SCHOLARSHIPS: AN INVESTMENT IN STUDENTS AND OUR FUTURE

Supporting the UT Knoxville community with a scholarship gives you the opportunity to enable a hardworking Vol to earn a college education—and all the opportunity that accompanies it—while fashioning a legacy that mirrors your values.

Scholarships help our students directly, but also allow us to continue developing our academic programs, attracting and retaining superior faculty and staff, and remaining a force for growth and good in our community and beyond.

It’s important to know that there are multiple ways to fund a scholarship that don’t require cash leaving your pocket now. There are multiple options you can arrange for in your estate plan, from leaving a gift in your will to UT to making a gift of appreciated assets, like stocks, and more. Your scholarship can benefit the academic areas that speak to your heart, and you may name your scholarship to honor someone meaningful to you or in memory of a loved one. Scholarships offer you the ability to tailor your giving so it matches your intention.

Stepping up to fund a scholarship creates a road to graduation for our students. In this time of economic instability, there’s not a gift that has more value. The advantages for you include ease, flexibility, financial benefits, and knowing you are doing something extraordinary.

WE’RE HERE TO HELP. Please contact us at 865-974-2370 or giftplanning@utk.edu if you have questions or would like to learn more about how you could make a student’s dream come true.
For David Leventhal (‘07, ‘20), the coronavirus pandemic hit during an already challenging time. A nontraditional student, Leventhal returned to UT to pursue a master’s degree in secondary education and teaching with a young child to support and a mortgage to pay.

Completing his master’s degree meant spending an entire year as an unpaid intern in local schools. He applied for mortgage forbearance, expecting to graduate with an offer of employment. However, the educational sector was completely upended when COVID-19 hit, and Leventhal’s prospects disappeared.

**Real Life Worries**
At that point, the Student Emergency Fund (a scholarship fund borne of pandemic-induced, urgent student need) and the Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration helped him navigate the situation to reach a positive outcome. He has since graduated, found full-time employment, and caught up with his mortgage.

“I can’t underestimate how helpful and timely the emergency funding was, as well as the career center support.”
—David Leventhal

Today, he is a full-time social studies teacher with Tennessee Connections Academy, an entirely online public school available to in-state students. His pay and benefits mirror those earned in brick-and-mortar schools, and he teaches from Knoxville, a crucial point for Leventhal because his daughter and her mother live locally.

**Taking the Nontraditional Route**
Leventhal took a circuitous route to arrive at his current role. Following his undergraduate degree in philosophy and religious studies earned at Appalachian State University in 2001, he completed a master’s degree in history at UT in 2007.

After graduation, he operated a restaurant marketing and delivery business, worked in the information technology sector, and taught high school and college history.

Now, as a high school teacher, Leventhal brings all those skills to bear in his social studies instruction. With a bright future as an
educator ahead of him, Leventhal is grateful for the emergency scholarship and career support he received during an extremely complicated time.

“My work with a K–12 virtual public education academy has helped me grow as an educator and build my resume, while also earning the same compensation as my brick-and-mortar colleagues,” Leventhal said. “I am forever indebted to the University of Tennessee and its donors, in more ways than I could ever quantify. It’s great to be a Tennessee Vol!”

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**BECAUSE OF YOU**

9,533 students were awarded private scholarships during academic year 2020-21 by UT Knoxville.

UT cares about its underserved students, such as first generation college students, and so do our supporters. The Tennessee Pledge Scholarship is offered to admitted freshmen whose family incomes are $40,000 or below.

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**GET YOUR FREE GUIDE!**

Our complimentary brochure, *Scholarships: Open Doors to Life-Changing Opportunities* highlights the compelling advantages of scholarships—including some you may not have thought of. Simply complete and return the enclosed reply form to get your copy.
WHAT WILL YOUR SCHOLARSHIP DO?

You may be surprised by the many ways your scholarship support can change the life of a student.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING:

• Makes education accessible. Tuition aid is often a determining factor in whether or not a student can attend school.

• Supports the UT experience. Your gift helps provide unique opportunities that fuel discovery, invoke collaboration, and encourage brave ideas.

• Attracts the best and brightest. When you invest in hardworking students and faculty, you create a campus full of brilliant minds.

• Sets an example for others. Your steadfast belief in the power of a UT education shows our students and faculty there are people who support their goals.

If you have interest in creating a scholarship to assist future Vols, we’re here to assist you. There are a variety of ways to help students achieve their dreams, and we would be honored to work with you and help you discover how to make your philanthropic goals a reality. Please contact our Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@utk.edu or 865-973-2370 to discuss establishing a scholarship.