

Universal Application - 2025

Community Foundation Scholarship Platform Notes and Tips

Notes for using the online scholarships platform:

- The Community Foundation utilizes a **universal application**. This means that you will complete one application and potentially be eligible for multiple scholarships.
- If you are eligible for multiple scholarships, you will be asked to complete a separate additional prompt for each scholarship that you are eligible for. See example image [HERE](#).

Tips for using the online scholarships platform:

- Required fields are indicated with an asterisk *.
- Character limits include spaces and punctuation.
- To work on your application in a language other than English, please use the "Select Language" drop down button in the top left corner to activate Google Translate.
- Check Your Work!
 - Double check formatting and character count after copying/pasting from Word, as there are software differences that can cause an error in how your application appears on our scholarship platform.
- Saving Your Application
 - While there is an autosave feature, double check for a "Save" button at the bottom of the page before closing your browser.
- The size of text boxes may be adjusted by dragging the lower right corner.
- Additional Documents
 - To create a PDF version of your completed application that you can save and/or print, click the "Application Packet" button at the top of the application page.
 - Click on the "Questions List" button in the upper right-hand corner of the application page to view the application instructions and questions in PDF form.

Student Information

Please fill out the following section with your most up-to-date contact information. While it may feel repetitive, this ensures that Community Foundation staff are able to quickly communicate with you in the event that additional information is needed and to inform you of award decisions.

Applicant Name*

County of Residence*

Please select the county where you reside for most of your week.

Note: Only students residing in our service region are eligible for scholarships. If you are located outside of our region or out-of-state, you are not eligible to apply.

Choices

Lewis County

Mason County

Pacific County

Pierce County
Thurston County Other

Phone*

Please provide us with the best phone number for which we can reach you.

Personal Email*

Please provide us with a personal email in which to contact you.

Please do not use your school email.

High School Information

Grade Level*

What is your current [high school] grade level?

County High School*

Please select the county in which your high school is located.

Choices

Lewis County
Mason County
Pacific County
Pierce County
Thurston County

Cumulative High School GPA***High School Transcript***

Please upload a copy of your most recent transcript. This can be an official or unofficial copy. *Accepted documentation includes scanned documents, screenshots, and photos (example file types include jpg, docx, pdf, png, etc.).*

The document must include all classes, final grades, and GPA for each semester of high school you have completed through December 31, 2024.

GED Information

When did you receive your GED Diploma? *

Post-Secondary School Information

Degree Type*

What type of degree, certification, or program are you planning to pursue after high school graduation?

Choices

Associate (2-year degree)
 Bachelor (4-year degree)
 Vocational/Trade/Apprenticeship Program

Post-Secondary Institution(s)*

Please share which post-secondary institutions and/or programs you are considering after you graduate from high school.

This can include colleges, universities, vocational programs, apprenticeship programs, and more. Feel free to list as many as the character limit allows, however, do not feel obligated to list everything.

Scholarship Specific Career Field, Major, and/or Studies*

If you are planning to pursue one of the following career fields, major, and/or studies with your post-secondary education, please select it below.

NOTE: This list is exclusive to available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation. Each career field, major, and/or studies will include the related scholarship opportunity in parenthesis, with links to each opportunity listed below. There will be space provided later in the application process for you to discuss your specific future plans.

Related scholarship opportunities:

- [Dan R. Montgomery Scholarship](#)
- [Henry J. Melusky Scholarship](#)
- [Mike and Sharon Welsh Scholarship](#)
- [Richard J. Geiger Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Russell Legacy: Women in STEM Scholarship](#)

Choices

Education Major and/or Studies (Welsh Scholarship)
 Engineering Major and/or Career (Geiger & Russell Scholarships)
 Environmental Studies Major and/or Career (Melusky & Russell Scholarships)
 Law Enforcement Career (Dan R. Montgomery Scholarship)
 Law Enforcement Career IN Outreach and Crisis Response (Montgomery Scholarship)
 Law Enforcement Career IN Social Services (Montgomery Scholarship)
 Mathematics Major and/or Career (Melusky & Russell Scholarships)
 Mathematics Teaching Career (Melusky Scholarship)
 Mental Health Services FOR Law Enforcement (Montgomery Scholarship)
 Meteorology Major and/or Career (Melusky & Russell Scholarships)
 Music Major and/or Career (Melusky Scholarship)
 STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math (Russell Legacy Scholarship)
 Teaching-Related Major and/or Studies (Welsh & Melusky Scholarships)
 None of the Above

Federal Aid

When you apply for a scholarship through the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, you must also submit that year's FAFSA or WASFA. Follow the links below to complete your FAFSA or WASFA or locating your FAFSA Submission Summary (SS).

We understand that applicants and families may face issues and obstacles when completing their financial aid paperwork and recommend that all applicants complete their financial aid paperwork as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

- Follow this [link](#) for instructions on applying for FAFSA.
- Follow this [link](#) for instructions on applying for WASFA.
- Follow this [link](#) for instructions on locating your FAFSA Submission Summary (SS).

Federal Aid*

Please select the option that best describes what federal aid information you have completed.

Choices

- I have completed my FAFSA for the 2025-26 award year & have my Submission Summary
- I have completed my FAFSA for the 2025-26 award year & have NOT received my Submission Summary
- I have completed my WASFA for the 2025-26 award year & have my Financial Aid Offer
- I have completed my WASFA for the 2025-26 award year & have NOT received my Financial Aid Offer
- I am unable to/do not plan to complete my FAFSA/WAFSA for the 2025-26 award year

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

FAFSA Submission Summary*

Please upload a copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary (SS) from your FAFSA application.

Follow this [link](#) for instructions on locating your SS.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the FAFSA does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, the SS gives a standardized overview of your financial situation.

Student Aid Index (formerly EFC) *

Please insert your Student Aid Index (SAI) number found on your FAFSA Submission Summary.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the FAFSA does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, the SAI offers scholarship evaluators with a starting point and will be taken into consideration alongside your short essay response in the Universal Application.

WASFA

Financial Aid Offer*

Please upload a copy of your Financial Aid Offer from your WASFA application.

You can receive a copy of your Financial Aid Offer from your school's financial aid office.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the WASFA does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, the Financial Aid Offer gives a standardized overview of your financial situation.

Student Aid Index (formerly EFC) *

Please insert your Student Aid Index (SAI) number found on your WASFA Financial Aid Offer.

Contact your school's financial aid office for a copy.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the WASFA does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, the SAI offers scholarship evaluators with a starting point and will be taken into consideration alongside your short essay response in the Universal Application.

Federal Student Aid Estimator

Recently, the Department of Education shortened the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and changed the SAI (formerly EFC) tables to more accurately reflect need, especially for low-income students. However, the application has significant issues that are preventing families from applying successfully. To ensure that we continue to help students with the most need, we are allowing students to fill out a FAFSA estimator form while they wait for their full FAFSA/WASFA reports this year.

Follow this [link](#) to complete your Federal Student Aid Estimator.

SPECIAL NOTE

Upon receiving your FAFSA Submission Summary or WASFA Financial Aid Offer, please send a copy to Tami Mason Lathrop at tami@thecommunityfoundation.com with the subject line, "[YOUR NAME] 2025 FAFSA/WASFA".

Federal Student Aid Estimator Results*

Please upload a copy of your results from the Federal Student Aid Estimator.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the Federal Student Aid Estimator does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, it gives a standardized overview of your financial situation.

Student Aid Index (formerly EFC) *

Please insert your Student Aid Index (SAI) number found on your Federal Student Aid Estimator.

Why we ask: The majority of available scholarship opportunities through the Community Foundation are determined by financial need of the student's applying. While the Federal Student Aid Estimator does not provide a full picture of your individual financial needs, the SAI offers scholarship evaluators with a starting point and will be taken into consideration alongside your short essay response in the Universal Application.

Recommendation Instructions

All applicants are required to submit two references.

- References can be from a current or former teacher (or other school official) or from a personal contact such as an employer, coach, community member, or religious or spiritual leader (excluding immediate family members).
- Each submission must be from a different person.

Each reference will be asked to complete a short online Reference Questionnaire. The Reference Questionnaire must be submitted by each reference no later than **April 7, 2025, at 11:59pm.**

- It is recommended that you send your request for a reference well in advance of the due date. **Frequently, references are not received by the due date if the request has been made less than one week prior to the deadline.**
 - You can check the status of your Reference Questionnaires at any time by logging into your account and viewing the status of "Third Party Responses" on your home page.
- For further details, you can click "Edit Application" or "View Application" and scroll to the "Reference" section of your application.
- **SPECIAL NOTE:** Verify you have provided the correct email address. Sometimes, school district email addresses are often protected with anti-virus/spam software, resulting in the Reference Questionnaire link or your composed email not being received. Make sure your references check their spam/junk folders.
 - If your application is still in DRAFT status, and you have already checked 1) with your reference and asked them to check their spam/junk folder, 2) the email address you provided is correct, and they are still not receiving the email with the Reference Questionnaire link, you can click "Compose Email" again to resend an email and the link.

Community Involvement

Community Involvement

Community involvement can include many kinds of activities. This can include school related/involved activities, extracurricular activities, structured programs or informal activities, non-school related activities, and more.

Examples include, yet are not limited to:

- Active in faith community (e.g., church, synagogue, mosque, temple) or religious/spiritual activities
- Band, orchestra, choir, etc.
- Caring for a family member(s)
- Club participation (school-sponsored or not school-sponsored)
- Community and/or civic engagement
- Employment or paid work
- Hobbies or creative pursuits
- Raising animals and/or crops
- School clubs
- Sports
- Volunteer work

Community Involvement - Activities*

Following the template seen below, please provide a list of all activities you participated in during your high school career. Please use the space provided below to submit the name of the activity and approximately how long you participated in each community activity.

TEMPLATE:

- Activity name (include your role/title if relevant) - Approximate length of participation

Examples of how to use this template:

- High School bowling team - 3 years
- Little league baseball coach (volunteer) - 9 months or three seasons
- Family caretaker (2 siblings) - 4 years
- Grocery store clerk - 1 year

Community Involvement - Prompt*

Please share more about your favorite community involvement activity and its importance in your life.

Did you participate in any sports during your high school career? *

NOTE: This question is directly related to our Randy Edwards Memorial Scholarship.

Short Essay Questions

Personal Statement*

Please write a short personal statement to share more about who you are and about the life experiences that have helped shaped who you are today.

Topics to consider writing about include, but are not limited to:

- Family and/or friends
- Work and/or volunteer experience
- Community Involvement
- Hobbies
- Accomplishments and goals
- Honors or awards you have received
- Challenges you have overcome

Education - Future Plans*

Please use this prompt to tell us what you think (or hope) you will study or major in? What are your aspirations for your career?

NOTE: We know not everyone has figured this out yet and that's okay. It's fine to write about what you're interested in exploring; what you'd like to create or build; the people or communities you'd like to serve; or a problem in the world you'd like to help solve.

Financial Picture*

Financial need does not look the same for everyone and FAFSA/WASFA does not give a full picture of your individual financial situation.

Please include as much information as you feel comfortable sharing when considering the following questions:

- What are your other financial responsibilities outside of your education?
- Are there any special financial or life circumstances that show or help explain your need for financial support to pursue your education?

Fun Fact*

Applying for scholarships and post-secondary schools can be a stressful time. Take this moment to breathe, relax, and have fun with this last prompt.

Please choose one of the following prompts to answer:

- Do you have any hidden talents? If so, how did you discover you had this talent?
- If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be and why?
- If you could travel to any other planet (real or fictional), where would you go and why?
- What book have you read or movie that you've seen recently, would you recommend and why?
- What current fact about your life would most impress your five-year old self?
- If you could only eat one food/type of food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?
- What time of the day do you prefer: sunrise, daylight, twilight, or night? Please share why you picked this time of day.
- Share anything else about yourself that you feel comfortable sharing.

Declarations

By submitting this scholarship application, you agree to the following:

- I understand that my request may not be funded or may only be partially funded
- The information above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge
- Any false statements may result in denial of consideration
- I give my consent to the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound to use the information provided for the purpose of scholarship award consideration

I agree to the declarations above* Type your full, legal name below.

Demographics

Why we ask for this information: This section is optional, but completing it helps us understand who is applying for our scholarships and ensures opportunities are accessible to all students in South Puget Sound.

**Responses are for internal use only.*

What is your date of birth? *

Pronouns

Please use the space provided to include the pronouns that you **publicly** use and/or identify with. Pronouns can include, yet are not limited to: they/them, she/her, fae/faer, he/him, ze/zir, and xe/xem.

Why we ask: Sharing your pronouns will help us make sure we refer to you correctly in Community Foundation communications.

Gender Identity: Do you identify with the same gender you were assigned at birth? *

Choices

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Race/Ethnicity*

Check all race and/or ethnicities that you identify with.

Choices

African Descent/African American/Black

Bi/multiracial

Caribbean

East Asian

First Nations/Indigenous/Native American/Alaska Native

Hispanic

Latino/a/Latinx

Middle Eastern North African (MENA)

- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- South/Central American
- Southeast Asian
- White/European Descent
- Other Race/Ethnicity
- Prefer not to answer

If Other Racial/Ethnic Identity, please share here:

Are you a First-Generation Student? *

For the purpose of this question, we consider individuals whose grandparents or parents have NOT graduated from a post-secondary institution, to be a first-generation student.

Choices

- Yes, I am a first-generation student
- No, I am not a first-generation student
- Prefer not to answer

Gender Assigned at Birth - Yes

Gender Assigned at Birth*

What gender were you assigned at birth?

Choices

- Cisgender Man
- Cisgender Woman
- Prefer not to answer

Gender Assigned at Birth - No

Gender Identity*

Check all gender identities that you identify with.

Choices

- Gender non-conforming
- Genderqueer
- Intersex
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Transgender man
- Transgender woman
- Two-Spirit
- Other gender identity
- Prefer not to answer

If Other Gender Identity, please share here:

Would you like to identify yourself as...

Choices

- Somewhere on the trans feminine spectrum

- Somewhere on the trans masculine spectrum
- Combination of trans feminine and trans masculine
- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer

Dan R. Montgomery Supplemental

The Montgomery family established the Dan R. Montgomery Scholarship Fund in 2003 to encourage young folks to pursue higher education. The specific focus of the fund is for students who wish to pursue the honorable profession of a law enforcement officer, and consideration is given to students going into work related to the law enforcement sector.

Award amount: \$2,000 (Renewable)

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating high school senior residing in Thurston County.
- Planning to pursue a career in law enforcement OR another field, such as social work, related to the law enforcement sector.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Identify as a person of color.
- Planning to attend a post-secondary institution within Washington State.

Student Demographic*

Do you identify as a person of color?

Why we ask: *This scholarship has preference for applicants who identify as a person of color. If you do not identify as a person of color, you are not necessarily precluded from applying.*

Choices

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

Post-Secondary Institution*

Do you plan on attending a post-secondary institution in Washington State?

Why we ask: *This question is used as part of the eligibility and criteria for this scholarship.*

Choices

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Personal Statement*

Dan R. Montgomery served the residents of Thurston County as their elected Sheriff from 1979 through 1986 and this scholarship fund was created in his honor to encourage young people to pursue higher education and career in law enforcement.

Please use the space provided to tell us more about why you are planning to pursue a career in law enforcement or another field, such as social work, related to the law enforcement sector. This could include

areas such as mental health services for law enforcement or outreach and crisis response that complement law enforcement efforts.

Henry J. Melusky Scholarship Supplemental

The Henry J. Melusky Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2005. Mr. Melusky taught math at Olympia High School for 37 years. To honor his dedication to education, his loving family and devoted friends are offering this scholarship to assist graduating high school seniors from Olympia High School, Olympia, Washington.

Award amount: \$4,000

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from Olympia High School.
- Must attend a college or university in Washington State.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Are planning to pursue a teaching degree in mathematics.

Students planning to pursue a teaching degree or a degree in the fields of meteorology, music, or environmental studies are also eligible to apply.

Post-Secondary Institution*

Do you plan on attending a post-secondary institution in Washington State?

Why we ask: *This question is used as part of the eligibility and criteria for this scholarship.*

Choices

Yes

No

Unsure

Personal Statement*

Henry J. Melusky, for whom this scholarship was created in honor of, was a dedicated math teacher at Olympia High School for 37 years.

Please use the space provided to tell us more about why you are planning to pursue a career in teaching mathematics or teaching, OR why you are planning to major/study mathematics, meteorology, music, and/or environmental studies.

Jay Elder Creativity Challenge Scholarship Supplemental

The Jay Elder Creativity Challenge Scholarship was created to honor Jay's memory by providing scholarships to Olympia High School seniors who showed creativity or innovation in pursuit of their science or math studies. Jay believed that sometimes, some of the brightest and best students go unrecognized in high school and was always looking for ways to encourage unique and wonderful minds. Award amount: \$1,000

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from Olympia High School.
- Planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Showed creativity or innovation in pursuit of their science, technology, engineering, or math studies.

Personal Statement*

Created by his family to honor his life, the Jay Elder Creativity Challenge seeks to support Olympia High School seniors who showed creativity or innovation in the pursuit of their science or math studies. Jay believed that sometimes, some of the brightest and best students go unrecognized in high school and sought to nurture a sense of outside-of-the-box thinking, ingenuity, creativity, and curiosity with all of his students.

Please use the space provided to share with us about a time in which you demonstrated "out-of-the-box" thinking, ingenuity, creativity, or curiosity with regard to your science, technology, engineering, or math pursuits.

Examples include but are not limited to school projects, personal life, home life, work life, volunteer work, etc.

John and Opal McGimpsey Supplemental

The John and Opal McGimpsey Scholarship Fund was created in 2006 by John and Opal McGimpsey to benefit graduating seniors of Olympia High School and North Thurston High School. This scholarship is guided by three strong beliefs: (1) that education is important, (2) that scholarships of significant dollar value would help conscientious students remain more focused on their studies, and (3) that students who are not necessarily the highest scholastic achievers, but have a strong work ethic, as well as ability and commitment, should have the opportunity for this scholarship.

Award amount: \$12,500 (Renewable) awarded to one student from Olympia High School AND \$12,500 (Renewable) awarded to one student from North Thurston High School

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from OHS or NTHS.
- Planning to attend a two- or four-year accredited public institution in Washington State.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- No relation to donors and/or their family.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Plan on living in student housing, particularly in the first year of post-secondary education.

Special Note

The McGimpsey Scholarship Selection Committee will choose candidates from each high school (Olympia and North Thurston) to interview for this award. If chosen as a candidate, you will be required to attend a virtual interview that will be scheduled between April 28th - May 9th.

****The date will be announced by April 7, 2025.***

Post-Secondary Institution*

Do you plan on attending a post-secondary institution in Washington State?

Why we ask: This question is used as part of the eligibility and criteria for this scholarship.

Post-Secondary Institution Type*

Do you plan on attending a public or private post-secondary institution?

Why we ask: *This question is used as part of the eligibility and criteria for this scholarship.*

Scholarships*

Please list all other scholarships you have applied for and include the following information (*bullet point lists are preferred*):

- Name of scholarship • Award amount (can be a range)
- Is this scholarship renewable?
- Have you already been notified if you are an award recipient? If so, what was the result?

NOTE: If you have not applied for any other scholarships at this time, please put "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the space provided.

Learning Seed Scholarship Supplemental

The Learning Seed Scholarship Fund was established by the Learning Seed Foundation to assist graduating high school seniors in Pierce and Thurston Counties in obtaining a higher education. This scholarship is designed to benefit primarily students of color who have overcome significant obstacles and demonstrate a commitment to others.

Award amount: \$3,000 (*renewable*)

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from a high school in Thurston or Pierce Counties **OR** students who have a General Education Degree (GED).
- Demonstration of **significant** financial need.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- **Identify as a person of color.**
- Demonstrate a commitment to others through volunteer projects and active participation in school, church, or community.
- Have overcome significant obstacles that have tested the applicant's resilience.

Student Demographic*

Do you identify as a person of color?

Why we ask: *This scholarship has preference for applicants who identify as a person of color.*

Personal Statement*

The Learning Seed Foundation Scholarship is designed to benefit primarily students of color who have overcome significant obstacles and demonstrate a commitment to others.

Please use the space provided to tell us about a time in which you overcame a significant obstacle AND/OR a time in which you demonstrated a commitment to others.

Mike and Sharon Welsh Scholarship Supplemental

Michael Francis Welsh, born April 5, 1943, died on the first of March 2020. Mike was a smart and dedicated student that loved to read. Mike was granted the National Merit Scholarship in 1961, after his graduation from Gonzaga Preparatory School. He attended the University of Pennsylvania as a National Merit Scholar and after

graduating from Penn he continued his education at the Wharton School of Business, receiving his MBA from Wharton in 1967. In Mike's memory, his family has established the Mike and Sharon Welsh Scholarship Fund.

Award Amount: \$4,000

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from Olympia High School.
- Planning to attend a 2 or 4-year college or university.
- Planning to pursue studies related to education or teaching.

Personal Statement*

Michael Francis Welsh, for whom this scholarship was made in honor of, was a smart and dedicated student that loved to read and was married to Sharon Welsh, who was an educator her entire working career.

Please use the space provided to tell us more about why you are planning to pursue a career and/or major/studies in education or teaching.

Next Step Scholarship Supplemental

The Next Step Scholarship Fund was established to assist students planning to pursue a trade, vocation, or a career in a specific profession.

Award Amount: \$1,500 (Renewable)

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from one of the following high schools: Avanti, Black Hills, Olympia, New Market Skills Center, North Thurston, Rainier, Raymond, Rochester, Tenino, or Yelm.
- Cumulative GPA between 1.75 and 2.75.
- Plans to attend a trade school, apprenticeship program, vocational school, or community college.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Have performed well over time or has steadily improved.
- Exhibit a positive attitude, willingness to learn, and an ability to follow directions.
- Demonstrates a strong potential for successful program completion.

Attendance*

Please upload an attendance report for all four years of high school.

NOTE: If you are unable to acquire a copy of this report, use the space provided to briefly explain the situation.

Richard J. Geiger Memorial Supplemental

The Richard J. Geiger Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Rich Geiger, a Conservation District Engineer serving multiple western Washington areas, working to protect and restore the ecological health of the Puget Sound. Those who knew Rich remember him not only as a topnotch engineer, but as a sweet and funny man who cared deeply about the people he interacted with.

Award amount: \$1,000

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating senior from a high school in Mason or Thurston County.
- Planning to pursue a degree in Engineering.

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Are graduating from a Mason County high school.
- Demonstrate an interest in engineering to improve the environment or society.
- Plays a musical instrument.
- Has experience in mentoring and/or tutoring programs.
- Provide evidence of financial need.

Personal Statement*

The purpose of this scholarship is to honor Richard's legacy and carry forward his commitment to mentoring those interested in pursuing engineering as a career.

Please use the space provided to tell us more about why you are planning to pursue a career in engineering.

Russell Legacy: Women in STEM Scholarship Supplemental

The purpose of the Russell Legacy: Women in STEM Scholarship Fund is to recognize and support exceptional students who have demonstrated a passion for and commitment to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Award amount: \$5,000 (Renewable)

Eligibility & Criteria:

- Graduating high school senior from a high school in Lewis, Mason or Thurston counties.
- Planning to pursue studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM).
- Planning to pursue post-secondary education at a four-year college or university.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Identify as female, with the aim of promoting gender diversity and representation in the STEM fields.
- Demonstrate financial need.

Personal Statement*

The Russell Legacy: Women in STEM Scholarship Fund was created to support exceptional students who have demonstrated a passion for a commitment to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

**Preference will be given to applicants who identify as female, with the aim of promoting gender diversity and representation in STEM fields, and those who demonstrate financial need.*

If you are unsure if your field of study is eligible for STEM, please refer to this [STEM Designated Degree Program List](#).

Use the area below to provide the following information:

- List which STEM area of study or major and enter the 2020 CIP Code (second column code, no need to enter the two digit code from the first column) associated with it using the STEM Designated Degree Program List from the link above. *(example: Major: Landscape Architecture; Code: 04.0601)*
- Share why you are passionate about the STEM field you have selected and, if you know, what career path you plan to pursue.

Recommendation #1

Recommender's Email*

Please follow the instructions below to send an electronic request for a letter of recommendation. You will be unable to see what is written in the recommendation. After submitting your application, you will be able to see if a recommendation has been submitted from your dashboard (this is found by clicking the house button at the top of your screen).

1. Enter the email address for the person who will write you a recommendation.
2. Click 'Compose Email'.
3. Write an email to the recommender. Be sure to include details, such as why you are asking for this recommendation and the due date.
4. Click 'Send'.
5. In addition to your email, the system will automatically send the recommender a second email that contains their link to log on and complete the applicable questions.

Click here for additional instructions on how your recommender will submit their recommendation.

Tips for using the online scholarships platform:

- Required fields are indicated with an asterisk *.
- Character limits include spaces and punctuation.
- To work on your recommendation in a language other than English, please use the "Select Language" drop down button in the top left corner to activate Google Translate.
- Check Your Work!
 - Double check formatting and character count after copying/pasting from Word, as there are software differences that can cause an error in how your recommendation appears on our scholarship platform.
- Saving Your Recommendation
 - While there is an autosave feature, double check for a "Save" button at the bottom of the page before closing your browser.
- The size of text boxes may be adjusted by dragging the lower right corner.

If you have any questions or concerns about submitting your responses, please contact Community Foundation staff at info@thecommunityfoundation.com or call 360-705-3340.

[Click here to view all available scholarship opportunities.](#)

Note: this recommendation is attached to a universal application. Upon completion of the application, the student will be notified which scholarship opportunities they are eligible for based on their responses.

Thank you for supporting a student's scholarship application!

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a reference for this student's universal scholarship application with the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound (CFSPS). We want you to know that your answers to this form are confidential to CFSPS. No one outside of the CFSPS scholarship process, which is comprised of CFSPS staff and scholarship evaluators, will have access to your responses.

Please answer the questions below, providing as much detail as you are able.

IMPORTANT: Please do not leave any question blank. Forms with unanswered questions will cause the application to be flagged as incomplete. If you do not have enough knowledge to answer a question, please type "unable to answer" and move forward to the next question. PLEASE CLICK "SUBMIT" once completed to ensure that your response is received.

Answer to each question are automatically saved as you work.

The deadline to provide a response is **April 7, 2025, at 11:59pm.**

For more details on how to fill out your Recommendation through the Community Foundation's scholarship portal, please visit this [LINK](#).

 **In what capacity have you known this student? ***

Examples include, but are not limited to, teacher, counselor, coach, religious leader, supervisor (work and/or volunteer), and neighbor.

 **Student Strengths***

What would you say are this student's 2 greatest strengths and how have you seen them utilize these strengths?

**Strengths can refer to the student's personality, work ethic, passions, lived experiences, or anything else that makes them unique.*

 **Student Growth***

Describe a time in which this student was passionate about what they were doing OR succeeded in meeting a goal.

How has this passion/success contributed to the student's overall growth?

How can you see it helping the student in the future?

 **Final Comments***

Is there anything additional you would like to share about this student? Are there any special circumstances this student has faced, or is facing, of which we should be aware?

Recommendation #2 (same questions as Recommendation #1)
