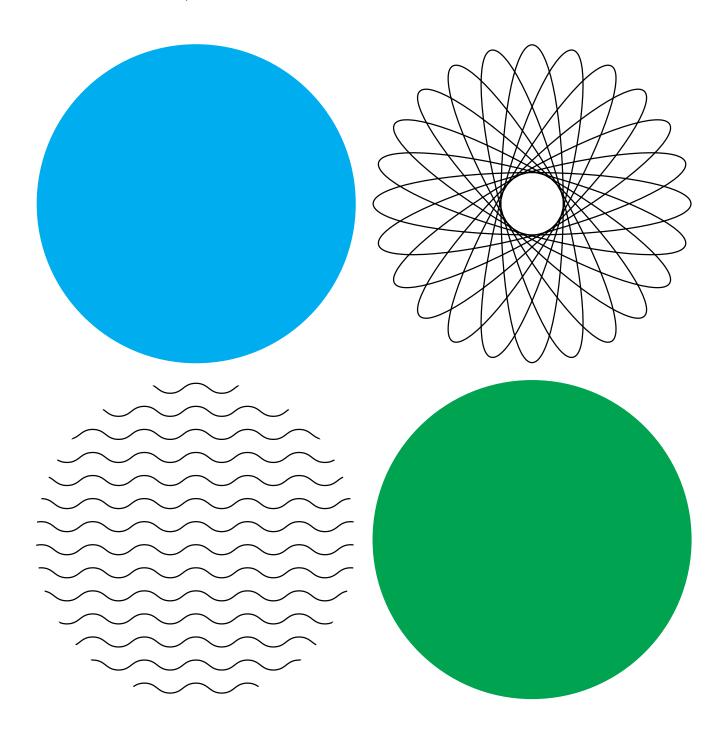
Everything you need to know about scholarships...

For students, reviewers and donors



Collaboratory[™]

Welcome to the greatest community problem-solving initiative in American history. You might ask what scholarships have to do with solving community problems. If you think about that for a moment, you realize that the answer is, everything.



Helpful Links So You Don't Have to Fish For Them Later :)

Main Application
https://collaboratory.org/to-kaleidoscope/

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

Contact Us
scholarships@collaboratory.org

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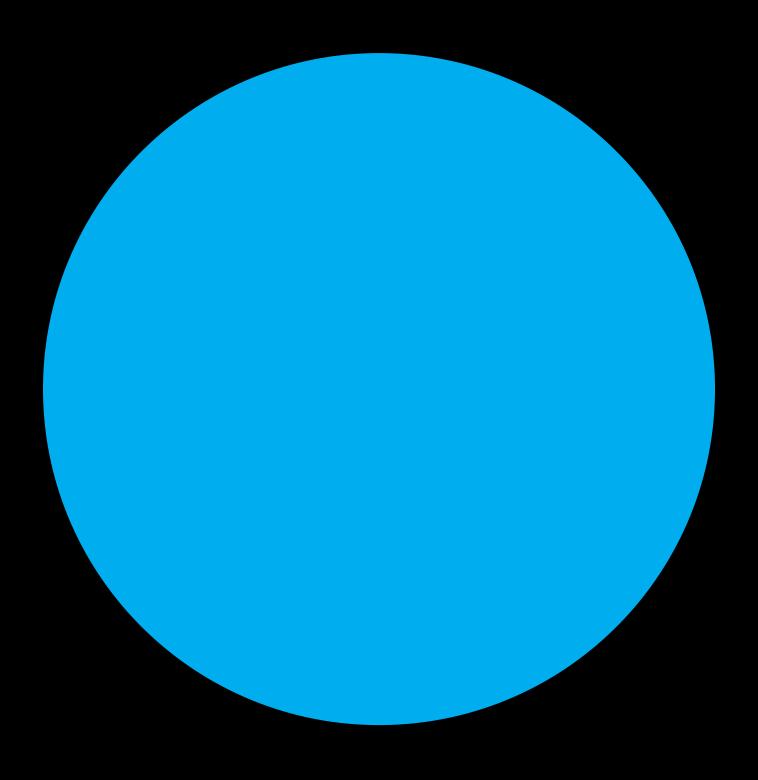
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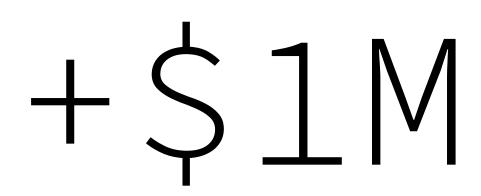
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Section One Basics: For Everyone



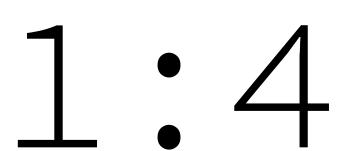
We give away over \$1 million in scholarships to students in this region every year.

Over 100 donors make this possible via their belief in human potential and the aspirations of our children. Scholarships are available to high school seniors, college undergrads and college grad students, based on need, merit, a student's choice of school, their major, their GPA, community involvement and demographic information. Applicants must live in Southwest Florida (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry or Lee County) or have graduated from a high school located there.



My mother, Dr. Ann
Murphy Knight, was an
educator for over 40
years and believed in
dreams and dreamers.
After she passed, I
created a scholarship
fund in her name to
help students fulfill
their potential every
year. It's one of the
greatest sources of
fulfillment for me as
it would be for her.

- Dr. Harrison Knight Scholarship Fund Donor



One out of every four students who applied for a scholarship last year received one.

\$5.7K

The average scholarship amount we awarded to each recipient last year was \$5,781.



We award scholarships on three timelines: one-year, two-year, and fouryear. Most students receive a one-year scholarship.



Each year, approximately thirty-four students receive a scholarship that is renewable for four years.



It's a very rewarding process. It gives us a window into the community where we live—we get insight into who's going to be running this community in the future, and we get to be part of strengthening its future...

- Frank and Mary Jo Brown Application Reviewers

Over 200 volunteers lend their time to read and score applications in order to arrive at scholarship decisions. Scores are based on the quality of the Main Application.



I'm a first
generation college
student. Without
this scholarship I
wouldn't be able
to make my dream
of going out of
state for college
a reality. When I
graduate I want to
help provide food
security for our
community and make
the world a better
place.

Cynthia Padgett2020 Scholarship Recipient



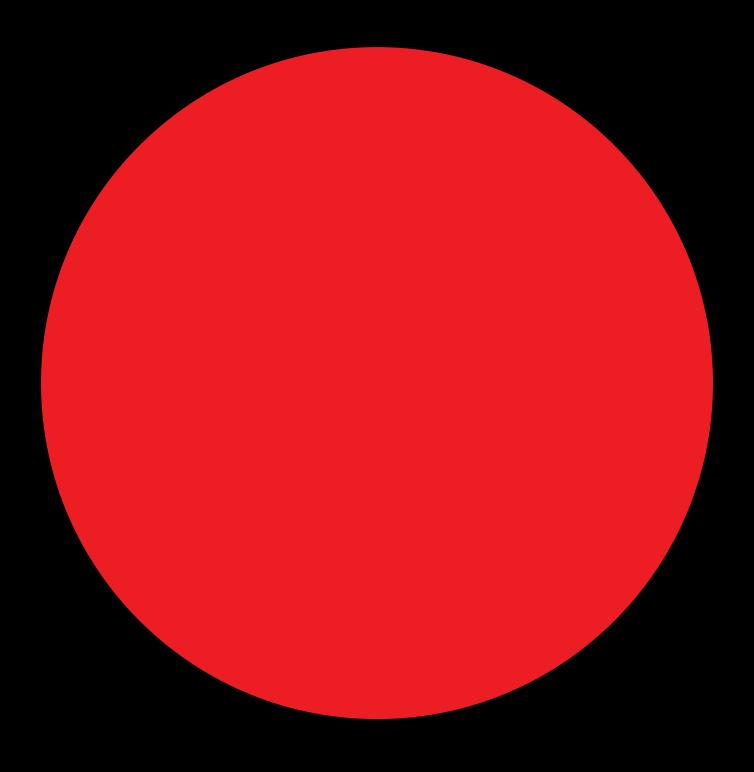
Yes, we have over 100 donors and 150 scholarship funds with different criteria and eligibility. But you only have to fill out one Main Application. We'll figure out which funds best suit you.

To apply, students
must submit the Main
Application online.
There's more on that in
the section for students
up ahead.

We use the "Kaleidoscope" online platform for the Main Application and review. It looks a little different from our website, but it works and Kaleidoscope's technical support is great. Their number, if you need any help is: 656 343 3445. Contact us if you're having any trouble using it.

You can reach us at:

- 239 274 5900
- scholarships@collaboratory.org



Section Two For Students

For Students

Welcome. This section will tell you everything you need to know about applying for a scholarship. It's about a fifteen-minute read. Please go through it slowly and carefully to make sure you understand all that's being asked of you. You should be proud that you're applying. We're proud of you already!

The Complete, Step-By-Step, Can't-Mess-It-Up-If-You-Follow-This, Student Guide to the Application Process...

For Students

1. Breathe

Take a deep breath. Relax. Don't think too far ahead. Don't overthink. Take it a step at a time. It's not as complicated as it might seem at first. Then, read on. It will take you about fifteen minutes to read this and you'll be very glad that you did.

2. Quick Overview

When this is all over, you will have done five things: Made sure you qualified geographically, got a recommendation letter, got your latest high school transcript, got a FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR), and completed the Main Application online. You can do those in any order you want, but you won't be able to click "Submit" on the Main Application until you've done the other things because the application platform will not allow you to finish until you've uploaded them. Got it? OK, let's break all that down now.

3. Are You Eligible?

Make sure you're eligible. You must:

- Be a resident of Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry or Lee County
- Be either a (1) high school senior, (2) graduate of a local high school, (3) college undergraduate, or (4) college graduate student pursuing a post-secondary education

4. Get a Recommendation Letter

The Main Application will require you to upload one recommendation letter. Ask for your letter of recommendation at least a month before it is due to give the person adequate time to complete your letter. This letter of recommendation needs to be written by someone outside of your family who can attest to your character. Perfect people to ask for a recommendation letter from are teachers, coaches, managers, church leaders, nonprofit leaders, etc. Think about someone who really knows you and believes in you. Let them know what personal characteristics you would like them to include in your letter. Ask them to talk about your passions, the things that you're particularly good at, even if they're not traditional. We understand that not every student has access to multiple people who can write them a quality letter of recommendation, so we require just one. Letters of recommendation help give scholarship application reviewers a different perspective into your life. If you get more than one letter of recommendation, upload the letter you feel best represents you.

5. Get Your High School Transcript

The Main Application will require you to upload your most recent transcript. This contains your grades and your gradepoint-average (GPA). Several of our scholarships require what is called an, "unweighted GPA," and we look to each applicant's transcript to verify your unweighted GPA, so make sure to ask your school for that, specifically. Make absolutely sure that your transcript is your most recent one!

6. Complete Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Get Your Student Aid Report (SAR). What a mouthful!

- The Main Application will ask you to upload your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR). That's a lot of initials! To get that, you have to complete what's called a "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA) application. This is a federal government application that assesses your financial need. The form lives on a federal government website. You fill out the application form here: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa.
- The application is available as of October 1st of every year.
- This application helps us determine your "need" eligibility.
 We require it for all scholarships to increase your aid opportunity and help ensure financial stability throughout your postsecondary journey.
- Many students believe FAFSA is used only for federal financial aid. That is not the case. Many private grantmakers, like Collaboratory, use FAFSA to determine need. Completing the FAFSA brings you one step closer to being able to apply for all financial aid opportunities available to you. If you are not able to complete the FAFSA for reasons out of your control, there is a FAFSA Excuse Form that can be provided to us by your guidance counselor. Ask them about it, or contact us at scholarships@collaboratory.org.

7. Helpful Overview of the Main Application

The Main Application is online and has three sections as follows:

- **Section 1** has what we call, "pre-qualifying questions." They determine the scholarships for which you may be eligible. It's basic stuff. Easy peasy. Read each question thoroughly. Answer honestly.
- **Section 2** allows you to pick the scholarship or scholarships you'd like to apply for by clicking on the box next to its name. The list is based on the ones we've determined you are eligible for. You can choose more than one. You will not be able to apply for scholarships outside of this list, so again, be sure you are answering the prequalifying questions with accuracy and honesty. If the list is empty, it means we could not find a scholarship that you'd be eligible for. But don't go there yet.
- Section 3 has six essay questions. You have 300 words for each answer. We're looking for quality here. Make sure you answer each question in a way that allows us to see who you really are as a person. Be you. Don't try to be the person you think we want you to be. We want you to be you. Make sure you answer each part of the question. (Notice that some of the questions are actually made up of several questionsaddress each one). These are all online, and you'll answer them online, but these are the six questions so you can start thinking about your answers: 1) What community problem do you want to solve and how do you plan to use your future success to help solve it? 2) If you had an entire day and no limits on what you could do, buy or experience, how would you spend this day and why? 3) The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback or failure that made you think you were not going to make it

through, but you did. How did that affect you? What did you learn from the experience? 4) If you could have dinner with one living person and one historical figure who has inspired you, who would your choices be, and what would you want to discuss? 5) What is your passion and how did you discover it? 6) Write a letter to your future self. What would you like him/her/they to remember about the person you are today? If you have questions about these questions, contact us: scholarships@collaboratory.org.

8. Using the Kaleidoscope Platform to Complete the Main Application

The Main Application can be found online here, but read this entire section before you explore it:

https://collaboratory.org/to-kaleidoscope/

- Kaleidoscope is the name of the company whose online platform we use for scholarship applications and reviews.
 You shouldn't find it too difficult to navigate
- There are 55 questions, and it takes about an hour to complete
- Your email address will be your user ID. Don't use your high school email address because you won't have access to it after graduation. Make sure you do have access to whatever email you use!
- Write down the user ID and password and keep it safe
- Take your time! You have the ability to logout and log back in to the platform as you please. Give yourself enough time to complete the application without rushing
- Check your email regularly for updates
- Be sure to complete the entire application

 As we said above, you won't be able to click "Submit" until you've uploaded the recommendation letter, transcript, and FAFSA Student Aid Report

9. Important Writing Tips for Your Application, From Five-Year Reviewer, Mary Yanaskas...

- Be sure to answer each question separately.
- Consider your answers to be your way of introducing yourself to the reviewers.
- Be creative!
- Use spell check and grammar check.
- Have someone review and proofread your application, like a parent, teacher or employer—someone who is enthusiastic about helping you.
- The platform allows you to make a PDF of your Main Application. Please preview your application PDF before submitting it to make sure everything uploaded properly and that you like what you see!
- Use concrete examples to support what you are writing about.
- You do not have a lot of time to complete your application, so, it's important to start early. Give yourself time to make revisions. Give yourself time to brainstorm. The more time you give yourself, then the more time you have to perfect your work.
- Make sure you are communicating clearly. Re-read your work.
 Take breaks. Read your responses out loud and listen to your word choices. Be concise. You may not have enough space to tell us everything, so make your words count.

- Seek guidance from your teachers, coaches, managers, counselors, parents, siblings, and friends. Type all of your responses into a separate document before entering them into the Kaleidoscope platform—that will make editing easiest for you.
- To help you prepare for the essay questions, make a list of five things that help describe the person you are.
- Choose someone who is very close to you, and ask them to make a list of five things that help describe the person you are.
- Be careful of what we call, "eloquent vagueness." In other words, trying to sound good without actually telling us anything about yourself. Keep in mind that reviewers can tell if you are only allowing them to scratch the surface of who you are as a student. Reviewers don't see your name, so it is okay to be shamelessly vulnerable. Answer the essays in a way that allows reviewers to make a solid decision about whether our donor's investment in your education will make an impact. Reviewers cannot make this judgment based on fluff and unclear ideas. A way to get around eloquent vagueness is by practicing a very good strategy that we call, "peer review." Ask a close friend or family member—someone who knows your blind spots and/or story for feedback. Ask questions like, "Does this application represent who I am?" "Does this application just scratch the surface, or is it deep enough for the reviewer to get a good understanding of the type of person I am and the type of student I will be?"

- Be careful of just making a list of things you've done. Our reviewers are actually trained to score those kinds of lists poorly. In other words, they will give you a low score if they see that. If you simply list community involvement, leadership positions, job history, etc. without any context, you'll be hurting your chances. If we wanted information that way, we would simply ask students to upload a resume. Describe your accomplishments. Don't just list them. If the word count limit prohibits you from describing all of your involvements and accomplishments, pick the descriptions that best represent you.
- Provide enough insight for a reviewer to fully understand what you are describing. For example, if you are the president of Blue Wave and you go on and on about what that position consists of but you never explain what Blue Wave is, the reviewer will be lost. Instead, describe the Blue Wave as, for example, "a club that boosts school pride and helps students feel at home on campus." Same goes for popular clubs like National Honor Society, Interact Club, Key Club, etc. Same goes for acronyms. Some common acronyms may not be known by reviewers who have been out of school for a long time. For example, NHS can stand for multiple things. Tell the reviewer what the acronym is when you first use it. For example: "National Honor Society (NHS)."

• Be very careful that you don't partially answer a question that consists of a series of questions. Most have several parts. The main thing applicants lose points for is not answering every part of the question. For example, let's say the question is "What is a community problem you want to solve and how do you plan to use your future success to help solve it?" You need to recognize that this is a twopart question. A lot of applicants will only talk about the community problem they want to solve. While going on-andon about the problem, their personal experience involving the problem, and the volunteering they've done related to the problem they forget to connect their future success. They forget to say how they intend to impact the problem. Forgetting to mention their future success results in them losing points and therefore being less competitive. Pay attention to word counts and be concise enough to get all of the information we need into the answer while answering all parts of the question. We know that may be tough! But if your passion is sincere and your description is good, who you are will come through.

10. You Probably Won't Be Asked to Interview In-Person, But...

Usually, unless you are applying for a scholarship of \$10,000 or more, you will not need to participate in an inperson interview. Scholarships that award \$10,000 or more do require an interview. There are a few other scholarships that require an interview. Each year, Collaboratory hosts 30-40 students during the scholarship interview process. Scholarship interviews are conducted by members of Collaboratory's Board of Trustees and local community leaders. Students are asked questions that help interviewers get to know you beyond the

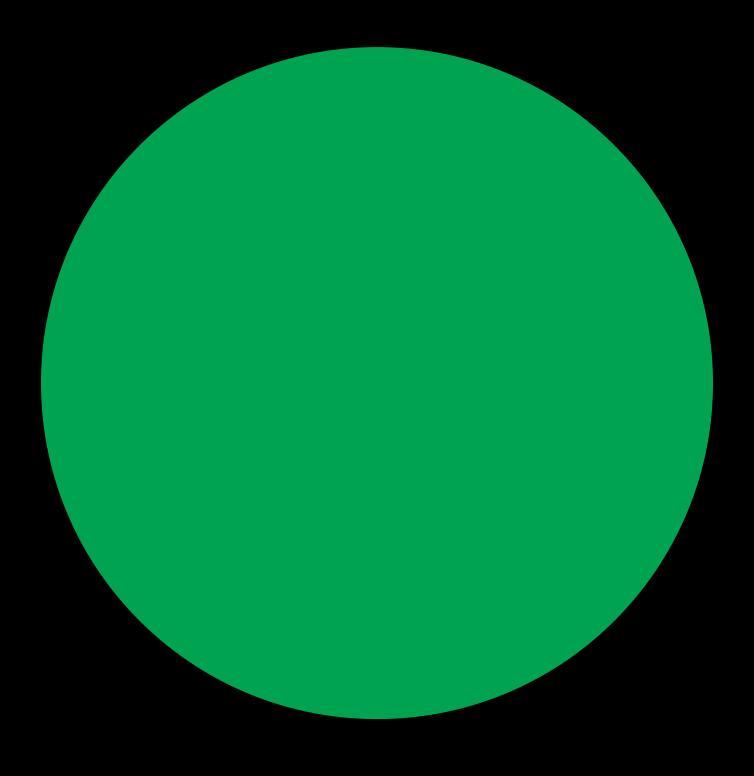
impression they formed from your application. Interviews are conducted based on your availability and can be done virtually. These are some of the questions you might be asked...

- What school will you be attending in the fall and what major will you be studying? Why did you choose your school and major?
- What has been a difficult obstacle or challenge in your life and how have you overcome it?
- Who has been the most influential person in shaping your career goals and aspirations? What qualities do you admire in that person and why?
- Imagine yourself 10 years from now. What do you see yourself doing and what is the type of impact that you would like to have?
- If you could live anywhere and do anything, where would you live and what would you do?
- What is the most memorable moment for you that happened during your four years of high school?
- If I gave you a million dollars for you to use to solve a community problem, what community problem would you solve and how would you use the money to help solve it?

11. How Do You Find Out If You Got a Scholarship, and When?

- You will be notified by email and snail mail near the end of May. Make sure we have the right home mailing address for you! Also, check the email you provided to us regularly sometimes, our emails will go to your junk folder. Don't want that!
- If you were not selected you can always come back and apply for a scholarship during a different academic year.
- If you do receive a scholarship, we will let you know the name of the scholarship you received, the amount of the

- scholarship and if the scholarship is a one-time award or if it is renewable.
- You'll be asked to verify your email address. Once it's verified, you can sign up for our recipient webinar that will go over everything you need to get your scholarship check mailed to your school.
- We also attend high school senior award nights, to present you with a certificate for your achievement. Collaboratory's Board of Trustees members enjoy attending senior award nights to take part in these monumental moments in our students' lives. If you don't have an award night celebration or if we don't have anyone who is able to attend, your certificate will be sent by mail.
- The snail mail we send you will also contain a letter of congratulations, a certificate of achievement, your donor's story and information on additional benefits of being a scholarship recipient of Collaboratory.



Section Three For Reviewers

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For Reviewers

Thanks to all our reviewers, past, present and future. And thanks for your interest in becoming a reviewer.

Collaboratory has over 200 volunteer scholarship application reviewers. They come from all walks of life and bring their life experiences, jobrelated skills and education with them. Our reviewers look forward to reviewing applications each year, and most continue for multiple years, describing it as an extremely fulfilling and humbling experience.

1. Reviewer Basics

- Each one of our applications will be reviewed by three volunteer reviewers—individuals who do not look alike, who do not have any personal connections with any applicant and who are passionate about making sure our students are set up to accomplish their dreams and goals.
- Our reviewers review applications based on the quality of the application. They are not checking criteria and are not expected to know about each of our scholarship funds; that's where our Scholarships Department comes in. We review each application and make sure the scholarships being applied for are scholarships for which the applicant is actually eligible.
- Reviewers are able to access their assigned applications digitally on the reviewer dashboard on Kaleidoscope— the platform we use for applications and reviews.
- Each reviewer gets assigned 10-15 applications and spends, on average, between 8 and 10 hours reviewing them over a three-week period.

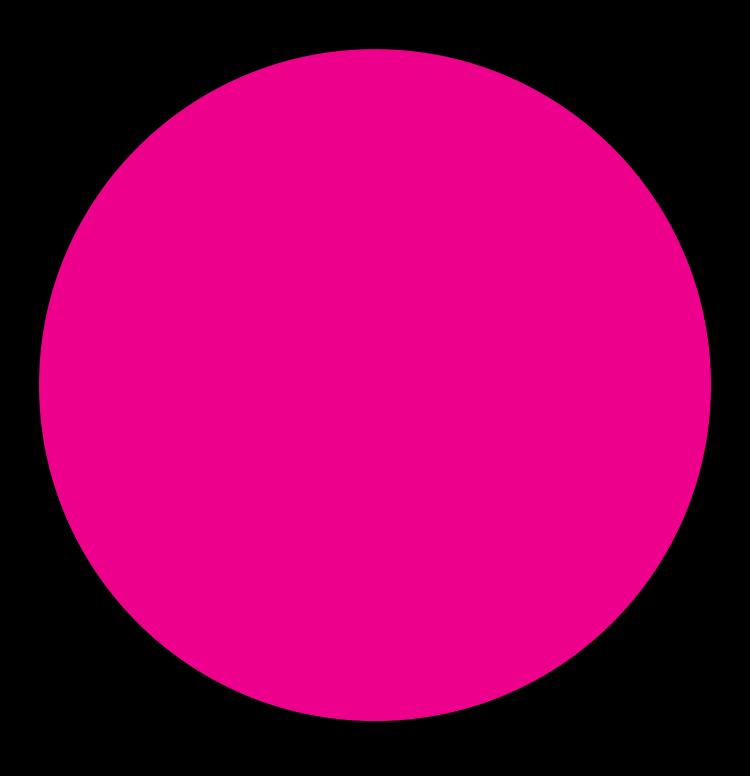
2. Calendar

- Scholarship reviews begin each February.
- Trainings are held every January. Trainings include a tutorial on how to use our technology, as well as tips and tricks from other reviewers on how to best manage reviewing scholarship applications. Reading about our students' journeys are inspiring, nostalgic, interesting, heartbreaking, beautiful—many emotions, all at once.
- After the application close date in January, applications are assigned to groups of diverse scholarship application reviewers. The scores that come from our volunteer scholarship application reviewers determine 1) who moves forward to further evaluation by selecting outside scholarship committees, 2) who moves forward to scholarship interviews, or 3) who moves forward as a recommended scholarship recipient.
- Around early May, after scholarship interviews are conducted and outside committees determine who they would like to award, recommended scholarship recipients are presented to Collaboratory's Board of Trustees for approval. After gaining Board approval, notifications begin.

Start your future creating futures...

To learn more about becoming a scholarship reviewer, please email:

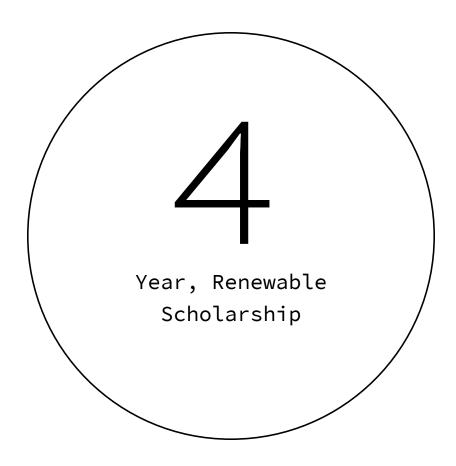
scholarships@collaboratory.org. To be a reviewer, all you need is access to internet and to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure the privacy of our applicants.



For Four Four For Donors & Friends

Thank you to all those who make our scholarships possible, and welcome to those of you considering investing in students, and in the future of our community.

When it comes to funding scholarships, we're flexible. There are several options available to you. But before you consider them, we'd like to encourage you to think big and think about the result you want to have your giving produce.



A four-year, renewable scholarship is the most effective type of scholarship to fund. Research shows that a donor's investment is most impactful when it ensures a student's financial stability throughout their postsecondary journey. Junior and senior years are the years most students drop out—almost always because they can no longer afford school. Knowing they have a scholarship they can depend on inspires and helps a student stay on track. They know they have a champion backing their dreams. It also allows us to build a four-year relationship of support with those students.



We have three options for funding scholarships. All of these can be established with the requirement that they fund four-year scholarships, and each can be established with any selection criteria you choose.

- 1. Endowed Fund: This is our most popularly chosen fund. These funds award scholarships in perpetuity.
- 2. Pass-Through Fund: These are perfect for a group of donors that raises money annually to award to students.
- 3. Designated Fund: These award money directly to a college or university of your choice, and the selected institution awards the scholarship to a student who attends their school.

Other ways you can support students.

You can contribute to our general scholarship fund, which gives us the flexibility to use your gift where it's needed most. You can also make a gift to help scholarship recipients who encounter unexpected emergencies, like a car repair or family or health issue, that might derail their plans and keep them from completing their education and following their dream.

Students' dreams flow from your dreams.

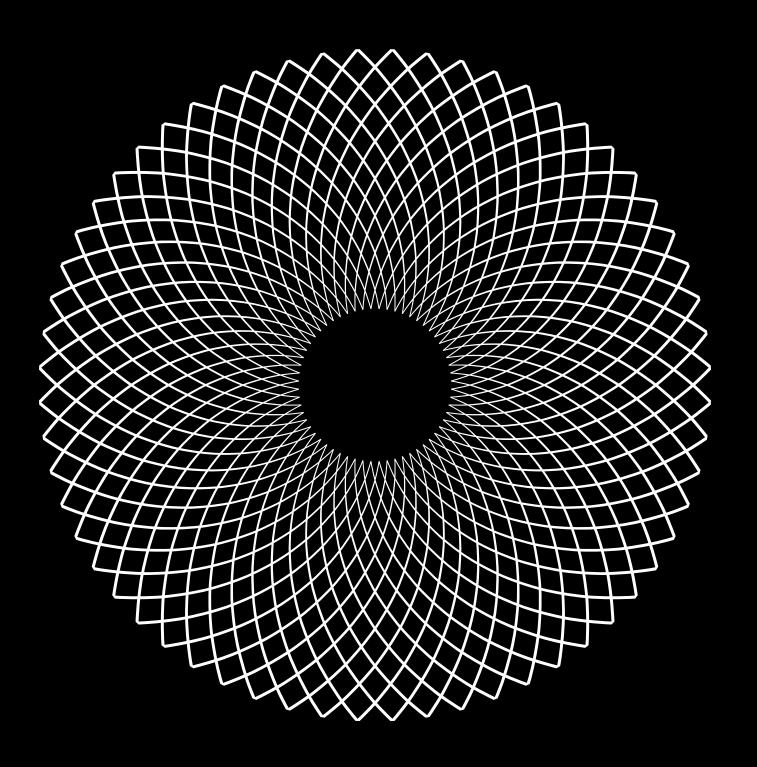
Have you always wanted to be one of those people that champion students? That students look up to, and that inspires them to give back in their own lives? To take the next step toward your dream, contact our development team at give@collaboratory.org. We'll set up a time to talk at your convenience, learn more about your passions and intentions, and get you started on the path to building the future of our community.

Thanks to all of you who make these scholarships possible.

American Association of University Women Sue Bruce T. Gora Photography Scholarship Fund Gottcent Memorial Scholarship Fund William L. Graddy Law School Scholarship Fund Jordan Abdo Memorial Scholarship Fund Frances Harris Gresham Scholarship Fund Judge Isaac Anderson, Jr. Scholarship Fund Matt Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund Lewis B. Barber Memorial Scholarship Fund Hotchkiss Scholarship Fund Daniel J. and Jane H. Berktold Columbia College Scholarship Fund Chip Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund Jane H. Berktold Scholarship Fund George E. Judd Scholarship Fund James Bilder Scholarship Fund Keen Family Nursing Scholarship Fund Jane Cavanna Bleakly Scholarship Fund Doc Keen Memorial Scholarship Fund Robert A. Kleckner Scholarship Fund John S. Bleakly Scholarship Fund Howard P. and Magdalen K. Breitenbach Isabel Mayer Kirkpatrick Scholarship Fund Scholarship Fund Love of Bonita Empowerment Scholarship Fund Carl E. Brooks Scholarship Fund Lee County Library Sciences Scholarship Fund Southwest Florida Incorporated - Ralph A Richardson Chamber Scholarship Fund Gail Markham Believing in Girls Scholarship Fund John & Ruth Childe Scholarship Fund Carol Patti McLaughlin Scholarship Fund Couse Gram Scholarship Fund Julie Willard Mikell Fund Certified Public Accountant's Scholarship Fund Ruth Messmer Scholarship Fund D&A Scholarship Fund Judge William J. Nelson Scholarship Fund Doctors Ira and Udaya Dash Nursing Scholarship Fund James D. & Eleanor F. Newton Children's Fund Jo Anne Olmsted Fund Dunbar Heritage Scholarship Fund Robert B. and Dorothy Pence Scholarship Fund Anne M. Fassett Memorial Scholarship Fund Paul B. and Aline Flynn Scholarship Fund Chet and Janett Perry Rotary Club of Fort Myers Scholarship Fund Charles and Margaret Foster Scholarship Fund David G. Robinson Fund for the Arts Doris W. Frey Scholarship Fund Faye Lynn Roberts Education Scholarship Fund

Dorothy Curtis Brown Scholarship Fund in — memory of Ann Nutt
Patricia Means Scholarship Fund
Immokalee Achievement Award Fund
- Gerard C. Mehr Scholarship Fund
477 - D
 Allen B. and Elizabeth W. Shevach Scholarship Fund
— William (Billy) R. Shevach Scholarship Fund
Lloyd & Shirley Matthai Scholarship Fund
Lloyd and Shirley Matthai Scholarship Fund — for High School Students
 Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund
 Stef'an Strawder - A Mother's Love Foundation Scholarship Fund
Spring Run Charitable Foundation — Scholarship Fund
 Ann and Tom Smoot Scholarship Fund
Building Futures Fund (Fiddlesticks)
Steven F. Lux Scholarship Fund for Police Officers
Jandan Ashlau Cuthain Cabalanahin Fund
Jordan Ashley Gutheim Scholarship Fund—————————————————————————————————
Discovery Day Academy Scholarship Fund
Mrs. Cathy Riedel Scholarship Fund
— James F. Chelius, Jr., Esq. Scholarship Fund
Dr. Janet Marderness Scholarship Fund
USMC Cpl Thomas J. Jardas Scholarship Fund
Kathy Chisum Angel Scholarship Fund for Nursing

Linda L. Mann Scholarship Fund for Music Majors Kirsten Olson Unicorn Fund The Edouard and Mary Quigley Eller Scholarship Fund Pat Dobbins Scholarship for First Generation Students Joanne Vorhees Scholarship Fund Ricky Pigott Memorial Scholarship Fund O. Fred and Bernadine Stuefer Scholarship Fund Tommy Bohanon Foundation Scholarship Fund Bobby Holloway Memorial Corp. Scholarship Fund Alli D. Brett Scholarship for Nursing Fund Cape Coral Mayor's Scholarship Fund Herbert E. Hussey Scholarship Fund Barbara's Friends Scholarship Fund Deaf and Hard of Hearing Scholarship Fund Dr. Ann Murphy Knight Scholarship Fund Dave's Scholarship Fund Zeal Technical Institute Scholarship Fund Herbert E. Hussey Scholarship Fund Lynn Suzanne Spradley Brightest Star Scholarship Fund Brooke Bennett-Aten Memorial Scholarship Mrs. Don Memorial Scholarship

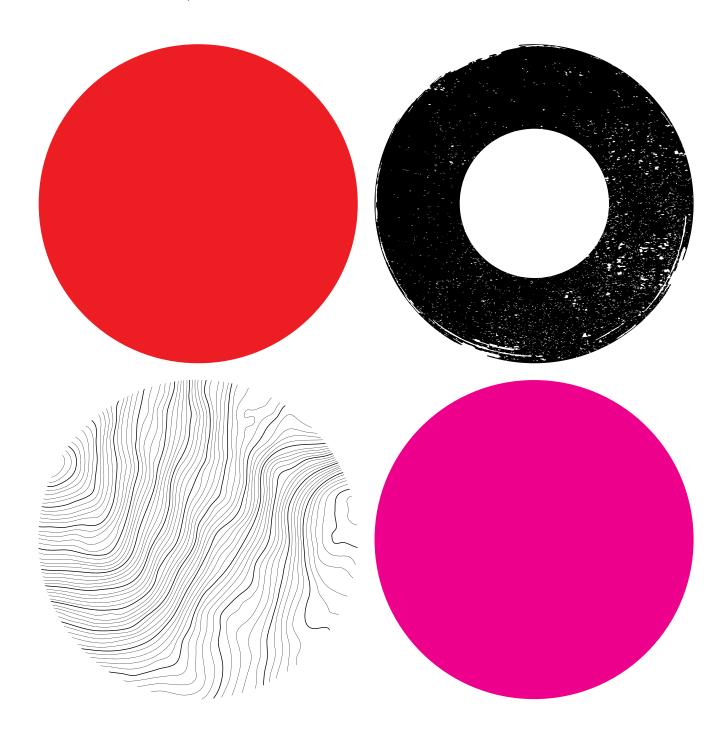


Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

George Washington Carver

Everything you need to know about scholarships...

For students, reviewers and donors



Collaboratory[™]