

Historical Highlights

Past & Present	2014	1995
Program Results		
Number of participating schools	18	9
Number of applicants	258	56
Percent of applicants interviewed	25%	25%
Scholarships awarded to date	\$683,000	\$3,000
Number of volunteers	71	11

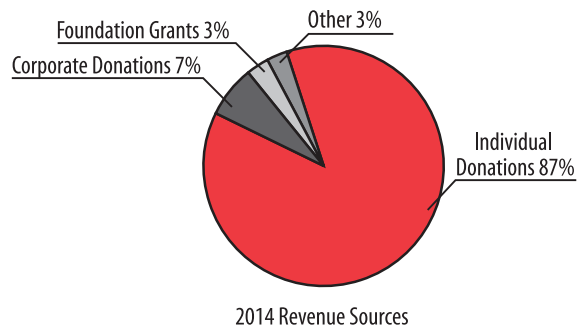
Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	12/30/14	12/30/13
Assets		
Cash, savings and investments	\$128,213	\$128,803
Pledges Receivable	\$12,092	\$8,109
Total Assets	\$140,305	\$136,912

Liabilities		
Scholarships Payable	\$75,300	\$90,524
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$65,005	\$46,388
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$140,305	\$136,912

Statement of Activities	2014	2013
Support & Revenue		
Contributions and Grants	\$67,187	\$56,606
Other	1,875	6,574
Total Support and Revenue	\$69,062	\$63,180

Expenses		
Program	\$50,706	\$44,880
Fundraising	9,848	12,804
Administrative	5,115	3,814
Total Expenses	\$65,669	\$61,498
Surplus (deficit)	\$3,393	\$1,682



Organizational Profile

Founded in 1995 by a group of recent college graduates, Education First is a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships to low income youth. The founders of Education First believe that higher education can assist in breaking generational poverty. To promote our mission, we provide both financial and mentoring support to students. Education First targets students who have overcome significant life challenges and are seldom recognized for their achievements.

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Education First is dedicated to providing need-based college scholarships to exceptional seniors attending high schools with historically low percentages of college applicants.

By rewarding students with strength of character, a commitment to learning, and a vision for their future, our aim is to invest in individuals who will positively affect their communities.



Letter from the Board Chair

Education First made history in 2014. Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, Chris Bryan, was hired as full-time Executive Director, becoming the organization's first-ever paid employee. A confident board also voted to expand Education First to a seventh region in San Diego, California, bringing the nation-wide count from 12 to 14 scholarships awarded annually.

This year, Education First began accepting online scholarship applications and offering college mentoring to scholarship recipients. We saw a 22% increase in total revenue, the highest in five years thanks to individual donations. Regional fundraising events – from wine and beer tastings to a run for the cause – remained steady, accounting for roughly one-third of total revenue.

Looking ahead, we are focused on growing corporate and foundation fundraising, engaging and retaining volunteers, and continuing outreach and communication efforts with past scholarship winners.

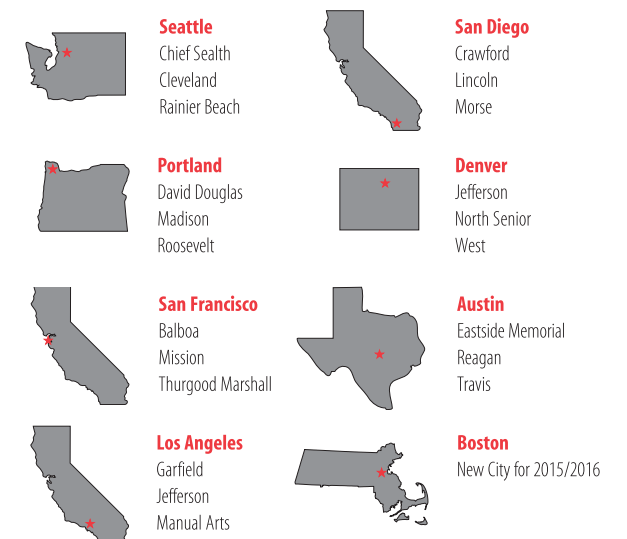
I'd like to sincerely thank the donors and volunteers who make our mission possible. Your contributions are creating real opportunities and helping instill confidence in students pursuing higher education.

Education First celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2015. Help us celebrate with your continued support!

Thanks,

Dana Such, Board Chair

2015–2016 Participating High Schools



Sponsor a scholarship today.

Contact: majorgifts@educationfirst.org

Our 2014 Scholarship Recipients (\$6,500)



Seattle

Andrea Francisco

Chief Sealth International High School
University of Washington

While still in high school, Andrea worked 30 hours a week to support her family, adding even more hours after her father lost his job. She has been involved with Key Club and held two officer positions in her high school, while bringing in the only steady form of income for her family. Learning so much about finances has sparked Andrea's passion for studying business in college.



Portland

Isaiah Eddington

Roosevelt High School
Oregon State University

After his family became homeless, Isaiah may have had a difficult time getting to school, but he never wavered in his desire to get an education. Knowing he has musical talent keeps him motivated, and playing in Roosevelt's Jazz Band has been a great source of pride. Isaiah plans to attend Oregon State University, majoring in computer science and minoring in music.



San Francisco

Michelle Nguyen

Mission High School
University of California, Santa Cruz

Early in high school, Michelle dealt with abuse in her own home and was placed in foster care. Struggling to keep up with her studies, she discovered a passion for computer science. She plans to one day open a school in her neighborhood that teaches coding, and is dedicated to attending college in order to create software that benefits people in everyday life.



Los Angeles

Mariann Torres

Garfield High School
University of California, Berkeley

Mariann has overcome language barriers, bullying, poverty, and her mother's illnesses to be where she is today. Her leadership roles in high school included being a cheerleader and senior class president. She credits her grandparents with motivating her to succeed in life. Watching her family's struggles has caused Mariann to want better future opportunities and taught her to value a college education.



Denver

Dania Hernandez

Jefferson High School
Red Rocks Community College

Early in life, Dania learned two important qualities from her Mexican-born parents: perseverance and hard work. Witnessing incredible poverty on a 6th-grade field trip to Mexico, Dania realized how many opportunities existed for her in the US. Her experience has fueled her desire to live up to her potential. She plans to attend the University of Denver and become a pediatrician.



Austin

Jessy Tran

Reagan High School
Angelo State University

Dealing with domestic violence and poverty throughout his childhood, Jessy has had a difficult time finding stability. After a long bout with depression, he found the courage to plan for his future and a better life for brothers. A deep thinker, Jessy wants to change the world, and plans to use what he learns in college to improve life for his family and his community.

Honorable Mention Award Scholarships (\$4,000)

Seattle

Hebler Saucedo
Cleveland High School

Portland

Fadi Labib
David Douglas High School

San Francisco

Jeffrey Wu
Balboa High School

Los Angeles

German Rodriguez
Manual Arts High School

Denver

Edwin Saenz
Jefferson Senior High School

Austin

Tomas Quiroz
Reagan High School

Past Scholars — Where are they now?

"I started off at Portland Community College and received three degrees when the attacks of September 11 occurred. Like many Americans I answered the call from my country and joined the military. After serving for four years, I returned to Portland and not only completed a bachelor's degree at Warner Pacific College, but also received my Master's in Education at Portland State University and currently teach 5th grade. My advice to scholars is don't quit; never give up! It's not easy — yet you're meant for so much more. Life is so very short — before you know it, it's over. You will make it, as long as you push yourself, work hard, be thankful, get in study groups. Watch your time, your influences. Remember who you are, and your struggles. The world cheers for the underdog!"

— **Jessica Acosta**, 1998 Scholarship Recipient, Portland

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Banya5 – The Urban Spa Experience
Barhyte Specialty Foods – Saucy Mama Cafe
Bell & Whete
Blanton Museum of Art
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BroVo Spirits, LLC
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Bumble B design
Bybee's Historic Inn
Caffe Vita
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Kathy Chi-Thurber
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Columbia Tower Club
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Cycle Saloon
Lauren Damen
Mary d'Autremont
Disney
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Nicole Smith
St. Supery
Stella & Dot
Stephen L. Clark Gallery
SJP ATX
SXSW
Paul Tan
Texas Monthly
Tom Douglas Restaurants
Uchi+Uchiko
Uptown Market
Vanessa Lain Photography
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