Supporting Our Students from Acceptance Through Graduation

Raising funds to align with scholarship needs is our first priority at Kent State, and that focus ensures we support our students from the day they receive their letter of acceptance to the day they receive their diploma. With scholarships, we can assist students as they pursue their degrees, enhancing their experiences and increasing their chances of success. By pairing philanthropic support with institutional funds, we can better address the array of financial needs that impact our diverse student body.

Through our comprehensive campaign, we are committed to raising $100 million in support of student success programs and scholarships for students with financial need, high-achieving students and students who desire to engage in high-impact experiences.
ENSURING ACCESS
Ensuring access to a Kent State education for students regardless of their financial situation.

Our purpose is to help students find theirs so they can cultivate their talents and create a brighter tomorrow. We do this by offering education and opportunity for those who need it most. Philanthropic support allows us to address a wide array of needs for our diverse student body, ensuring students have access to a Kent State education regardless of their financial situation. Kent State University has been designated as a First-gen Forward Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to improving the experiences and advancing the outcomes of those who are the first in their families to attend college.

Featured funds include:
- KSU Scholarship Fund
- Rising Scholars

REWARDING ACHIEVEMENT
Rewarding the highest achieving students with scholarship support.

Many of our students have remarkable achievements in academics, athletics, the arts and more. By rewarding their accomplishments, we recognize the time and commitment they have already invested and encourage them to continue to excel. When they succeed, all of Kent State is propelled forward.

Featured funds include:
- Honors Scholarships
- Athletics Scholarships
- Founders Scholarships
- Talent-Based Scholarships

82% of students need financial assistance to attain degrees

572 record number of Honors College freshmen in class of 2023

32% of the Class of 2024 are first-generation college students
First-generation Student Achieves Success

John McDermott, ‘20, accounting major and scholarship recipient, was the first in his family to continue his education beyond middle school. Though his family did not put an emphasis on schooling, John realized the value of an education through positive childhood role models and the College Now Mentoring Program. He completed high school while working two jobs and participating in Key Club, cross country, Rotary and more.

With no financial support from his family, John made the decision to attend Kent State. He was the recipient of 16 different scholarships from community organizations and the university. Driven not only to earn his degree but to maximize his collegiate career, he took advantage of the opportunities available to him. John completed eight internships and managed to stay involved on campus.

“If I hadn’t received scholarships, I would have had to take out more loans and bear the mental stress of having a substantial amount of debt hanging over my head,” John said. “Having scholarships allowed me to devote more time to school and extracurriculars. Scholarships truly change the lives of students like me.”

Since graduating in 2020, John has completed a master’s degree and is employed as an accountant at Deloitte in Cleveland.

“Students from backgrounds like mine are not supposed to make it to college. Some say we are forever bound to the environment we grew up in,” John said.

ENHANCING EXPERIENCES
Providing high-impact experiences and study away opportunities to elevate career readiness.

We encourage students to move beyond their comfort zones, and experience learning and living without academic and demographic boundaries. We offer our students transformational opportunities to learn throughout the world, participate in innovative research and develop leadership skills that will serve them in their personal and professional lives.

Featured funds include:
- Global Education Scholarships
- Community Engaged Learning
- Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)

FOSTERING COMPLETION
Fostering and supporting students in their pursuit of degree completion.

At Kent State, we believe every Golden Flash has a spark within that leads to a brighter future for all. Philanthropic gifts ensure that we can support our students on their unique journey to earning a degree - regardless of the obstacles they encounter along the way. When you foster completion, you empower our students to achieve their dreams and illuminate the world, even if hardships threaten to derail their plans.

Featured funds include:
- Last Dollar Scholarships
- KSU Emergency Grant Fund
- Summer Academic Advantage Program
- Crisis, Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support (CARES) Center
WHY IS PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT NEEDED?

Philanthropic support is more than simply important; it is essential if we are to achieve our goal of raising $100 million to support our student success programs and scholarships for students with financial need, high-achieving students and students who desire high-impact experiences.

The bottom line is simple: We need supporters who understand the importance of prioritizing student success and who share our vision for the future. Those who support this campaign will deeply impact our current students and future generations of students to come. Kent State students will go on to leave their communities and our world *Forever Brighter*.

At Kent State University, what sets us apart is how we come together.

For more information or to discuss a philanthropic gift, please contact us at advancement@kent.edu or 330-672-2222.

www.kent.edu/studentsuccess