

35th Annual Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence *golf tournament*



June 11, 2025



EMBRACE | EMPOWER | EXCEL



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS SCHOOL
**Foundation for
Excellence**

KCKSFUNDATION.ORG



KANSAS CITY
KANSAS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

35th Annual *Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence* *golf tournament*

June 11, 2025



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Our Mission

The Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence believes that all students deserve an equal opportunity to reach their potential in all educational and personal endeavors. The Foundation strives to serve all students and provide support to enhance their educational experience.

Our Vision

To embrace, empower and assist the students of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools to excel.



From the Foundation

The Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence (KCKS Foundation) is dedicated to ensuring that every student has a fair chance to reach their educational and personal aspirations.

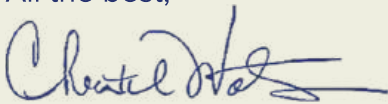
Our goal is to **empower** students within Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) to thrive academically and personally.

Founded in 1990, the Foundation began by offering 12 scholarships valued at \$3,000 each, which were funded through a Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Currently, we award **15 Foundation for Excellence scholarships**, each amounting to \$5,000, along with **14 additional named scholarships**.

Because of generous supporters like you, the KCKS Foundation has provided over **\$108,000 in scholarships to 37 graduating seniors** in the class of 2025, helping them embark on the next stage of their educational journeys. Thank you for all you do!

All the best,



Christal Watson
Executive Director,
Kansas City, Kansas School
Foundation for Excellence



2025

\$108K+ awarded,
175+ applicants

2010

Expanded to
named scholarships

1990

First Golf Tournament
funds 12 scholarships

*Get to
know us*



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Investing in Potential:

The Strategic Impact of KCKS Foundation Scholarships



In an era where education costs threaten to derail even the most driven students, the KCKS Foundation's scholarship program is proving to be a catalyst for transformational change. By removing financial barriers, the initiative isn't just funding degrees—it's cultivating future leaders, innovators, and professionals poised to address critical societal needs. Here's how our scholars are leveraging this support to redefine success:

Career-Driven Impact

London, an occupational therapy student, embodies the program's focus on nurturing purpose-driven careers. "I've always been driven by a desire to help others and ensure that everyone has the chance to live a happy, full life," she says. Her scholarship ensures she can prioritize hands-on training over part-time jobs, accelerating her path to serving vulnerable populations.

Financial Relief and Academic Excellence

For Diana, a marketing scholar, the award is both a practical lifeline and a motivator. "Receiving this scholarship is incredibly meaningful."

**"This support not only eases my financial concerns but also motivates me to excel academically."
— Diana, Marketing Scholar**

It provides crucial financial support that allows me to focus on my studies without the burden of excessive student loans," she explains. By alleviating debt stress, the program enables scholars like Diana to excel academically and secure competitive internships.



“Because of this scholarship, I can complete my first semester without paying a single cent. It’s relieved our fears.”

— Alesandria, Out of State Scholar

Family-Wide Relief

Alesandria, an out-of-state student from a family of five, speaks to the broader familial impact. “Because of this scholarship, I can complete my first semester without paying a single cent,” she says. “It’s relieved our fears of the future.” This ripple effect—easing burdens for entire households—is a cornerstone of the program’s community-focused approach.

Empowering First-Generation Students

Raya, aspiring to become the first veterinarian in her family, highlights the program’s role in breaking generational cycles. “This scholarship helped me realize I can become a college graduate if I work hard enough,” she shares. “I grew up questioning myself. Now I know I can do something no one else in my family has attempted.”

“This scholarship helped me realize I can become a college graduate. I grew up questioning myself. Now I know I can.”

— Raya, Veterinary Scholar

Accelerating Ambitious Timelines

Amia’s story underscores strategic efficiency. In KU’s rigorous “LEAD PROGRAM,” she’s condensing a BA and JD into six years. “This scholarship will help me with tuition and housing at KU, ensuring I can continue in the program,” she says. For high-achievers like Amia, the foundation’s support is a non-negotiable enabler of their accelerated paths.

“This scholarship assured my college supplies throughout my four years. It’s the education I’ve always wanted.”

— Celeste, First-Year Scholar

The KCKS Foundation Scholarship Program is a strategic investment.

By funding scholars like Celeste, who notes the award “lifted a weight off my shoulders [and] assured my college supplies,” the foundation is building a pipeline of skilled professionals ready to tackle workforce gaps in healthcare, law, marketing, and STEM. For corporate partners, this translates to a direct alignment with ESG goals, talent pipeline development, and measurable community impact.

Record-Breaking Year:

KCKPS Scholars Benefit from Unprecedented Scholarship Support

When 37 KCKPS scholars walked across the stage this May, they carried more than awards—they carried the collective belief of donors like you. Thanks to your unwavering support, the Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence shattered records this year, awarding **\$108,000+ in scholarships**—the highest total in our 35-year history. This milestone isn't just a number; it's 37 pathways to degrees, trades, and generational change.

This year, the Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence is celebrating a major milestone—awarding over \$100,000 in college scholarships, affirming its ongoing commitment to supporting academic achievement for students in our community.

On Wednesday, April 30, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools students were honored with scholarships during a special ceremony held at Central Office, recognizing their academic dedication and future potential.

The scholarships range between \$1,000 and \$5,000, allowing KCKPS students to pursue higher education.

To be eligible for scholarships, students must have 2.0 GPA or better, submit a 500-word essay, and

“Often our graduates are first generation and may not have access to additional financial options or, they have families that are not in a position to support them in their post-secondary education.”

**— Foundation Development Supervisor,
Tory Anderson.**



furnish a recommendation letter from a high school counselor, principal, teacher, or community leader. They must also plan to attend the fall semester of 2025 at an accredited college, university, or technical school.

JE Dunn Construction, and MVP Law of Kansas City are just some of the wonderful sponsors who contributed to the scholarships. These two organizations allocated four scholarships this academic year.

Much of the scholarship funds are generated from our annual golf tournament and annual endowments. The Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence is a nonprofit organization that directs funds and services from individuals, businesses, corporations, memorials, and other nonprofit organizations to support educational funding.

At the KCKS Foundation, we believe all students deserve an equal opportunity to reach their full potential in all educational and personal endeavors.

Meet This Year's Scholars

F.L. Schlagle High School



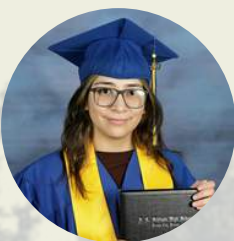
Behroni
Ka
\$1000-Harvey Baker



Eric
Lopez
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Jamie
Caraveo-Bermudez
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Marinlay
Ramirez
\$2000-Anna Olivera



Gisselle
Cumplido Perez
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Christopher
Loma Panuco
\$1250-Reasons to Believe

J.C Harmon High School



Isaac
Cervantes
\$3000-Maccochoque



Jacqueline
Martinez-Huerta
\$3000-Maccochoque



Marissa
Winfield
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Dulce
Escobar
\$3000-Maccochoque



Aileen
Pantoja-Barajas
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Isaiah
Arrington-Coty
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Kamahni
Jackson
\$1250-Reasons to Believe

Meet This Year's Scholars

Sumner Academy



Kaden
Hall
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Mama
Hsen
\$1000-Donald Moritz



Ayleen
Palomares
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Haley
Vang
\$1000-John Taylor Lewis



Vincent
Wing
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence

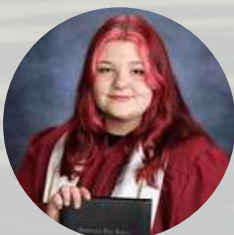


Maya
Williams
\$1250-Reasons to Believe
\$2000-Reasons to Believe-Aaron Moore

Washington High School



K'Lynn
Lawrence-Nichols
\$1250-Reasons to Believe



Elizabeth
Furu
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



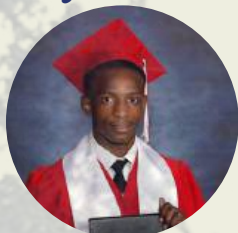
Daisy
Iang
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Abigail
Velazquez
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence

Meet This Year's Scholars

Wyandotte High School



Patrick
Musore
\$1250-Zak Family



Helena
Hetlage
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Julio
Sagastume
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



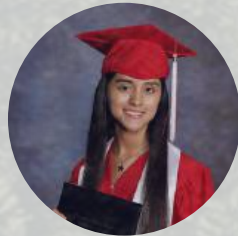
Karla
Valdovinos
\$5000-Foundation for Excellence



Raquel
Santillan
\$1250-Zak Family



Ngun
Nu
\$1250-Zak Family



Leslie
Pesquera
\$1250-Zak Family



Juan
Mota-Martinez
\$1250-Reasons to Believe



Mia
Navarro
\$1250-Zak Family



Nylia
Russell
\$1250-Zak Family



D'Angelo
Mays
\$1250-Reasons to Believe



Alex
Diaz Zaragoza
\$2500-JE Dunn



Diego
Uribe Cossio
\$2500-JE Dunn

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Upcoming Events

Wyandotte County Back to School & Health Fair

Saturday, August 9, 2025

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

HomeField KCK, 9250 State Ave
Kansas City, KS 66112

Partners for Excellence Annual Breakfast

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

8:00 am

HomeField KCK, 9250 State Ave
Kansas City, KS 66112

Reasons to Believe Celebration

Thursday, November 13, 2025

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location TBD



Exciting sponsorship opportunities
are waiting for you at all our events!
Dive into these incredible
possibilities and make a difference.

For more information, reach out to
us at info@kcksfoundation.org.

We can't wait to hear from you!

*Discover
More*



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Thank You to Our Volunteers

The Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence extends our deepest gratitude to the incredible volunteers who powered our 35th Annual Golf Tournament. From dawn until dusk, you made this event a triumph—and your dedication directly fuels scholarships for KCKPS students.

You created seamless first impressions at registration tables, ensuring players started their day with enthusiasm. You championed our mission by selling raffle tickets with passion, turning every purchase into potential for student dreams. You kept the game on track as hole monitors, safeguarding both pace and safety with your vigilance.

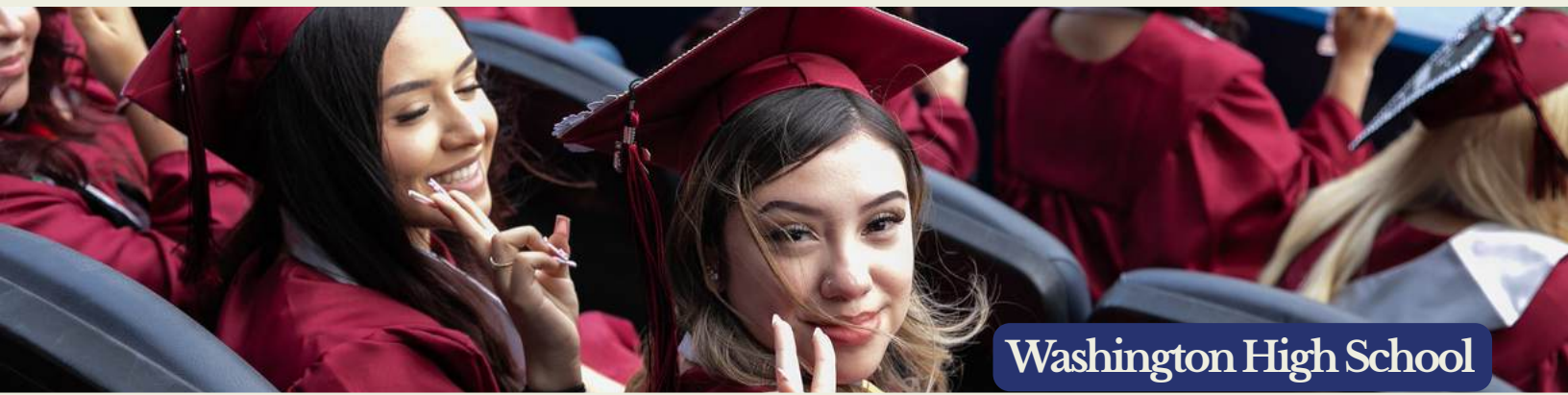
When unpredictable moments arose, you adapted. When guests asked questions, you guided. And when our scholars shared their stories, you listened with pride—because you knew your efforts helped write those stories.

Thank you for all of your support!





F.L. Schlegle High School



Washington High School



J.C. Harmon High School



Sumner Academy



Wyandotte High School

Thank you



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