Donors creating scholarships made it possible for Bernice Cochran to complete her studies and reach her dream of becoming a teacher here in Southwest Florida.
The Power of Scholarships – $40 million

Scholarships not only help students begin or continue their educations, they also produce a ripple effect that continues to pay dividends for decades to come. Scholarships are an investment in the minds of our future Eagles; making possible the education of tomorrow’s business leaders, accountants, teachers and other professionals – the people who make up our community.

Few investments guarantee the returns that scholarships do. Helping deserving students achieve their educational dreams benefits everyone. Since 1997, the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation has awarded more than $12.4 million to our students because of the generosity of our scholarship donors. As the University grows, the need for student support continues to rise.

You can help make it possible for more students to obtain the educations they need for successful lives when you invest in scholarships.

First Generation

First Generation Scholarships assist undergraduates whose parents have not earned college degrees and who demonstrate financial need. The State of Florida matches the money raised through private donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis, which doubles the value of these gifts. First Generation Scholarships can help end a family’s cycle of poverty and transform a deserving student’s life.
CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES – SCHOLARSHIPS

Need-Based

Financial need scholarships allow academically qualified students with limited financial means the opportunity to pursue an education at the University. These scholarships help deserving students transform their futures, often making the critical difference when students decide whether they will enroll at the University or enter the work world without an education. The gratitude they feel for those opportunities is evident in the zeal with which they approach their studies and the deep appreciation they feel toward those who have helped them make their dreams reality.

Merit-Based

Scholarships for students with strong academic records allow FGCU to attract the best and brightest – the ability to offer competitive scholarship packages is critical to attracting academically gifted students.

The University offers top performers the opportunity to participate in an honors program dedicated to academic achievement, community service, thoughtful leadership, global citizenship and personal excellence. With the majority of the University’s graduates remaining in Southwest Florida, these scholarships help build a highly skilled workforce capable of enhancing the region’s economic growth, environmental sustainability and cultural vitality.

Endowed Scholarships: Everlasting Gifts

An endowed scholarship fund generates annual scholarships in perpetuity and is a wonderful way

“Thanks to my scholarship, I am one step closer to my goal and it has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

– Tizzian Brown (Kelly)

“Your financial generosity has allowed me to pursue my nursing degree and alleviate some of my financial obstacles, while continuing to care for my daughter as a single mom.”

– Sheila Giovenco

“Being the first person in my family to attend college has not been easy. Because of this scholarship and knowing there is one more person who believes in me, I will be able to become the first person in my family to graduate college.”

– Justin Valente
to secure education as your legacy or that of a loved one, or to express commitment to the community by your company or organization.

A simple written agreement, which names the fund and details your criteria for recipients, ensures that your scholarships are awarded as you intend year after year. You will receive a letter and photo from your scholarship recipient and are invited to meet your student(s) at an annual scholarship luncheon.

In addition, the FGCU Foundation provides donors with periodic updates on the state of their endowment funds, donors’ names are engraved on a plaque displayed on campus and the fund is listed on the University website.

**Annually Funded Scholarships: Immediate Impact**

All annually funded gifts to the FGCU Scholarship Fund are welcome and they will be awarded to students in the year they are received.

For a gift of at least $1,000, you can create a current-use named scholarship and establish specific criteria by which students are selected. The impact of the annual scholarship is immediate, meaning the funds are disbursed to the student recipient and are not invested, and do not earn additional income. In recognition of your scholarship, you will receive a letter and photo from your student and be invited to a scholarship luncheon where you will be introduced to your scholarship recipient and personally hear words of appreciation.

Scholarships generally fall into the following categories. The donor is able to choose the type of students they wish to support:

**Performance**

Performance scholarships prepare gifted students for successful careers in theater, art, performance and music education. These scholarships reward promising students and allow them to immerse themselves in a curriculum that combines intensive instruction and practice. Performance scholarships often allow students the opportunity to compete at prestigious national and international competitions.

Likewise, athletics scholarships reward gifted athletes, which not only enhances FGCU’s teams, but also helps draw attention to the University as a whole. In 2013, the men’s basketball team’s success in the NCAA Basketball Tournament brought “Dunk City” to a national audience and introduced Florida Gulf Coast University to millions of prospective students across the country.

**Graduate Fellowships**

Fellowships are scholarships that attract outstanding graduate students and assist them in the pursuit of advanced study. As FGCU continues to add graduate degree programs, the need for graduate fellowships also increases dramatically.

**Study Abroad Opportunities**

FGCU prepares students to participate in the global economy. Study abroad opportunities allow students, regardless of ability to pay, the opportunity to travel to locales around the world and to study in areas with different languages, different cultures and to participate in offering solutions to problems different from those in this country.