For more than 150 years, Penn State has been committed to creating opportunity. Our land-grant mission demands that we keep our degrees affordable for students from every economic background. Over the last three decades, however, rising costs and declining state support have placed an increasing burden on students and families. Today, many undergraduates work multiple jobs while carrying a full course load, yet students are graduating with an average personal debt of more than $28,000. These financial realities are restricting the dreams of far too many students and families.

Scholarships are the top priority of For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, and we are asking our alumni and friends to become our partners in supporting those students with the greatest financial need—not just today, but for generations to come.

**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

Through the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program, the University matches 5 percent of the total pledge or gift at the time a Trustee Scholarship is created, making money available immediately for student awards. This University match is available to spend each year, in perpetuity, along with a percentage (currently, approximately 4.5 percent) of the endowment’s market value. Therefore, when the endowment becomes fully funded, a Trustee Scholarship provides approximately 10 percent of the endowment’s market value each year.

“My family makes its living in the fluctuating dairy economy, and scholarships have provided the financial stability to help me continue my education at Penn State. Without this kind of support, my parents wouldn’t be able to send me to Penn State. Thanks to scholarships, though, I can focus on my classes and aim my career toward advancing technology in animal sciences.”

David Wilson is an Animal Sciences major and a recipient of several scholarships in the College of Agricultural Sciences, including the William C. Nichol Trustee Scholarship.
With some limitations, donors may target their Trustee Scholarships to the student population with whom they feel the deepest connection. While all recipients must meet the federal government’s Pell grant eligibility guidelines, donors can indicate a preference for students enrolled in any of Penn State’s academic college or at any of our campuses, or donors may designate their endowments for use by one of several administrative units within the University (University Libraries, Educational Equity, Student Affairs, Outreach, Global Programs, and Intercollegiate Athletics). Donors may also specify one additional preference, which may include:

- Academic major
- Geographic origin (i.e. graduates of a specified high school or those with home residences in a particular city, state, or county)
- Past or present extracurricular involvement (i.e. Blue Band members, 4-H members)

If no recipients meet the preference criteria for the scholarship in a given year, the funds will be awarded to other students within the academic unit who have demonstrated financial need.

**THE STUDENTS WHO BENEFIT**

Last year, more than 4,600 students received Trustee Scholarships, and their diversity reflects the diversity of Penn State itself. Recipients come from all over the Commonwealth and the country, and the program benefits students in every college and at every campus. Whether they are engineering or economics majors, aspiring nurses or teachers-in-training, the students who are helped by the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program have important qualities in common:

- They are academic achievers, with an average G.P.A. of 3.29.
- They have demonstrated financial need (a typical recipient comes from a household in which both parents work, earning just under $50,000 per year and with savings of less than $7,000).
- More than half are the first generation in their family to pursue a college degree.

Since the program was created, more than 600 endowments have been established. The need for scholarships remains great, however, and the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program continues to represent an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that a Penn State education remains accessible for students whose means may be limited, but whose ability and ambition are limitless.

“*When I received a scholarship, it made me feel like Penn State truly cared about my education and my future success, which is the kind of university I want to be a part of. My scholarship has made me want to give back to Penn State by volunteering in the community and helping people in need. The greatest gift in the world is an educational opportunity, and I’m very thankful for the generosity of the donor who provided me with this gift.*

Shade Adebowale is a recipient of the Fred Wiest Trustee Scholarship. She began her education at Penn State Schuylkill and plans to attend graduate school after earning a degree in Biology at University Park.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
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The Campaign for Penn State Students