Tri-Star Scholarship Makes UT Accessible for Deaf Studies Major

Brianna Johnson’s journey to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, began at West Creek High School in Clarksville, Tennessee. She was awarded the Flagship Scholarship, which is offered to admitted first-year UT students who graduate from one of the state’s designated Flagship high schools. Combined with Tennessee’s HOPE Scholarship, Johnson’s tuition and fees are covered for up to eight semesters.

Receiving the scholarship made all the difference for Johnson’s educational goals. She has several family members who are deaf. Thanks to her scholarships, she is pursuing a deaf studies major in UT’s College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences.

“I had decided not to go to college but was convinced by friends and family to apply anyway,” Johnson said. “I received acceptance letters from all the schools, but my concern at that point was if I would be able to afford college without having to depend on my mom, who also has to worry about taking care of my brother. I was determined to pay for college on my own so there would be money for other things that my family might need.”

Nearly 90 percent of Tennessee residents who apply to the university are admitted, but finances can be a barrier to attendance. The Flagship Scholarship—along with many other UT scholarships funded by generous donors—help bridge this gap.

Planned gifts through your will or estate and donation of assets are two smart ways to contribute to scholarships at UT. In Tennessee, 62 percent of households have a family income of $60,000 or less. The need is great—and your future generosity can light the way for more students like Brianna.

To start a conversation about your opportunities to use your estate plan or assets to achieve your charitable goals, contact us. There is no obligation.
Would you like to finish this year with a gift that maximizes your impact on students and reduces your taxes? Consider these smart options below.

**MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DIFFERENCE**
When you support UT by simply writing a check, you make great things happen and qualify for an income tax deduction.

**Did you know?** Your envelope must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31 for your donation to qualify this year.

**USE APPRECIATED SECURITIES**
By donating appreciated securities that you have owned for longer than one year, you qualify for an income tax deduction and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

**Did you know?** If the securities are electronically transferred, the gift date is the day the securities enter our account—not the date you ask your broker to make the transfer.

**CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)**
Add funds to an existing DAF or open a new one at a community foundation or sponsoring organization.

**Did you know?** You qualify for a tax deduction when you make a gift to your DAF. If you are ready to start making an impact with your DAF, consider recommending a grant (or recurring grants) to support UT.

**MAKE A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA**
If you are 70½ or older, you can give any amount up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to UT. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. If you are required to take minimum distributions, your gift can satisfy all or part of your obligation.

**Did you know?** If you have check-writing features on your IRA, your check must clear your account by Dec. 31.

**NEW OPTION**
**CREATE INCOME FOR LIFE WITH YOUR IRA**
If you are 70½ or older you may now use your IRA to create a gift that pays you. Get fixed, reliable income for life by making a one-time election of up to $50,000 (without being taxed on the distribution). This option comes with special rules, so please contact us to discuss whether this gift is right for you.
A SPECIAL KIND OF GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are an opportunity to spend time with those we love and to give thanks for all the good things in our lives. They are also a time to exchange heartfelt gifts with friends and family.

If you or a loved one went to UT, one simple way to do this is by creating a gift in your will to support future Vols.

Providing for the next generation of UT graduates is an incredible way to take your holiday gifting to a new, deeply meaningful level.

Plus, giving doesn't just benefit the recipient, it benefits you.

When you give through your will, you are more...

CONTEMPLATIVE
When you decide to help others through your will, you are also planning for your future. This is your chance to reflect on your life and your values, then consider how you want to use your assets to help the people and the causes that you care about the most.

CONNECTED
When you donate to an organization like UT in your will, you are part of a family and you become a critical link in a chain of compassion. This collective show of strength can inspire others to join you.

GRATEFUL
Those who benefit from your giving will no doubt be thankful, but you may find yourself feeling a sense of gratitude, too. When you reflect on your life and the people and causes you love, you'll recall all those who supported you—the heroes in your life's story.

Give the Best Gift of All
This holiday season, use your will to show your compassion and spread joy. To learn more, contact us today.

FOR YOU!
Making smart giving choices is important no matter what time of year it is. Our helpful guide, Creative Ways to Stretch Your Charitable Dollar, gives you ideas on how you can maximize your donations to make the most impact. Send back the enclosed reply form for your FREE copy.
YOUR GENEROSITY LIGHTS THE WAY

"This scholarship helped make college possible for me. Thanks to the kindness of scholarship donors, I’m able to follow my goals and reach my full potential. There aren’t words to describe my gratefulness.”

—Caitlyn Munn, Pledge Scholarship Recipient

"This scholarship truly opened doors for me. It took that much stress off of my shoulders to pursue my education a little easier, all while connecting me to amazing alumni and peers.”

—Hayden Bitner (’24)

"When I got this fellowship I was able to focus a lot more. It really freed up my attention and allowed me to step back from financial concerns to focus on my studies.”

—Allison Elizabeth Bradley (’20), recipient of the Roger and Carol Nooe graduate fellowship

THANK YOU!

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