner and dedicated supporter of RCC, the Riversville Foundation continues to make impactful investments in student access and success.



"I'm extremely grateful for the support from the John Beers, Riversville, Thomas and Sunday Fagan scholarships, which help ease the financial stress on my family. Receiving each of these scholarships pushes me to pursue my business major with clarity and purpose for my future and helps me make strategic choices." - Javier Roman

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE HUDSON TECHNOLOGIES

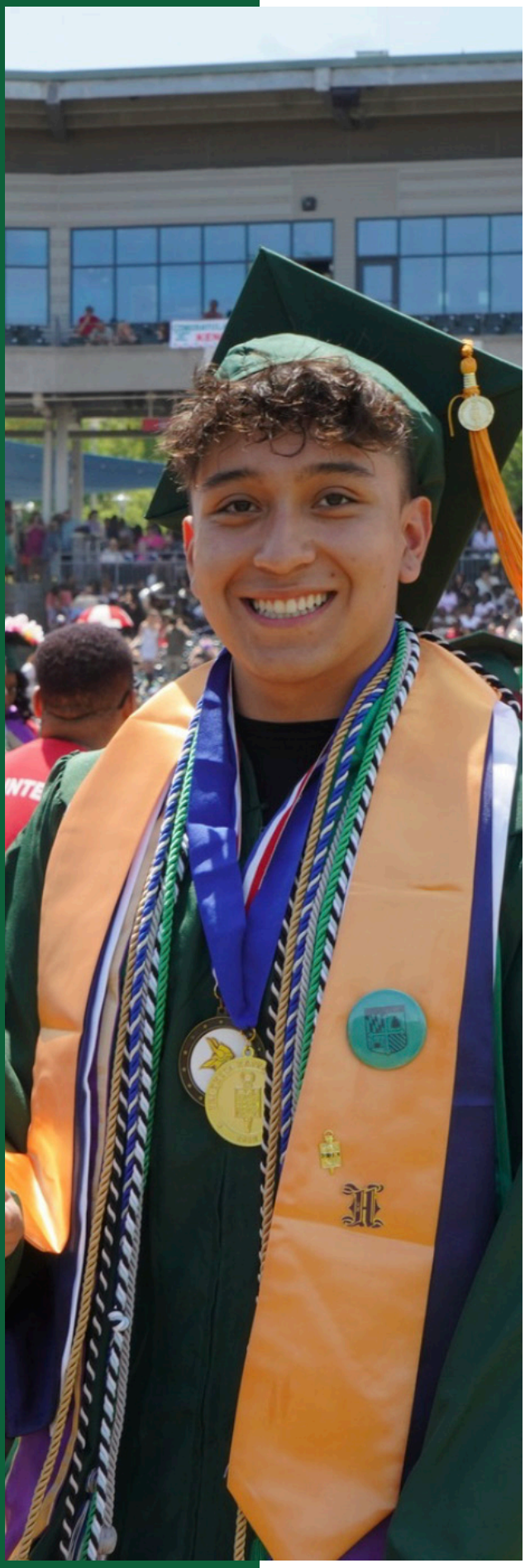
Rockland Community College is proud to celebrate a growing partnership with Hudson Technologies, a national leader in sustainable refrigerant management headquartered in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. This collaboration reflects Hudson Technologies' commitment to investing in the local community and supporting workforce development, environmental stewardship, and hands-on learning for RCC students.

Hudson Technologies strengthened the RCC Auto Technology program by donating HVAC equipment expanding hands-on training opportunities for students, and advance workforce readiness in high-demand technical fields. This contribution builds on their broader partnership with RCC, which focuses on sustainability, clean-technology education, and preparing students for industry careers.

For RCC's donors, this partnership exemplifies the transformative impact of community and industry support. The collaboration helps amplify RCC's mission to make education accessible, relevant, and connected to meaningful career pathways. By investing in RCC students, Hudson Technologies is helping equip the next generation of skilled technicians and sustainability leaders.

Together, Hudson Technologies and RCC are building a cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable future—one student at a time.





WALLETHUB

RCC Ranked No. 4 Community College in New York for Quality and Affordability

Rockland Community College earned a top distinction in 2025, ranking No. 4 among New York's 30 community colleges in WalletHub's "Best & Worst Community Colleges" study. The national analysis evaluated more than 650 two-year institutions using 19 indicators—from cost and financing to graduation rates, educational outcomes, and career success. RCC's strong performance reflects its unwavering commitment to delivering accessible, high-quality education that creates real opportunities for students across the New York metropolitan region.

RCC continues to stand out for its exceptional academic offerings, dedicated faculty, and supportive learning environment. As part of the SUNY system, the College offers 38 degree and certificate programs, along with 12 Workforce Development pathways that prepare students for in-demand careers. With an average class size of just 14 and faculty that includes Fulbright scholars, SUNY award recipients, authors, and artists, students receive personalized attention that fuels their success.

Affordability remains central to RCC's mission. In-state tuition is among the lowest in the region, and students receive more than $14.7 million in financial aid each year. The Rockland Community College Foundation further strengthens access by providing over $375,000 annually.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE 2025
AN EVENING OF IMPACT



On October 16, 2025, the Cultural Arts Center at Rockland Community College hosted over 140 guests for an evening dedicated to celebration, community, and purpose. By the end of the night, the event raised more than $129,000 to fund scholarships, emergency assistance, and innovative programs that support RCC students in achieving their goals. The RCC Foundation recognized leadership and generosity.

Steven H. Porath received the Champion of Change for Impact Award for his unwavering efforts to strengthen Rockland County's economic future.



JPMorgan Chase, represented by Deborah Charlemagne, was awarded the Innovation Award for investing in workforce development and partnering with RCC to boost opportunities.

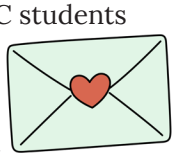
Susan Oelkers-Ramos, a dedicated RCC Trustee, Foundation Board Member, and advocate, was honored with the Philanthropy Award for her over twenty years of steadfast support for RCC students and Rockland Community College.



The evening's highlight was Patricia Gibby sharing how scholarships and her RCC education changed her life. The event served as a reminder of the RCC Foundation's importance and of how the community's generosity shapes students' experiences.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY AT ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Do you have RCC in your estate plan? Learn more about how you and your family may have a lasting impact on RCC students through your planned giving. Contact the RCC Foundation and connect with Karen Lewis at karen.lewis@sunyrockland.edu, or 845-574-4595, for more information and a confidential consultation.



RCC Foundation Student Support



Student Artists Commissions/Support

2025 - $8,998.81 | 2024 - $528

Internship Support

2025 - $15,000.00 | 2024 - $2,500.00

Emergency Funds

2025 - $3,885.05 | 2024 - $5,404.30

Honors Program Support

Cultural Outings & Cambridge Student Abroad Program

2025 - $14,962.00 | 2024 - $12,185.12

President's Society

2025 - $26,000 | 2024 - $26,000

Scholarship Awards

2025 - $324,789.50 | 2024 - $329,504.27

Herbert Kurz President Student Support Fund

2025 - $59,228.36

None in 2024

RCC Foundation Student Support

2025 - $482,878 | 2024 - $376,121.69

Celebrating by the numbers 2025

Total Private 253 Scholarships Awarded

5 New Scholarships Added

95 Local Community Partners

$129,164 Champions of Change Dollars Raised

Foundation Board Giving Percentage 92%

Total Unique Donors: 211

Alumni - 34

Corporations - 58

Foundations - 6

Faculty & Staff - 39

Average first gift - $178

Financial Overview

In 2025, the Foundation's revenue reached $1.19 million, fueled by generous donor contributions, strong investment returns, and the success of our signature events. In-kind support, valued at $293,229, further enhanced our ability to operate efficiently and allocate more resources toward student and program success.

Total expenditures were $932,829, including administrative and fundraising costs essential to sustaining the Foundation's mission.

The Foundation saw a net asset increase of $264,568, bringing total net assets to $6,012,835 by the end of the fiscal year. This growth improves long-term stability and boosts our ability to support RCC students and the college in the future.



"Every dollar entrusted to the RCC Foundation is an investment in someone's future."

- Walter Goldman, RCC Foundation Board Chair.

RCC Foundation Financial Overview

Revenue Source	Amount
Contributions	$400,412
Investment Gains	$374,592
Special Event Revenues	$129,164
In-Kind Contributions (administrative services & other support)	$293,229
Total Revenues	$1,197,397

Expenditure Category	Amount
Scholarships & Program Support	$482,878
Administrative & Fundraising Expenses	$156,722
Other Expenses (In-kind services)	$293,229
Total Expenditures	$932,829

Asset Type (as of December 31, 2024)	Amount
Cash	$724,931
Investments	$4,835,593
Accounts & Pledge Receivables	$59,356
Total Assets	$5,768,515
Liabilities	($20,248)
Net Assets	$5,748,267

Net assets as of December 31, 2025	Amount
Net asset increase	$264,568
Total net assets as of December 31, 2024	$5,748,267
Total net assets as of December 31, 2025	$6,012,835

The purpose of this unaudited statement is to provide an overview of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS



A MUSIC ROOM DEDICATION FILLED WITH GRATITUDE

In January 2025, the Rockland Community College campus community gathered to honor the legacy of Eric Dranoff, Immediate Past Chair of the RCC Foundation Board and a steadfast champion of student success. Friends, colleagues, and family members gathered for a heartfelt dedication of the newly named Eric Dranoff Music Room, a space that reflects his deep belief in the power of education and the arts to inspire learning and foster connection.

RISING TO THE TOP, RCC NURSING RANKED #2 IN NEW YORK



Rockland Community College's Nursing Program continues to stand among the strongest in New York State—an achievement made possible in part by the generosity of donors who support high-quality, accessible education. This year, NursingProcess.org ranked RCC's Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Program No. 2 among 153 New York State Board of Nursing–approved schools, highlighting the program's academic excellence, exceptional NCLEX performance, affordability, and strong reputation among nursing institutions.

This recognition underscores the commitment of RCC's faculty, staff, and students to excellence in nursing education. The program prepares graduates to meet the evolving needs of today's healthcare system by integrating scientific knowledge, nursing research, and a philosophy centered on compassionate, patient-focused care. Tuition costs at RCC remain significantly lower than other colleges in the state, ensuring that aspiring nurses—many of whom return to serve our community—have an affordable pathway into this vital profession.

This achievement is a direct reflection of donor impact. Your support helps sustain the resources, clinical opportunities, and faculty excellence that allow RCC nursing students to thrive. As the program continues to build on its strong outcomes and statewide recognition, your generosity ensures that the next generation of nurses is well-prepared, well-trained, and ready to care for our community with skill and compassion. Because of you, RCC remains one of New York's premier training grounds for the nurses our region and our state depend on.

FROM 2025



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

On April 29, 2025, the Rockland Community College Foundation Scholarship Celebration honored students who received scholarships during the 2024-25 academic year. Among them was Robin Garrison, an adult student awarded the Hudson Valley Investment Advisors Scholarship. Ira Lispon, a dedicated supporter of the Joel Lipson Scholarship, and his wife, Jill, who created the award in memory of his late father, were also featured. The event concluded with inspiring remarks from Professor Peter Arvanites, a cherished faculty member and RCC Foundation liaison, who shared his insights with the students. Overall, the Foundation awarded more than $324,790 in scholarships and support to over 253 students.

RCC SCHOLARS NAMED AMONG THE NATION'S BEST



Pictured left to right: Natalia Benitez Levina, Dr. Meghan Nolan, and Morenikeji Fashipe

Two exceptional Rockland Community College graduates, Morenikeji Fashipe and Natalia Benitez Levina, were selected as recipients of the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship—chosen from more than 1,600 applicants nationwide, with only 90 students earning this prestigious honor.

Morenikeji, a distinguished leader in RCC's Sam Draper Honors Program, is pursuing her studies in Biological Sciences at Binghamton University. Natalia, another honors program graduate, was also recognized for her academic excellence and determination. She is currently studying at Pace University, majoring in Communication and Media Studies with a minor in Arts Management.

Their achievements are a powerful example of how donor support helps RCC students rise to extraordinary opportunities—turning potential into life-changing success.

A special thank you to all of the RCC Faculty and Staff who have supported our fundraising efforts throughout the last year.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: THE SAM DRAPER HONORS PROGRAM



RCC's nationally recognized Sam Draper Honors Program remains a hallmark of academic excellence, with more than 3,000 graduates since its founding in 1977. The program offers students an enriched academic experience grounded in rigorous discourse, critical thinking, and close mentoring from distinguished faculty.

As the Honors community continues to grow, Rockland Community College and the RCC Foundation are planning a special Sam Draper Honors Program Alumni Reunion to celebrate decades of achievement and connection.

For details or to get involved, please contact Karen Lewis, Executive Director of the RCC Foundation, at 845-574-4595 or karen.lewis@sunyrockland.edu.



Baseball Captured Region XV Title in 2025

On May 12, 2025, the SUNY Rockland Community College men's baseball team won against SUNY Westchester to claim the 2025 Region XV Championship.

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