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.

Volunteers

Akshay Bhusan: Dick and Tamie
Amanda James: O’Brien
Amber Ford: Eduardo Guevara
Amy Ambrosier: Eugene Cheng
Amy Beding: Glenn Largus
Angela Rosen: Greg Youngblood
Anna D’Adriano: Greg Chaffee
Anna Chen: Jara Guerenda
Anthony Prevato: Joan Vizard
Ashwaq Kristen: Jeffrey Zhang Wu
Brett Kahn: Jeffrey Heiple
Ben Hum: Ann Hamilton
Brian Larson: Jessica Honeybank
Carlaon Ye: Jessica Sandie
Carter Amurial: Jessica Abraham
Charles Li: Jess Wilkins
Chelley San Almo: Jennifer Sa
Chyi Wang: Jordan Wang
Christina Greengary: Katie Goss
Crystal Li: Katie Matal
Dan Boteh: Kevin Roachda
Dandell Jordan: Kevin Sullivan
David Chen: Kimberly Donney
Daphne Mutale: Kristina Llewellyn
Daphne Wang: Paul Tan

Participating High Schools

Seattle

Chaeli Smith
University
North Seattle

San Diego: Crawford

Denver: Jefferson

North Senior West

Austin: TFS

San Francisco: Mission

Los Angeles: Garfield

Bexon (New 2015)

Partnerships:

college Forward

Annual Report 2015

Education First celebrates 20 years of awarding higher education scholarships this year! We couldn’t have done it without YOU – our amazing network of supporters, our community partners, our invaluable volunteers. In 2015, Education First approved expansion to our first ever East Coast region (Boston, Massachusetts), where we were embraced by both donors and passionate volunteers. From coast to coast, we will award 16 exceptional individuals in 2016, the greatest number of scholarships given in any year by our organization.

Ivy Tran, our 2015 scholarship recipient from Austin is currently majoring in environmental and civil engineering. Upper schooler Rachel Demers is passionate about pursuing a career in social work. Our scholarship recipients have fought hard through adversities and greatly value the difference an education can make. Education First volunteers interview and select the scholarship award. We know first-hand how impressive and inspiring these individuals are, and we can’t wait to see where they’ll go!

For a second year in a row, Education First will also fund personalized college coaching for our predominantly first generation college students who delay entering college. This was made possible through a strategic partnership with College Forward, a nationally recognized college access and success program. We’ve certainly past some milestones this year. I can only imagine what the next 20 years will bring.

Thanks

Dana Smith, Board Chair

Historical Highlights

Past & Present 2015 1995

Program Results

Number of participating schools 21 9

Number of applicants 372 54

Percentage of applicants interviewed 88% 21%

Scholarship awarded to date $178,000 $3,300

Number of volunteers 129 11

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position 12/30/15 12/30/14

Assets

Cash, Savings and Investments $154,738 $328,233

Mortgage Receivable 21,472 12,862

Total Assets $168,208 $341,095

Liabilities

Scholarship Payable $73,904 $75,500

Salaries Payable 39,390 39,390

Total Liabilities $113,294 $114,890

Net Assets

Unrestricted $54,914 $56,005

Total Liabilities & Net Assets $168,208 $341,095

Statement of Activities 2015 2014

Support & Revenue

Contributions and Grants $707,938 $417,187

Other 4,160 4,160

Total Support and Revenue $712,098 $421,347

Expenses

Program 566,284 593,767

Funding 16,420 9,480

Administration 56,416 63,416

Total Expenses $639,120 $696,663

Surplus (deficit) $72,978 $24,684

Organizational Profile

Founded in 1995 by a group of recent college graduates, Education First is a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships and coaching 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.

For more information, please visit: www.educationfirst.org
Our 2015 Scholarship Recipients ($4,000)

Seattle
Hana Muse
Chief Seattle International School
University of Washington at Bothell
Hana has overcome moving from Africa, diabetes, and the death of her mother. Additionally, she helps to raise her 5 siblings with her grandmother. With these adversities she has inspired Hana to pursue Biology at the University of Washington.

Portland
Kaiyee Pendergast
David Douglas High School
Ecology College
Kaiyee Pendergast not only took care of their siblings, but also her mother, who was diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorder. While taking on the financial burden of the home, Kaiyee maintained similar grades and now attends Ecology College in Idaho.

San Francisco
Makay Song
Moss High School
Sacramento State University
Since leaving Nepal, Makay has gone from an English-learner in 7th grade to taking AP classes. He attended Sacramento State, becoming the first in his family to ever complete high school and attend a four-year university.

Los Angeles
Kara Hernandez
Manuel Arts High School
University of Southern California
Kara’s and her mother have overcome health and financial issues since the age of 13. She desires to become a pediatric hematologist to understand her patient’s pain on a personal level and to be a role model to kids dealing with chronic illness.

San Diego
David Opiyo
Franklin High School
Grossmont College
David Opiyo migrated from West Africa when he was 6 years old. He withstood a shocking upbringing and aspiring to earn a degree in college and working in volunteer at the Marine of Army during college.

Denver
Rachel Hernandez
North High School
Colorado State University
Born into a homeless family, Rachel has been in foster care and lived in the projects with her aunt for most of her childhood. Rachel attends Colorado State University and majors in Political Science, with an emphasis in Criminal Justice.

Austin
Ivy Tran
Esdar Memorial High School
University of Texas at Austin
Ivy’s parents emigrated from Vietnam when she was very young and at 14 years old she does not have enough resources to provide food, shelter and amenities. Ivy majored in Environmental Studies at the University of Texas and wants to become an environmental engineer.

Honorable Mention Award Scholarships ($1,000)

Seattle
Maria Nguyen
Chief Seattle High School

San Diego
Jiwan Usra
Crawford High School

Denver
Thaila Avera
North High School

Austin
Diana Ruiz Trujillo
Travis High School

Our 2015 Donors

Past Scholars — Where are they now?

"Thank you for the support you provided me during my time at California State University, Los Angeles, and for helping me to become the first one in my family to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. I am grateful to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power a few weeks after finishing school. My achievements were possible by your help and support. Thank you so much,”

— Jairo Guerenda, 2011 Scholarship Recipient

Jaini sent us handmade thank you notes every year while in school and joined us in 2016 as volunteer.

Sponsor a scholarship today.

Contact: majorg@fseduassociation.org