Hometown Scholarships

To address the critical need for student scholarships in Georgia, The University System of Georgia Foundation created an opportunity for donors to provide “Hometown” Scholarships for students in designated Georgia counties wishing to attend one of the 26 USG Institutions.

- A named scholarship provided to students from a designated Georgia County
- Students attending or planning to attend one of our 26 USG Institutions
- Students with a documented financial need
The University System of Georgia

- 26 institutions/325,000+ students
- One of only three states with two or more institutions in the U.S. News and World Report 2020 Top 20 Public National Universities. Georgia Tech is ranked No. 5 and The University of Georgia in a tie at No. 16.
- FY18 Economic Impact: $17.7 billion in FY 18.
- Research Funding: $2B annually

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Planning for Georgia's Future

Complete College Georgia: by 2025, it is projected that over 60 percent of jobs in Georgia will require some form of college education. Today, only 47.9 percent of the state’s young adults qualify. At the same time, the birth rate in Georgia is declining meaning that to fill the job “gap”, more adults will need to return to college to attain their degree. Under the direction of the Complete College Georgia initiative, the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia address this critical need in Georgia’s Higher Education Completion Plan.

The Urgency of Providing Need-Based Scholarships

Making a college degree affordable for more Georgians is one of the best investments in the state economy and workforce. When students from low-and high-income families attend the same college, they earn similar salaries afterward. Higher education can level the playing field for students of different socioeconomic backgrounds and helps boost the broader economy in the process.
HELPING OUTSTANDING PUPILS EDUCATIONALLY (HOPE): Georgia’s main strategy for the past 25 years to increase college access and affordability rested on HOPE scholarships and grants. HOPE, the largest state merit-based aid program in the country, helped a generation of Georgians pay for college. HOPE is generous, but relying on it alone as a strategy leaves gaps for many students. Georgia’s higher education landscape shifted dramatically since the first student earned a HOPE scholarship in 1993.

70% OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS DO NOT RECEIVE HOPE

Student enrollment soared since then, especially among students from low income families. A 2016 GBPI analysis found HOPE is not effective at reaching students of all family income levels.

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THE MAXIMUM PELL GRANT COVERS 29% OF THE AVERAGE COST TO ATTEND A PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE AS COMPARED TO 42% IN 2001.

The federal student aid landscape shifted as well. State aid is designed to complement federal aid, most of which is distributed through Pell Grants and loans. Pell’s purchasing power eroded over time.

42% OF GA COLLEGE STUDENTS SAY THEIR PARENTS DON’T HELP THEM PAY FOR COLLEGE (HOPE CENTER)

OVER $7,000 IS THE AVERAGE UNMET FINANCIAL NEED PER YEAR

112,000 STUDENTS WITH UNMET NEED IN THE USG

Approximately 146,000 Georgia college students do not receive either Pell or HOPE. This is why the USG Foundation is focused on raising money for need based scholarships – last year, the $1.4 million distributed by the USG Foundation in scholarships was impactful. This amount of funding could pay four-year tuition expenses for 37 Georgia students to attend a Research University, or 132 students to attend a state college. Students assisted by generous donors with scholarship funding are each grateful for the gift of a higher education. For each scholarship recipient awarded, there are hundreds more waiting, hoping, for their dream to become reality. Our work will not be complete until all students in Georgia are offered a quality, affordable education.
Dr. Carla Green Williams honored the legacy of her parents Barner and Johnnie Mae Green of Lagrange, Georgia by establishing an annual scholarship fund to offer financial support to students from Troup County, Georgia to further their education at a University System of Georgia Institution.

Dr. Green, a former Georgia Women’s Basketball standout, serves as the Athletic Director for the University of Virginia. Describing herself as a “gym rat from the time I was 8 years old”, Dr. Green spent many hours practicing on the basketball courts of Lagrange. Named the “best high school player in the state” in 1985, Dr. Green went on to become a star on the court at the University of Georgia. Following her collegiate athletic years, she was quickly promoted to athletic administration positions at Florida State, Vanderbilt, and the University of Georgia before being named as the first African American women to lead a major college program at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Green never forgot her hometown of Lagrange, the values that she was taught from her parents, and many family members who lived throughout Troup County. She wanted to give back to “her hometown” by establishing the Barner and Johnnie Mae Green Scholarship.

For more information on this opportunity, please contact:
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