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Conn. College receives \$20m from Granite Telecommunications CEO

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A \$20 million gift may be pocket change to **Harvard University**, which received a \$400 million donation a few months ago. But for 1,900-student **Connecticut College** in New London, Conn., it's an unimaginable windfall.

The inconceivable became reality this week, when **Robert Hale Jr.**, CEO of Quincy-based **Granite Telecommunications**, and his wife, **Karen**, gave that sum to the school, which is Hale's alma mater (he's a 1988 grad).

"It's a transformative gift," said spokeswoman **Deborah MacDonnell**. "When you look at the \$400 million to Harvard, this is a comparable gift for us as a small liberal arts college."

Half the money — the largest donation the school has ever received — will be used for scholarships, and the rest will be split between its career program and athletic facilities.

Asked what motivates his philanthropy, Hale, 49, quoted **Maya Angelou**: "To those who are given much, much is expected."

Granite's employees benefit from that largesse, too. When the company hit \$1 billion in revenue last year, it gave each of its then-1,300 employees a \$1,000 bonus and raffled off another million in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to a grand prize of \$100,000.

Granite, which Hale founded with his late father in 2002, now has 1,425 employees. Of the company's rapid growth, Hale had this to say: "Trying like hell!" — SACHA PFEIFFER

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/09/09/conn-college-receives-from-granite-telecommunications-ceo/Px83JGPI2DaAb2nV5Ed8II/story.html>



CHRIS MORRIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Robert Hale Jr., Granite Telecommunications CEO.