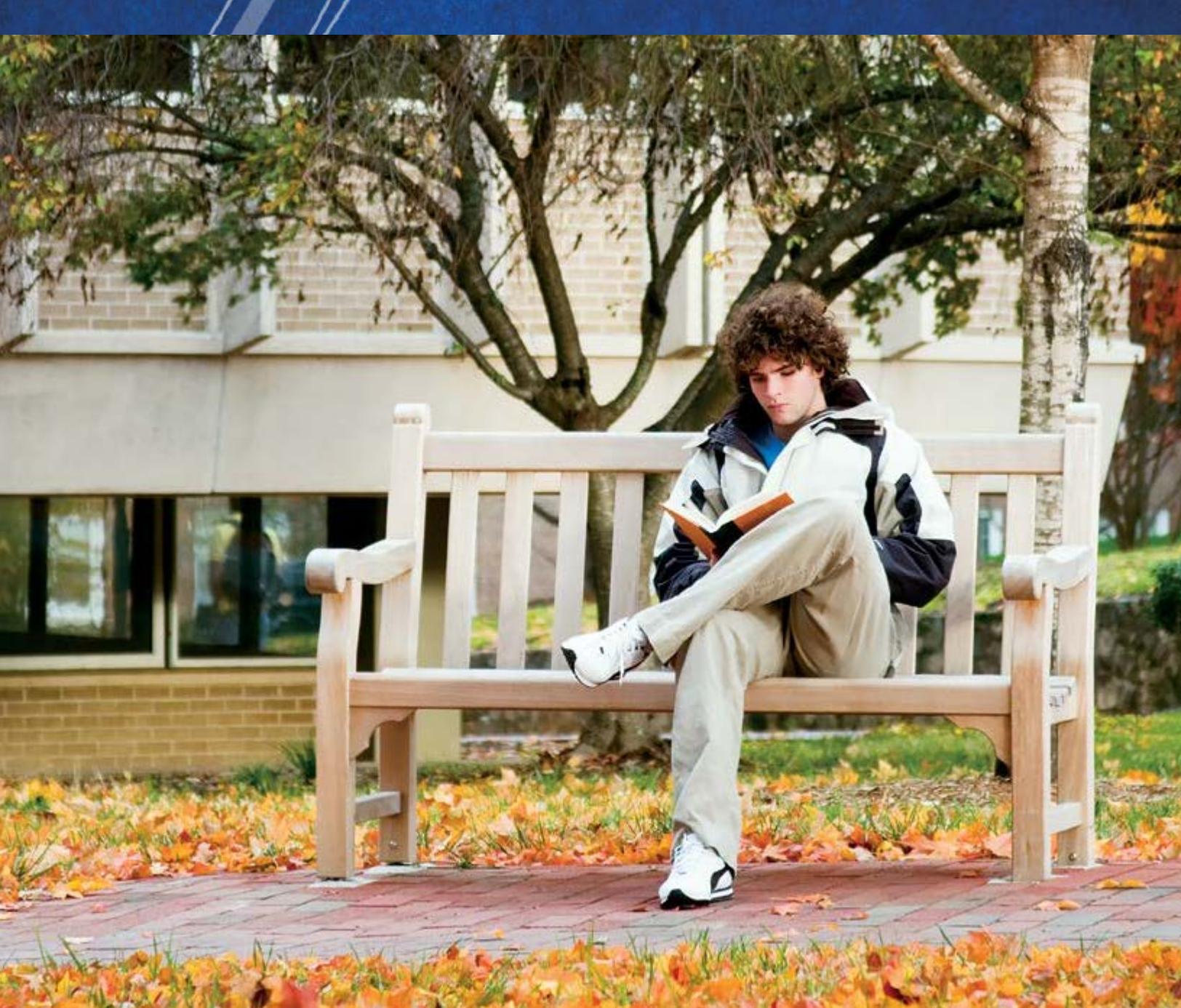


The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
16 Years of Changing Lives

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

SCHOLAR

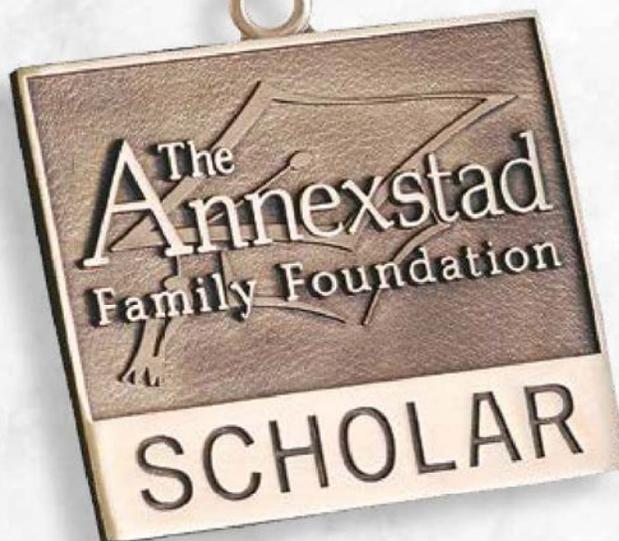


2016

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

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Est. May 3, 2000 (Minnesota Corporation)
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Believing in the Future

Cathy & Al Annexstad

"We have long believed that young people are our future. By giving students who are the brightest of the bright, neediest of the needy and toughest of the tough the opportunity for a college diploma, we are giving our country a successful future," attest Cathy and Al Annexstad. "One we can be proud of!"

The Annexstads have not only given nearly 600 students the most incredible opportunity to become future leaders, they have given the community around these students hope and support because they know that these young people will give back tenfold to all of those who supported them. As one pours through the expressive gratitude and praise throughout the following pages, one can easily see the common thread of wanting to give as great as they received.

amazing mentors who helped support their dreams, and it is the Annexstad's focus to believe in these selected scholars – chosen by their universities – to elevate what tomorrow has in store for them. Higher education is a powerful force for social change.

"A majority of our scholars are the first in their family to go to college," describes Al. "Most have lived below the poverty line, have been raised by a single parent or have survived a traumatic experience. It is not unusual for the scholars to have experienced homelessness, foster homes, families affected by drug abuse, violence or serious crimes. But, through all of their trials, they have survived, are resilient and focused on getting a great education and affecting change."

"Being an Annexstad Scholar has meant the world to me. Now my mother does not have to worry about paying tuition while she struggles to keep food on the table, and my brother and sister will grow up with big dreams and hope for their own futures. This scholarship and my Spelman experience are changing my world. I promise to help change someone's life because of them."

– Chelesa Fearce, Spelman College, Class of 2017

Every one of these exceptional students over the past 16 years has had a bright mind and big dreams. And Cathy and Al know every one of their stories. They have become family and they boast about them as if they were their own children. When someone first meets Al and he begins to tell him or her about their scholars, the floodgates are open wide: He beams with pride over these students' success and is humbled by their strength and character. To him, Annexstad Scholars are rock stars with a future brighter than a concert hall.

Established in 2000, The Annexstad Family Foundation has given aspiring students who need a leg up with their education the tools to lead the next generation – by supporting one education at a time. Equipping these talented scholars with world-class degrees represents a significant investment in our nation's future as they go on to lead productive and rewarding lives.

Both Cathy and Al lost a parent early and they looked to their families and communities to help shape them. It was these

"Once a scholarship has been awarded," shares Cathy, "we have two wonderful counselors who follow the students through their college years and help them in whatever ways they can in order to ensure their graduation. They send care packages, make phone calls, meet them on campus, and build trusting relationships with our college partners – this way the scholar knows we are behind them all the way!"

What do the graduates have to say? A lot!

"The Annexstad Family Foundation scholarship has given me immense peace of mind," shares future Yale Law School student Hayden Rodarte, who recently earned his master's from Stanford. "I would have worried a lot without this scholarship. Having the security allowed me to pursue multiple majors and to work in my chosen field, because I knew someone was supporting me. Every quarter I would receive a care package with a message encouraging me to do my best, and having a student liaison to contact if I needed anything was very supportive!"

Laura Sevilla, a class of 2018 future Northwestern graduate in Sociology and Human Development and Psychological Services adds, "Al, Cathy and family, I am unbelievably grateful for your vision, generosity and hearts of gold. I hope you understand the motivation you are providing all of us!"

"I find it amazing that a very successful family would take its resources to invest in a poor kid from the streets of Baltimore," shares Kayvon Asemani, student at the University of Pennsylvania. "The Annexstads have used their success to advance society through helping motivated young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It's time for the rest of us to do that, too. Their generosity has provided me with the golden opportunity to follow my dreams." Kayvon is living this statement.

His love for music and a head for business has led to building his own company, Kayvon Fashion, whose profits fund his non-profit projects – a model he patterns after the work of Milton Hershey.

Juan Rangel, Notre Dame graduate class of 2015, has focused his mission on a stronger commitment toward social justice and work on immigration policy in Washington, D.C. "Gaining new experiences will better enable me to become an advocate for the voiceless in our society. The Annexstads have taught me how to be generous with my resources. I want to repay all of the support they have given me in the form of supporting others who are less fortunate."





"I grew up in foster care with no one pushing me. No one knew that I graduated from high school. During my college career, regular contact and support from the Annexstads made all the difference. Someone was always there to ask how I was doing. How would anyone have known that I was homeless during the summer? When I was emancipated from the state, it was Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad who saw what I needed. No matter how old a person is, they need a mentor. I am so thankful to Cathy and Al and their family; they have done so much for me."

— Shawn Sanford, University of Notre Dame, Class of 2008



University of Notre Dame. Students Changing the World (from left to right): Ruben Inzunza, Makayla Vasquez, Juliana Tiscareno and Briana Hagans-Johnson receiving their Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar medallion at University of Notre Dame; Wyatt Whiteaker, Adam Al-Hammad, Samm Nelson and Duncan Swanson after the president's dinner at North Dakota State University.

Spelman student Chelesa Fearce, class of 2017, is motivated from past experiences to give others a chance including working with victims of sex trafficking through the Metro Atlanta Sisters Chapel, volunteering for a non-profit health care clinic and helping the homeless. What a legacy for change that The Annexstad Family Foundation is inspiring!

And it all started with the very first scholarship given to a Gustavus Adolphus College student in honor of Al's mother, Alice who worked in the school cafeteria for 40 years. Nearly 30 Gustavus students have been honored as scholars since. In 2014, the college honored the Annexstad Family Foundation by

naming their east campus mall the Annexstad Mall. "This honor is magnified so many times by the success we see our Annexstad Scholars having at Gustavus as they continue on their path to productive and rewarding lives," shares Al.

The Annexstads credit the care and mentorship of the people in their small towns in Minnesota for helping them to become confident and productive people. They have chosen to pay forward their success by helping bring the power of higher education into the lives of others while helping assure that these students can earn their undergraduate degrees as free from debt as possible.



Ojuolape Junaid and Steven Lujan sporting their Georgetown gear. Go Bulldogs!



(Left to right): Meg McGuire, Al Annexstad, Mitchell Partlow and Genesis Perez at the University of Alabama; spending time at the University of Alabama are Kaci Annexstad, Cathy Annexstad and Ana Sinyavina.

Cathy reminds us, "These terrific scholars have the potential to excel in life. All they need is the opportunity. Working with our college partners, we enable them to hit the ground running when they graduate, eager to someday become leaders in their chosen fields. And they begin their careers without a mountain of student loan debt hanging over their heads."

The Annexstads have a deep concern for the future of the United States and believe that investing in and cultivating young leaders is crucial to preserving a future for the generations to come. They believe that higher education is a powerful force for social change.

"All of our scholars have endured great obstacles and we are honored to lift the financial burden off their shoulders," shares Al. "Most scholars are the first in their family to go to college or maybe they were raised by a single-parent, battled homelessness, lived at or below the poverty line, survived traumatic situations or even fought a serious illness, injury, or physical handicap."

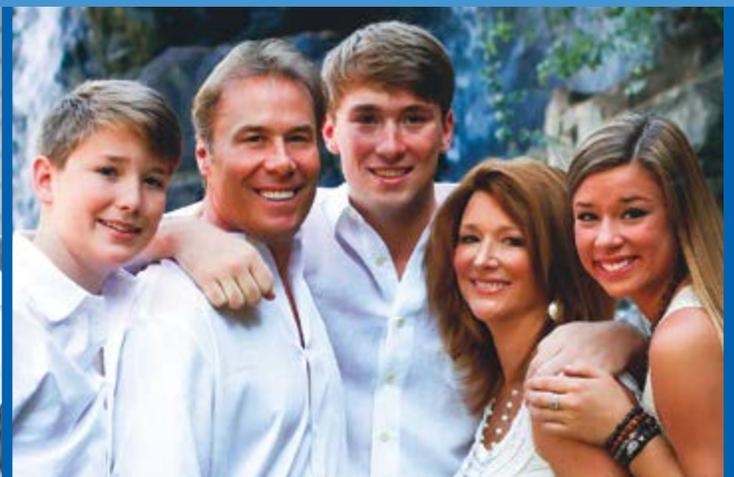
Through it all, these resilient students maintained a positive outlook and a fierce determination that enabled them to excel in their high school studies. The scholars' success stories in the pages that follow show the makings of some of America's great future leaders in every sector of our society.

Al and Cathy beam with pride in noting that over 9 of 10 Annexstad scholars are on track to graduate, and nearly 100% of graduates are employed in their chosen fields or are pursuing advanced degrees.

The Annexstad Family Foundation will continue to track the success of graduates by building a community of scholars that contribute greatly to America's future.

"Each year as our Foundation's reach grows, we continue our mission to help a very special group of deserving young people earn their college degrees as free from debt as possible," Al says. "Their inspiring stories of triumph over hardship and the success that they experience during and after their college careers are poignant reminders that America remains a land of opportunity for those who are prepared."

(Left to right): Mackenzi, Morgan, Patti and Maggie Marinovich believe in their parent's incredible mission to give to those students who most need the financial stability to receive their dreams; Blake, Tom, Shane, Karen, Kaci Annexstad are proud supporters of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholars and the incredible efforts they have gone through to succeed.





Scholarship Superstar

Hayden Rodarte

Imagine applying to all the top law schools: Harvard, Yale and Stanford, and then actually being accepted into ALL of them! For Hayden Rodarte, this dream became a reality this spring while he was a legal assistant at Stanford Law School's International Human Rights Clinic. With a dream to advocate for human rights, Hayden is leaving his Stanford home and entering Yale Law School in the fall.

As a fortunate Annexstad scholar, Hayden's future has forever been changed. Raised by a hard-working single mother who balanced several jobs and had to relocate her family after an earthquake destroyed their home, the unexpected scholarship blessing was a lifesaver.

Hayden graduated with honors from Stanford in 2013 with two bachelor's degrees: International Relations and Latin Language and Literature. In June 2014, he graduated from Stanford with a master's degree in Political Economy of Latin America. As a master's student, he focused on political economic development and trade in the Andean region, which earned him the top academic award of his graduating class.

When asked about his future goals he elaborates, "I want to bridge the gap between trade law and international human rights, so as trade increases, so does the improvement of human rights and the settling of human rights violations." And on a personal level, he volunteers as a legal interpreter for immigration rights at a pro bono law firm and works with disease-fighting and homeless youth organizations.

"The Annexstad's selfless nature and commitment to helping build this country's future generation is a daily inspiration to me," he says. "The greatest investment people can give to those who have potential beyond their circumstances is to help them by making a change in their lives. I'm grateful for the Annexstads' support. I would do anything for them and I am dedicated to paying forward what this amazing Foundation has done for me."

Gustavus Adolphus College

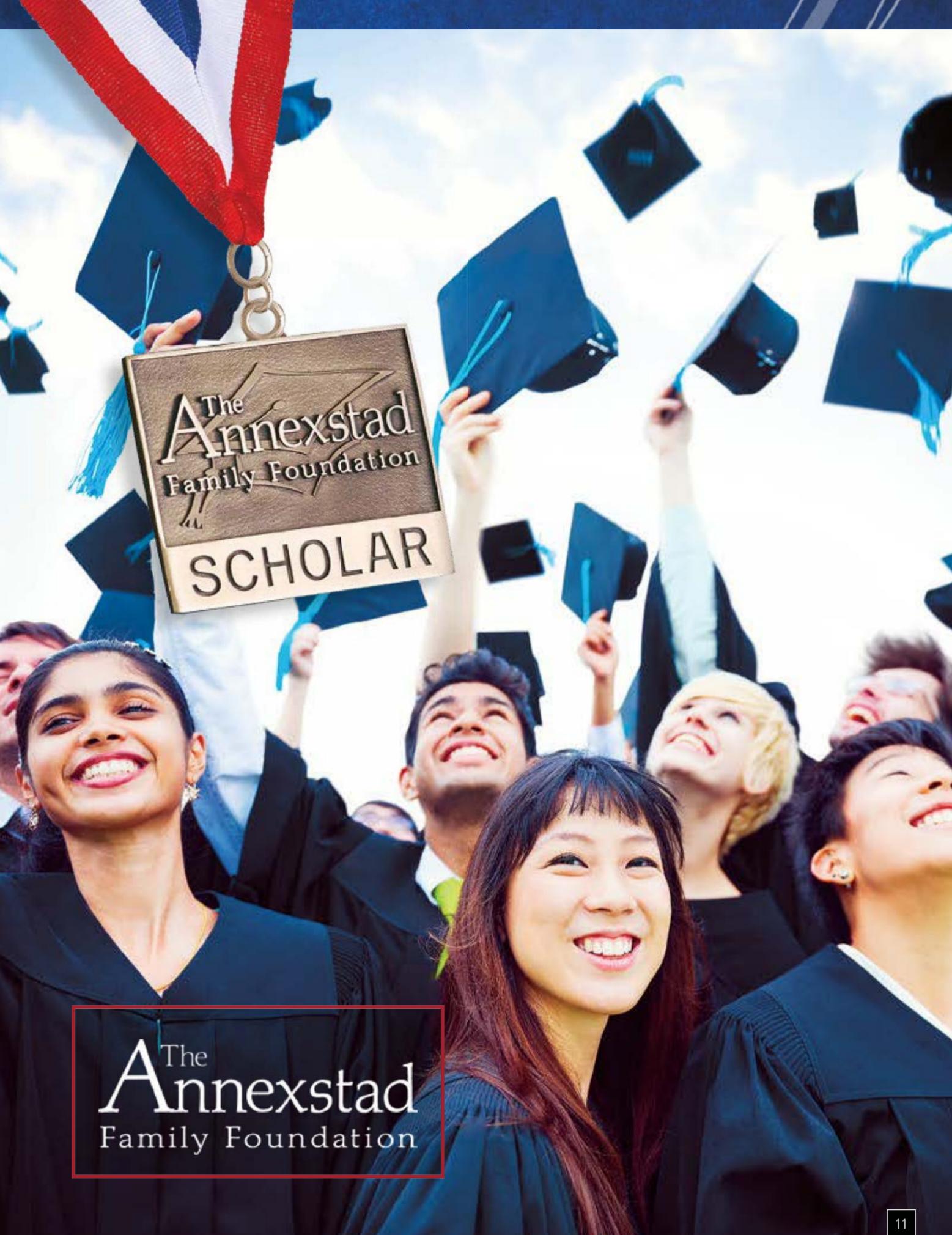
Becky M. Bergman President



“

Gustavus Adolphus College is proud to be the first institution to partner with The Annexstad Family Foundation. We appreciate the Annexstads' commitment to helping promising students with significant financial need pursue their dreams and develop their talents. We are honored to continue to work with the Annexstad Family Foundation and delighted to share The Annexstads' vision of helping to prepare deserving students for lives of leadership and service.

”



The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

Annexstad Family Scholarships

Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship Program

Working with a select group of America's most honored institutions of higher learning, the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship Program is making a significant investment in developing America's future leaders from the ranks of deserving young people who have come from very humble and challenging beginnings. The schools identify, educate and nurture a special group of highly talented young people into tomorrow's leaders.

This scholarship program was established in 2012. With a great measure of moral character, grit and intelligence – with some help from others who see their potential and perhaps with a little luck – some extraordinary future leaders can emerge who will make a huge difference in our country and the world. The Foundation collaborates with a group of carefully chosen colleges and universities that are among the nation's most prestigious institutions of higher learning to find what America needs most: exceptional people who will one day measure their success not merely in personal terms, but in terms of how they have contributed to improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens.

Candidates for this scholarship are exclusively identified by colleges and universities participating in the program. Leaders for Tomorrow scholars earn their undergraduate degrees as free from debt as possible.

Horatio Alger Association

Al and Cathy Annexstad Scholarship

In 2010, Mr. Annexstad was the recipient of the Horatio Alger Award, one of America's highest civilian honors, given in recognition of his inspiring life story of achieving personal and professional success despite humble and challenging beginnings. The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. bears the name of the renowned author Horatio Alger, Jr., whose tales of overcoming adversity through unyielding perseverance and basic moral principles captivated the public in the late 19th century. The Association was organized to recognize men and women of outstanding achievement and to remind Americans of the limitless possibilities that exist through the free-enterprise system. Deeply moved by this recognition, Al and Cathy chose to pay it forward by establishing a scholarship at Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, Spelman College, the University of Georgia and the University of Notre Dame. These prestigious institutions select recipients from their ranks who reflect the spirit of the Horatio Alger Association and the deep personal desire that the Annexstad family has to position higher education as a powerful force for positive social change.

*Open up to see the impressive list of ►
Annexstad Family Foundation Scholars*



Father John J. Jenkins, President of the University of Notre Dame, with the Annexstad Scholars.

1 Auburn University

Turner, Ella

2 Augsburg College

Barger, Sierra
Goodwin, Danielle
Jacobs-Hurtubise, Gabe
Jacobson, Leah
Roberson, Jacarri
Trevino, Crystal
Ung, Robert
Yang, Lee

3 Bemidji State University

Morgan, Jordan

4 Bethel University

Barthel, Tyler
Bauer, Levi
Dah, Dah
Mortenson, Grant
Xiong, Zang

5 Boston College

Barry, Lou
Collier, Jared
Cruz, Karla
Dowling, Kayla
Encarnation, Eric
Hunt, Angelo
Okorie, Chiamaka

6 Carleton College

Korems-Wolinski, Heidi
Rabska, Rachel
Williams, Chavonn

7 Clemson University*

8 College of St. Benedict

Hengel, Stephanie
Hughes, Gretchen
Morrall, Catlin
Rodriguez, Yariset

9 College of the Desert*

10 Concordia College

Teigen, Lindsey
Williams, Britany

11 Crown College*

Bonati, Skye

12 Duke University

Ahmed, Mohamed
Argueta, Laura
Cheng, Amy
Hamill, Haley
Middlebrooks, McKenzie
Sanchez-Rolon, Alexandra
Wayne, Moses

13 Emory University

Lee, Ariona
Martin, Lalita
McDonald, Tanique
Paul, Brandi
Porto, Joshua
Rhee, Amie
Rivera, Suzanne
Sell, Jason
Thompson, Tristen

14 Georgetown University

Ali, Habon
Cooper, Demetrius
de Araujo, Katie
Junaid, Ojuolape
Larios, Karen
Lujan, Steven
Perez, Yanely

15 Georgia Institute of Technology

Bruschi, Melissa
Chester, Raymond
Colas, Rosny
Cvijetinovic, Ivan
Fung, Florey
Johnston, Heather
Rodriguez, Vanessa
Saunders, Shaunice
Shirley, Courtney

16 Gonzaga University

Carrillo, Loren

17 Gustavus Adolphus College

Abrahamson, Amy
Afful, Anthony
Choenyi, Tenzin
Coller, Haley
Davis, Nadvia
Dornon, Chrissy
Dubose, Jeffrey
Dubose, Veronica
Ellefson, Erica
French, Amanda
Green, Donte
Halvorson-Johnson, Alex
Hutchins Feldman, Kelsey
Johnson, Kady
Juanos, Neida
Kramer, Michael
Love, Elizabeth
Naber, Carrie
Newell, Jesse
Perez, Brian
Reliford, Shaketta
Robbins, Emma
Spaulding, Elizabeth
Thao, Tong
Trejo, Louis
Ung, Mindy

18 Harvard University

Boone, David
Fox, Justin
George, Mario
Howard, Reuben
LaRocque, SaNoah
Morris, Taylor
Nietfeld, Emi
Ringkob, Caleb
Zhao, Shao

19 Indiana University, Bloomington

Egeler, Frances
Shelley, Christina

20 Luther College

Magdalena, Jele

21 Michigan Technological University

Brown, Ashley
Cortez, Xena
McGee, Michael
Smith, Alyssa

22 Minnesota State University, Mankato

Anderson, Skylar
Brito Lino, Yuseina
Brown, Angie (Foster)
Buchanan, Tierra
Chambers, Dante
Cordova, Emily
Creger, Payton
Edel, Gabriell
Fedder, Sierra
Grove, Blake
Kanz, Christina
McCrimmon, Ronnie
McNallan, Sarah
Nguyen, Zoey
Nereson, Anastasia
Papadakis, Marybeth
Polinder, Jenny
Sellers, Travon
Sjodin, Brendan
Walstrom, Maggie
Williams, Shanique

23 Minnesota State University Moorhead

Hettwer, Amber
Martin, Michael
Rudenick, Molly
Stulken, Timothy
Winkelman, Kattlynn

24 Mississippi State University

Ross, Samantha

25 Morehouse College

Beulah, Freddie
Bowe, Henry
Hall, Brandon
Hood, Carlos
Johnson, Princeton
Moore, Shakeal
Phillips, Evan

26 North Dakota State University

Al-Hammad, Adam
Nelson, Nick
Nelson, Samantha
Rude, Ashley
Semmens, Jacob
Schmiesing, Daniel
Swanson, Duncan
Whiteaker, Wyatt

27 Northern Michigan University

Galindo, Logan
Qualley, Courtney

28 Northwestern University

Abdullah, Hazim
Contreras, Xiomara
Famurewa, Kayla
Rees, Emmaline
Sevilla, Laura
Singh, Devesh
Vega, Natalie
Whitehouse, Hannah

29 Pomona College*

30 St. Catherine University

Collins, Precious
Dubose, Ashley
Hopkins, Shalonda
Howard, Roberta
Kelley, Ici
Rush, Andrez
Walker, Dycreechia

31 St. Cloud State University

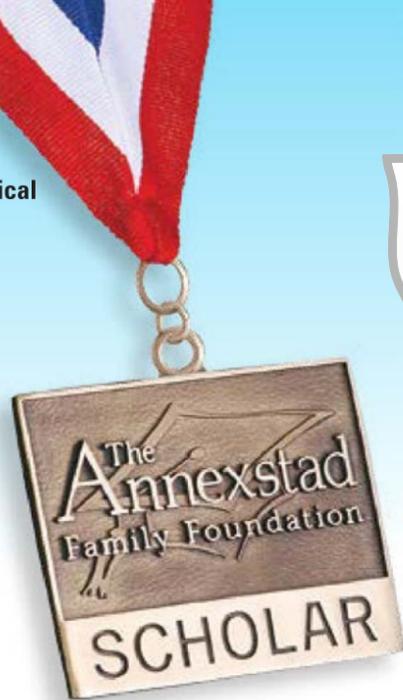
Combs, Kayla
Dingman, Brad
Goman, Ryan
Kassahn, Krystal
Koester, Lynn
McDaniel, Amara
Moua, Kang
Papadakis, Michelle
Roering, Kelly
Swanson, Melissa
Tasnim, Rusaba

32 St. John's University

Ellis, Terrence
Fleck, Devon
Louks, Noah

33 St. Olaf College

Culpepper, Dimitri
Dubose, Mariah
Maskalo, Guttu
Welle, Megan



34 Southwest Minnesota State University

Eder, Rashaan
Koehler, Paris
Perry, Leon

35 Spelman College

Britton, Courtney
Brown, La'Candis
Craddock, Brie
Fearce, Chelesa
Harpe, Ka'Necia
Hayes, Unique
Holmes, Jada
King, Nia
Mickens, Ataesia
Monroe, Monique
Shimobi-Objuru, Nike
Shortt, Jasmine
Westbrook, Alesha
Whitaker, Emerald

36 Stanford University

King, Chelsea
Marquez, Azucena
McCloud, Paula
Rodarte, Hayden
Sambrick, Maria
Tran, Christina
Williams, Joelle
Zoch, Jeffrey

37 Texas Christian University*

38 University of Alabama

Goodwin, Austin
King, Rulondo
McGuire, Meg
Moore, Trent
Morgan, Molly
Partlow, Mitchell
Pruitt, Graci
Perez, Genesis
Sinyavina, Ana
Tice, Steven
Todd, Kenneth

39 University of California, Berkeley

Borja-Snell, Aumunique
Chen, Cynthia
Lewis, Britany
Lopez, Jessica
Saephan, Tommy
Urrea, Shay Devon
Zarate-Cervantes, Hilda Leticia

40 University of Chicago

Cook, Courtney
Haj, Husam
Kirkes, Eric
Kuehnle, William
Moore, Shauna
Mosley, Da'Shawn
Quiles, Amanda
Shotwell, Amira

41 University of Colorado, Boulder

Handy, Andrea
Ortega, Robert

42 University of Georgia

Brown, William
Carter, Sterling
Coleman, Savannah
Gentile, Nicholas
Iglesias, Jennifer
Klos-Gromadzka, Maja
Li, Xueying
Montgomery, Devon
Pippin, Morgan
Player, William
Rivera Ramirez, Abel
Uscanga, Efra
Wilson, Brittany
Wilkerson, Ashley

43 University of Kentucky

44 University of Michigan

Belko, Gage
Brooks, Andre
Davis Jr., Anthony
Jenema, Sonny
Liston, Alexandria
McCowin, Ariana
Russo, Ashton
Sims, Samantha
Venson, Barbara

61 Prestigious College & Universities

National Scholars Changing the World!



45 University of Minnesota Duluth
 McMillan, Tyler
 Nation, Brandon
 Parnow, Jessica
 Paulson, Lisa
 Trainor-Sample, Nathaniel

46 University of Minnesota Morris
 Sunde, Desiree

47 University of Minnesota Rochester
 Nguyen, Phillip

48 University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 Ali Amiin, Mohamed
 Bach, Eldred
 Bates, Jason
 Bell, Courtney
 Brown, Jasmine
 Cao, Kevin
 Durrah, Sherry
 Edwards, Zakiya
 Gabriel, Abigail
 Grant, Alexander
 Hemmesch, Bridgette
 Hemmesch, Jacob
 Hill, Brandy
 Howard, Tierra
 Jacot, Megan
 Johnson, Cavonte
 Knott, Cassandra
 Kwakye, Rita
 Lee, Eileen
 Long, Kimberly

49 University of Mississippi
 Le, Tan
 Santos, Francisco

50 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Bello, Afi Apefa
 Hottel, Martin

51 University of Notre Dame
 Arroyo, Sam
 Barnes, Amber
 Bellamy, Serina
 Broadwater, Greg
 Choice, Promise
 Clement, Tasmine
 Cox, Shanice
 Dacy, Ashley
 de la Rosa, Evan
 Dennis, Elicia
 Escobar, Elizabeth
 F, Hope
 Feeney, Michael
 Fribush, Andrew
 Gary, Dionna
 Gayle, Travis
 Gomez, Jessica
 Gonzales, Oscar
 Hagans-Johnson, Brianna
 Hargil, Sofia
 Hunt, III, Gary
 Hutchinson, Michael
 Huynh, Lisa

Lusty, Leif
 Medina, Alexander
 Moreno, David
 Newton, Ciara
 Nyuma, Rosemary
 Othoudt, Kayla
 Rivers, Kadeeja
 Schaffer, Gabriela
 Xiong, Mao

53 University of Redlands
 Arellan, Elena
 Forbes, Ashley
 Huerta Navarro, Vanessa
 Manzi, Paul
 Romero, Beatriz

54 University of St. Thomas
 Cazin, Devin
 Coborn, Kenzi
 Cochran, Cameron
 Dolge, Andrew
 Ellis, Bethany
 Fields, Shaye
 Franklin, Carissa
 Franklin, Walter
 Osuji, Stephany
 Villwock, Nicholas
 Weeks, Taylor
 Welle, Mitchell
 Woessner, Logan

52 University of Pennsylvania
 Asemami, Kayvon
 Bell, Tahir
 Fisher, James
 Krone, Michael
 Perez, Daisy
 Weiner, Noah

55 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Paust, Amien

56 Valdosta State University
 Chappell, Aysiah
 Smith, Joanna

57 Vanderbilt University
 Boyd, Joi
 Brown, Zackary
 Driscoll, Maureen
 Miceli, Charles
 Moore, Heath
 Mundo, Alexis
 Smolock, Kadie

58 Washington University in St. Louis
 Branson, Chelsea
 Lopez, Elyse
 Molinatti, Natalia
 Perkins, Connor
 Sheptin, Jeffrey
 Turner, Naimah
 Ungerleider, Adriana
 Wynn, Briana

59 Western Carolina University
 Stegall, Andrew

60 Winona State University
 Becker, Crystal
 Gee, Brianna
 Hernandez, Sonya
 Larson, Taylor
 O'Brien, Max
 Peterson, Chelsey
 Smith, Zaria
 Wenzel, Isaac

61 Yale University
 Dibich, Reed
 Hunt, Victor
 Lilollari, Adela
 Morsy, Abdelrahman
 Olivares, Kevin
 Price, Jaclyn
 Shea, Patrick
 Toste, Helder

Scholarships At A Glance
 583 Scholarships Awarded to Date
 82 New Scholars in 2016
 177 Graduates to Date
 61 Participating Colleges and Universities

* New college & university partners in 2016



Annexstad Scholars surprised Al Annexstad at his retirement party in 2012.

“Annexstad Scholars come from humble beginnings yet strive for success with the foundation of a solid education. It is our honor to invest in these exemplary students, knowing that they will give back tenfold to their community and to America.”

– Cathy and Al Annexstad

The Annexstad Family Foundation Veteran Student Scholarship

As a military veteran, Al Annexstad understands the sacrifices our service men and women make for our country. He and Cathy also understand that our veterans are a vital resource for our nation and that they, too, can benefit from higher education. To this end, they chose to fund 25 scholarships for veterans at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California. Scholarships have been awarded to students who are studying Public Safety, Nursing or who are completing undergraduate coursework in preparation for transfer to the University of California or California State University.

Al and Cathy Annexstad Hope and Inspiration Scholarship

The Annexstads have never forgotten their hometown roots. Al and Cathy often speak fondly of their childhood memories in Minnesota. They understand in a very personal way what a young person goes through when a parent is suddenly no

longer part of their lives. The neighbors, friends, teachers and business people who rallied around them very positively shaped the trajectory of their lives. In appreciation, the Annexstads endowed a college scholarship at St. Peter High School where they hope it will help change the lives of some deserving young people who have not experienced many of life’s blessings which so many others are fortunate to have received.

Annexstad Family Foundation Hope and Inspiration Scholarship

In the spirit of goodwill and charity, the Annexstads established a scholarship at Northern Michigan University. Once again the Annexstads have chosen to make a significant investment in the lives of bright young people who have had to overcome difficult changes in their young lives. The Foundation partners with Northern Michigan University and Kingsford High School in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula on this scholarship program.

Inspiration for a Lifetime Alice Annexstad



Gustavus Adolphus College holds a special place in the hearts of Cathy and Al Annexstad. It was on this pristine campus where a young Al Annexstad spent a good deal of his childhood. Soon after losing Al’s father when he was only five, the newly widowed Alice Annexstad moved her family into the small town of St. Peter, Minn., to begin a new life. Alice went to work in the food service department at Gustavus Adolphus College where for the next four decades she worked alongside Mrs. Evelyn Young serving nourishing meals to generations of “Gusties.”

Alice was revered and loved by Gustavus students, faculty and administration for her fabulous cooking and for the kindness she exuded for the community. As a child, Al spent a great deal of time on campus, often helping his mom. Inspired by those endearing memories and the countless sacrifices that his mother made for her family, in 2000, Al and Cathy decided to establish the Annexstad Family Foundation. Without hesitation they chose to begin their mission at Gustavus Adolphus College.

“Gustavus’ mission is to be a community of persons from diverse backgrounds who respect and affirm the dignity of all people, while also preparing them for fulfilling lives of leadership and service in society,” shares Becky M. Bergman, President of Gustavus Adolphus College. “For 154 years, we have been working to uphold the vision of its founders and, 16 years ago, the College paired with the Annexstad Family Foundation,

which shares our mission to provide a world-class education to individuals who otherwise would not have the opportunity due to financial hardship. That partnership has led to over 30 students attending and graduating Gustavus and then going on to live out the mission of both Gustavus and the Foundation by making their lives count.”

In 2012, the Annexstad Family Foundation expanded upon its mission, partnering with a select group of America’s most distinguished colleges and universities with their Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship. The Foundation believes that when you pair America’s premier institutions of higher learning with exceptionally bright first-generation college students who have overcome extraordinary hardships, one day these scholars will emerge as future leaders for our nation.

In 2014, Gustavus thanked the Annexstad Family Foundation by naming the Annexstad Mall which extends west on campus from the Christ Chapel to the Linnaeus Arboretum. “This is quite an honor for Cathy, myself and our family,” Al praised. “This honor is magnified many times over by the success we see our Annexstad Scholars having at Gustavus as they continue on the path to productive and rewarding lives.”

Below left to right: Alice Annexstad’s portrait hangs prominently in the Charles Jackson Campus Center celebrating her 40 years of hard work; In 2014, the Annexstad Mall was dedicated in honor of the Annexstad family for their outstanding support of the Gustavus Scholars.



University of Georgia

Jere W. Morehead

President

“

The University of Georgia is honored to collaborate with The Annexstad Family Foundation to provide much-needed funds to highly deserving students. The recipients of the Leaders for Tomorrow and the Al and Cathy Annexstad Horatio Alger Scholarships have overcome adversity and financial hardship to attend the University of Georgia, ready to develop their potential. We take our commitment seriously to nurture these talented young students so they may succeed in higher education and inspire others.

”



North Dakota State University

Dean Besciani President



“

The Annexstads should be commended for their generosity and commitment to helping young people achieve the dream of a college education. They wisely understand the power of education and the importance of helping students who have significant financial need have access to a positive future. NDSU is very proud to have seven Annexstad Scholars enriching our campus. They are excellent students and demonstrate a high level of enthusiasm and energy, and I have no doubt they will be successful future leaders.

”



Graduates

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
Class of 2016

Bethel University

Tyler Barthel ▶

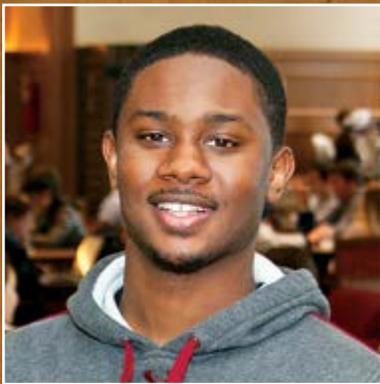
2012- 2016

Degree: B.A. Missional Ministry

My experience at Bethel University was amazing! My new friendships, my relationships with professors and the all-around Christ-centered atmosphere were things that just cannot be explained other than saying amazing. I was able to grow in more ways than I could imagine. With my degree, I plan to pursue a position with at-risk youths, one of the demographics that I have had the chance to work with during my time at Bethel. I look forward to continuing with my ministry and pursuing a master's degree. Thank you for this tremendous opportunity!



Boston College



Falilou "Lou" Barry ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Finance and Management & Leadership

My experience at Boston College has been life-changing. Without help from The Annexstad Family Foundation, this opportunity would not have been possible. I am officially a college graduate and the past four years have shaped me into the man I am today. From the courses I took, clubs I joined and internships I worked during the summer, my college experience was filled with lessons learned from generous people I will never forget.

Duke University

Amy Cheng ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Economics

Thank you Annexstad Family Foundation! I owe so much of this tremendous opportunity to be the first in my family to receive a higher education at an ideal institution like Duke to your incredible generosity. I cannot fully put into words my sincerest gratitude. From the moment I stepped onto this beautiful campus, your generosity has inspired me to pursue a future in empowering others and those in need. This vision will remain true in my heart regardless of what is to come. I thank you once again for your kindness and inspiration.



Georgetown University



Karen Larios ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. International Business

Contrary to how it may seem, being a first-generation Latina college student with no parents has been a blessing. If not for the hardships in my life, I would not be the person I am today. Through all the adversity, I became a strong, kind, hard-working human being. Life has taught me to never give up on my dreams because, with determination, nothing is impossible. I hope that my education helps me grow as a student, person and future professional. Furthermore, I aspire to be a role model for others, especially for kids who have grown up in disadvantaged communities. As a future business woman, I plan to advocate for poor communities and higher education.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Haley Collier ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Public Accounting and Political Science

I know there is nothing that could ever truly express the gratitude I have for The Annexstad Family Foundation. They have blessed my family and me in so many ways. They have set a precedent for others to give back in their communities. They have inspired me to be the change in future generations' lives. I will be pursuing my CPA and CFA in the upcoming two years. Furthermore, I hope to pursue a dual degree (MBA and JD program) to fulfill my lifelong dreams, and I am embarking on my career endeavors at Goldman Sachs in New York City.



Harvard University

David Boone ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Computer Science

When diagnosed with a rare muscle disorder at eight years old, I was afraid. Afraid of death; afraid of never seeing my dreams realized. By age 10, I had developed serious mental health issues and was going down a destructive path.

But in my time of need, someone was there. Through every difficult time, someone was there to help me on my journey. Faith helped me follow a path that led to Harvard. I dream of being able to support my family and change my community. I come from a community where failure is acceptable. In many instances, failure is the standard. I want to change that expectation by being a constant reminder of what is possible.



Taylor Morris ▲

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Anthropology, Cum Laude

Coming from a low-income home, I'm so grateful to be an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar and have the opportunity to go to a great university and graduate debt-free. It's given me the option to pursue my interests without worrying as much about financial considerations. I'm going to be working in a legal aid non-profit after graduation, and I hope to attend law school. None of this would be possible without the education I received.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Skylar Anderson ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Information Technology

I am very grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation. Like many low-income families, making ends meet wasn't always easy. It taught me to be grateful for what I have and that a strong work ethic and steadfast morals are important for everyone, regardless of where they start in life. Having the chance to make a better life for my family and myself was a dream come true. At Minnesota State University, Mankato, I earned a degree in Information Technology. I plan on gaining some experience as a programmer before going back to school for a master's degree. I'd love to teach in my field so I can inspire women to take up technology as a career. I don't think I'll ever be able to express the amount of sheer gratitude I have to the Annexstad family for the many experiences that college has given me. I think the most important thing The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me is hope.



Tiarra Buchanan ▶
2011-2016
Degree: B.S. Science

The Annexstad Family Foundation has helped me so much that words cannot begin to describe. I have been able to primarily focus on school, motivating me to focus on my dream of going to medical school. I hope you know how much you have helped me and that you will forever have a special place in my heart. Thank you for believing in me.



Minnesota State University Moorhead



Amber Hettwer ◀
2012-2016
Degree: B.A. Psychology and B.A. Biology

Attending and graduating from MSUM was a great experience I will cherish for the rest of my life. Neither my mom nor dad attended a four-year college and didn't think I would ever get the chance. Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I was able to attend MSUM and make great memories. I am currently a Residential Program Manager at Connections and plan to pursue graduate school for counseling in the near future. I wouldn't be where I am now in life if it wasn't for The Annexstad Family Foundation. Words can't express how much I appreciate everything this Foundation has done not only for me but also for many others like me.

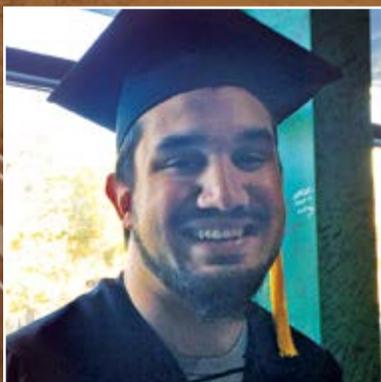
Morehouse College

Evan Phillips ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.A. Education

I am completely humbled as I look at my degree every time that I walk in my room. After my freshman year, I had no financial funds left to pay for my education. However, God places blessings on this earth and, if we're just faithful enough to trust Him, he'll supply our needs. The Annexstad Family Foundation was truly my blessing throughout my undergraduate career. How can I ever say thank you enough? I graduated from a prestigious institution and received an invaluable education because of the Annexstad family. I am now attending the University of Notre Dame studying to receive my Master's of Education. I honestly do not believe this would have been possible without the financial, emotional (and those great packages) assistance I received from the Annexstads. God bless you!



North Dakota State University



Adam Al-Hammad ◀
2012-2016
Degree: B.S. Marketing

Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation's support, I have graduated from NDSU with a sales associate position with Pepsi Co. and an opportunity for a promotion within my first year. It was such a relief to receive the job offer six months before graduating, and within my field of study. I will continue to work hard and flourish as much as possible with the opportunities I have been given thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation! I want to show them how truly appreciative I am.

Samantha Nelson ▶
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Human Development and Family Science

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has meant everything to me! I knew I wanted to attend NDSU and that I had the ability and the smarts to make something out of my life; this scholarship afforded me that opportunity. I will be continuing my education to gain a degree in Respiratory Therapy. With my degrees, I will be able to help people and specialize in Neonatal care and Pediatrics.



Duncan Swanson ◀
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Mechanical Engineering

I want to create change in the world and The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to do that. I'm going to graduate from college debt-free. Thank you, Annexstad Family Foundation. I'm looking to get a job as an engineer in the government, although I'm not sure which department yet. Going to NDSU really helped me grow as a person and gave me the self confidence to know I can get far if I work hard. I will always be grateful for this opportunity.



Northwestern University

Hazim Abdullah-Smith ▶
2012-2016

Degree: B.A. African American Studies

Thank you Annexstad Family Foundation for this amazing opportunity! I am a first-generation college student. I'm interested in making an impact through political, social and scholarly activism. The next step toward my goal is pursuing a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Kayla Famurewa ◀
2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

I will be continuing my education as I pursue an Integrated Marketing and Communications Certificate here at Northwestern in the School of Communications. After receiving my certificate, I will pursue a career in business consulting and marketing. My goal for the future is to work for some time before returning to school to get my MBA. Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I focused all my energy on school. You have given me the resources to pursue my goals and dreams. I hope to one day give the same opportunity to students just like me.

St. Cloud State University

Lynn Koester ▶

2011-2016

Degree: B.S. Accounting and British Studies

I have been able to achieve my goal in life by graduating from college thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation. I am so grateful that I was able to achieve this with all of their help! This has been one of the greatest things to happen to me thus far in my life. I have received my degree in Accounting and I plan on taking the CPA exam and going far with my degree. St. Cloud State University has been great. I have made amazing friends and have made so many fantastic memories that I wouldn't change for the world. This has been the greatest experience and I loved every minute of it.



St. John's University

Terrence Ellis ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Nutrition

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I took advantage of volunteering/work opportunities at St. John's University that carved my own path. I decided on majoring in Nutrition and am a Certified Profile Coach at Profile By Sanford. The times at SJU were some of my greatest memories. The university cared so much for its students, faculty, staff and community. They stressed the importance of speaking out on world issues and working as one cohesive unit to support one another. In my opinion, my growth as a person, student and work professional can all be attributed to SJU. That being said, SJU would not have been possible for me without the support of the Annexstad Family and The Annexstad Family Foundation. I was so fortunate and humbled to be blessed with a wonderful scholarship and support group, and for that reason I am forever indebted.



St. Olaf College

Mariah Dubose ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Mathematics, Economics, and Management Studies

St. Olaf has had a great impact on my life. Having the support from The Annexstad Family Foundation I ran cross country, brought students of color into the STEM fields and was the co-chair of the Actuary Club. In the winter of 2017, I will be moving to Chicago and joining Accenture as a Consulting Analyst. I feel forever indebted to the Annexstads and thank the Foundation for making my undergraduate studies possible.



Spelman College

Ataesia Mickens ◀

2012-2016

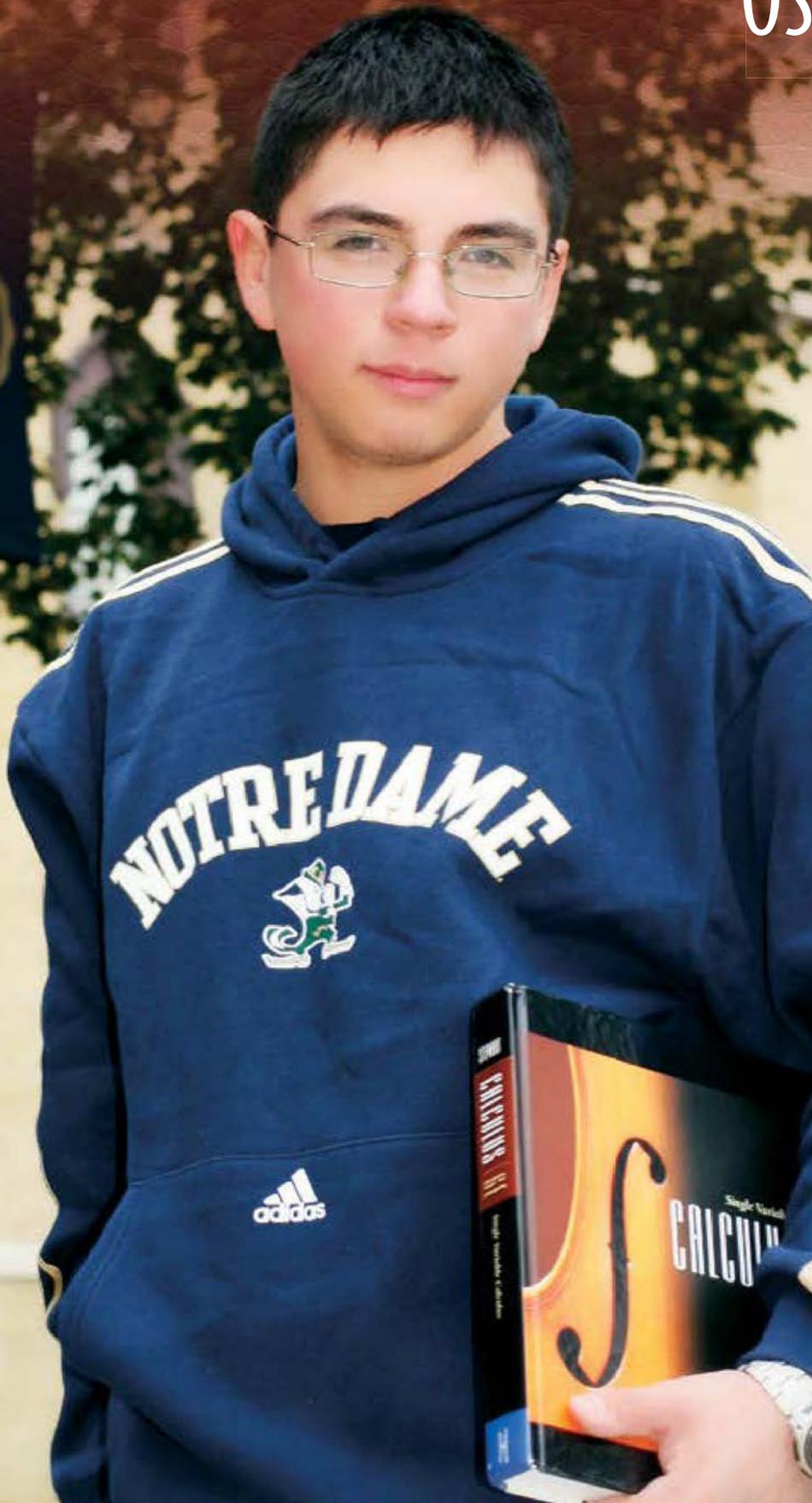
Degree: B.A. Political Science

While Spelman College has been the site of my most rapid growth in both character and maturity, the Annexstads have been the shoulders upon which I was hoisted to pursue my dreams. Every year, their support remained constant and their interest in my undergraduate journey was well-received and much needed. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, not just for myself, but for my cousins and future daughters and granddaughters who will benefit from and carry on the Spelman legacy that you helped me to create.



Scholarship Superstar

Oscar Gonzales, Jr.



Focused on providing financial stability to his family, Oscar concentrated on pursuing a college degree from the University of Notre Dame (achieved in 2012). When he was 10 years old and living in Mexico, his father was diagnosed with cancer. Immigrating to the U.S. was the only solution as he was misdiagnosed several times. Once his dad was better, he looked for jobs but couldn't find anything stable.

"As a first-generation, new American student, I had to push myself out of my Spanish-speaking, homogeneous bubble in South Texas to attend a college with a rigorous academic curriculum," shares Oscar, "I found supportive mentors, joined the Navy JROTC corps and became my school's valedictorian. Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was instrumental to my success. They make you feel loved, appreciated and confident that you will thrive. Thank you so much, Annexstad family, for believing in me."

Oscar recently finished his master's in Art and was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, funding his future independent research. "I am beginning the fourth year of my Ph.D. program at Arizona State focused on the evaluation of statistical methodology used to analyze psychological/ social science data. I am interested in identifying mechanisms of behavior change such as self-regulation, social norms and beliefs and how they influence disease. I would like to become a university professor in a research-intensive university and extend into the areas of psychometrics and statistical mediation, mainly to understand the influence of failing to measure psychological constructs accurately on the statistical models."

Scholarship Superstar

Gary Hunt, III

Gary was a first-generation college student who graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2013 with a degree in Information Technology Management and is now starting his second year at Indiana University Mauer School of Law. Earning Dean's Honors both semesters, he has also been doing research for a business law professor at IU and completing the law journal Write-On Competition for the Indiana Law Journal. He recently started a six-week summer associate position with Bass, Berry & Sims in Nashville, TN, focused on corporate, real estate and intellectual property transactional work.

"My mentor and my family are a huge support system for me," shares Gary. "I am a firm believer in the notion that each of us controls our own destiny, so in everything I do, I put forth my absolute best effort because I know that I will not be satisfied with anything less."

"The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allowed me to receive an excellent education at one of the most renowned universities in the country," he adds. "Thank you for being truly invested in changing young people's lives. Your generosity and genuineness is unmatched, and I am so honored to be a Scholar."

Stanford University

Joelle Williams ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Human Biology

I am so grateful for these four years at Stanford and for all the caring members of The Annexstad Family Foundation. You have been with me every step of the way. I appreciate all of the visits at Stanford's Coffee House, the care package and the portfolio with my very own name on it! Next year I will serve as a John Gardner Fellow, interning at a non-profit focused on foster youth and then I hope to apply to a master's program in Public Health. Eventually I hope to become a professor and return to the Human Biology Department at Stanford University.



University of California, Berkeley

Cynthia Chen ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Business Administration

I used to wish I was born without a disability. Without my physical challenges and a 300-pound wheelchair, life would be so much easier! However, I have realized that my hardships push me to become a stronger person. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation, I wouldn't be who I am today. I am hoping to pursue a career in human resources. I discovered that my strength lies in people, whether that be recruiting new officers in my student organization, motivating team members for group projects or creating events to bring people together. I want to contribute my skills to effect change in organizations, and I know my experiences have prepared me to do so.



Britany Lewis ▲

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Social Welfare

The challenge of coming from a low-income family with very little support ultimately made me a better person. Everyone has to go through something in order to grow. The obstacles I faced helped me grow into the hard-working individual I am today. During my time in school I took on opportunities such as an internship with Children's Defense Fund. I've learned that having a support system is vital in order to succeed. I am proud to say that I completed my degree in three years! Thank you, Annexstad Family Foundation, for being a part of my support system!

University of Chicago

Shauna Moore ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Albert Camus once said: "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." During the myriad of Chicago winters – the flaky snow-globe wonderlands, the bleak white deserts and the broad spiritual tundras alike – I often felt the chemical spread of curiosity, academic drive and moral hunger, cockle from my core to my limbs. I was touched by the warm blaze of a distinguished professor, the compassion of a tired peer. I, in awe of the endless magnanimity of The Annexstad Family Foundation, was liberated from the ever-choice of books or food. In practicing gratitude, I hope to engage in these multifaceted empathies as I later go on to study Sociolinguistics and Social Anthropology. May I pay it forward even half as well, always, in seasons both of sleep and of teeming wildness.



GRADUATES

Da'Shawn Mosley ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. English Language and Literature

I will soon begin a year-long stint in Washington, D.C., where I will be working as the online assistant of *Sojourners* magazine, helping to create content for the magazine's website and writing and reporting on religious and political news. Recently, I served as a primary researcher for two documentaries by the Oscar- and Emmy-winning filmmaker Kirk Simon, and these soon-to-be-released films may become major contenders during the upcoming awards season. A career of creative writing and journalism (and perhaps documentary filmmaking) seems to be in my future. I thank Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad so much for their generosity and for helping me to get both where I am and where I'm heading.



University of Georgia



Ashley Wilkerson ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Mathematics

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I have been able to make some of the dreams that I have had since I was five years old come true. The University of Georgia has always been my dream school, becoming a teacher has always been my dream job and traveling abroad has always been a dream of mine. Now I can finally say that I have my Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from the University of Georgia, I am currently employed by a Georgia public middle school, and I was able to spend my last semester in New Zealand finishing up my student teaching. I am now on my way to help other students reach their dreams.

University of Michigan

Gage Belko ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Architecture

After graduating from the University of Michigan, I am working for an architectural firm while taking acting classes and joining a local theater. I look forward to pursuing a master's degree in Architecture. Having been exposed to a multitude of cultures, professions and experiences, I have realized my life is truly in my hands, and that I work hard and embrace uncertainty and even failure, I can succeed. While I pride myself on my independent nature, I have learned over the years to let people help me and to always help others, because those connections will be invaluable. Thank you, Annexstad Family Foundation, for all you've given me!



Alexandria Liston ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. English

Words cannot describe how thankful I am for the educational opportunity The Annexstad Family Foundation and University of Michigan have given me. The Annexstads' selflessness inspires me not only to cherish the education that I have thus far received, but also to pay such acts of generosity forward in all aspects of my life. Following graduation, I plan to attend California College of the Arts to work towards a Master of Fine Arts degree in Fiction Writing. I hope to work toward becoming an editor at a publishing house.

University of Minnesota Duluth

Nathaniel Trainor-Sample ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Health and Wellness

I truly do not know where I would be if not for The Annexstad Family Foundation. The opportunity that they so generously gave me to attend the University of Minnesota Duluth under the circumstances that I did had a profound impact on my life. I hope to use the knowledge and skills that I have gained at UMD to not only give back in some manner, but to also make a real impact on this world.



University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Megan Jacot ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Nursing



Receiving the Annexstad Scholarship has truly been a blessing. It has allowed me to afford to an education that might not have been possible and it has also allowed me to see the potential in myself. Thanks to this wonderful scholarship I have achieved my dream of getting a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, creating a better future for myself and giving me the opportunity to help others. I will be forever grateful to the Annexstads and I hope to one day pay it forward and help others achieve their dreams!



Eileen Lee ▲

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Health & Wellness

This May, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Health & Wellness, a feat my family and I have dreamed of since the day I learned to read. With this major milestone complete, I am excited for the next phase of my life, where I will pursue Physician Assistant School. Looking back on my college career, I could not have had a better experience. I studied abroad, cheered in front of thousands of Gopher fans at football and basketball games and found the most perfect career aligning with my values, hopes and goals. Currently I am working as an Emergency Medical Technician and as a personal care assistant and completing a couple prerequisite courses for various Physician Assistant programs. I am forever grateful for the generosity and endless support of The Annexstad Family Foundation. Thank you for all you do and inspire in others.

University of Notre Dame



Katrina Linden ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. American Studies and Latino Studies

My father's illness gave me inspiration and a reason to look for the positive aspects in life. I've learned to appreciate the way the sun shines brighter some days and how to make the very best of every situation. I hope to work with low-income, minority communities such as my own. I want to help address education deficiencies and various other disadvantages these communities face. Thanks to Notre Dame and the Annexstad family, I plan to do just that.

Matthew Miller ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Chemical Engineering

I would like to thank you so much for your generosity. I feel extremely blessed to be a recipient of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. There aren't enough words to do it justice. I will most certainly pay this blessing forward to others. Thank you again for everything you've done, not only for me but for the other students who have been blessed by your generosity as well.



Jasmine Moxley ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Neuroscience

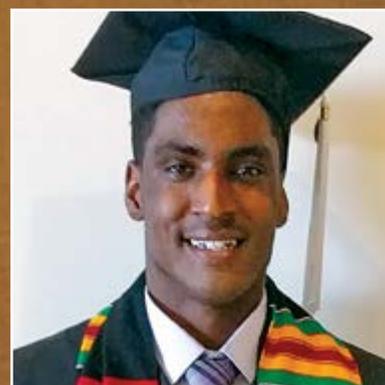
The hardships I overcame gave me a humble perspective on life. Simply put, I learned the achievements that make a person most proud are the ones that take effort, struggle and perseverance. I'm putting everything I have into my education, and I'm encouraged to keep working hard toward my aspiration of becoming a successful, female neurosurgeon. The path to this career is a rough, long stretch, but my inspiration and determination will keep me standing solidly on my feet. Once I reach my goals, I hope to provide children with the best medical attention I can offer.

Christopher Rhyne ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Psychology and Chinese

I want to say thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation for believing in me and for putting not only your funds but also your faith in individuals like me who have to carry themselves by the bootstraps to achieve. Your support truly meant a lot to me during my time at Notre Dame. I had the opportunity to make memories with you that I will never forget. Your contribution to my education was more than just money. You guys believed in me, which in turn helped me believe in myself.



Kim Smith ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. German, B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I have been able to take part in so much during my time at Notre Dame. I have the opportunity to make the American Dream come true for me. I will be moving to Waterloo, IA, to begin working for John Deere. I will be joining their Engineering Development Program in the Engine Department. I am very excited for my new job and moving to a new city, even if it is a little far from home.

Aaron Tarnasky ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics

I can truly and honestly say I would not have been able to attend Notre Dame without The Annexstad Family Foundation nor would I have been able to experience and enjoy all that came with it. For that, I extend my most heartfelt thanks. Up next, I will continue pursuing medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. Thanks so much again for your support the last four years. They have been life-changing, and you have been a truly integral part. I cannot thank you enough for that.



University of Redlands

Elena Arellan ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Sociology and Anthropology

The University of Redlands has given me the confidence to make a difference in this world and to get out of my comfort zone. I am currently helping a non-profit organization that provides services to newly arrived refugees in Los Angeles. I hope to keep working with a diversity of people because we have a lot to learn from everyone. I am very thankful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for this opportunity.



Paul Manzi ▲

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Biology

My time at the University of Redlands is an experience I'll never forget. I've met so many people I know I will be friends with for life, as well as many connections that will help me succeed in the future. I can't thank the Annexstad family enough for their generosity. I know I would not be able to have this opportunity without their help. I now plan to move to San Diego, CA, to work in the biotech industry.

University of St. Thomas

Shaye Fields ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Business Marketing

College has shaped me into a better individual as a whole, living to give back to others and feeling positive about myself. I am not the same person I was four years ago. I looked forward to attending school because of The Annexstad Family Foundation. When the care packages arrived, it wasn't the materialistic side of getting them, but knowing people are out there believing in me. Thank you for supporting my future career in healthcare utilizing my business degree.



GRADUATES

Carissa Franklin ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Social Work

I would like to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for their continued support over the years. They truly made it possible for me to receive my education at the University of St Thomas. I want the Annexstad family to know that their investment in me was a great one, as I go out as a social worker to be the change I wish to see in the world. Thank you again so much!



Vanderbilt University



Zackary Brown ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Neuroscience

The hardships I faced in my life shaped who I am today and who I will be tomorrow. They became the fuel on my road to success. Every speed bump refueled my drive and reminded me that I cannot stop here; there is more to come. When times get tough, I turn to my faith. With my studies in medicine, I hope that this path will lead me to my dream of becoming a physician. Thank you, Annexstad family, for helping make my dreams come true.

Washington University in St. Louis

Elyse Lopez ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Biology

Over the past few years, community service has kept me grounded. Whether tutoring a child or simply working behind the scenes, helping others gives me a sense of purpose and real joy. I've always loved the sciences. I want to become a doctor and spend the rest of my life helping others. My hopes for the future, including attending medical school and helping others, depend on getting an education. I am thankful for the help I have received and I hope to one day return the favor.



Adriana Ungerleider ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Biochemistry

Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation's amazing gift, I have been able to graduate from Washington University debt-free and take the opportunity to continue my studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where I plan to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2017. My long-term educational goal of earning my Doctorate of Nursing Practice as a neonatal practitioner is now within reach thanks in great part to the generosity of the Annexstad family. The last four years at Washington University have been some of the best of my life, and I look forward to the opportunity to share my story and my experience with other students struggling to finance a degree at the university of their choice.

Kevin Olivares ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.A. Economics

The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship is a blessing. It is helping to fund my education and providing an opportunity for me to become a leader one day so that I can help others in a very meaningful way.



Helder Toste ◀
2012-2016
Degree: B.A. Latin American Studies and History of Art

Currently I am at home with my family where I plan on doing an accelerated program to get my teaching credential and teach in my local community for a couple of years. I really want to give back and I think being a teacher and offering college counseling is a great way to work with students. I plan on applying to graduate school in November to get my Master's in Global Affairs or Latin American Studies.



*The Annexstad family
with Notre Dame Scholars.*

University of Michigan



Mark Schlissel President

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Talent is distributed equally throughout our society, but opportunity most certainly is not. One of our highest priorities at the University of Michigan is to guarantee that a diverse group of the world's brightest students will be able to study on our three campuses and go on to make a positive impact in communities here and around the world. I appreciate the work of The Annexstad Family Foundation to provide valuable support to students who are pursuing higher education.

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Alumni

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

Augsburg College

Sierra Barger ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Psychology

I am so appreciative for everything the Annexstad Family Foundation has done for me and all the other scholarship students who have been helped. If it were not for this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend a four-year university.



Danielle Goodwin ▶

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Political Science and Spanish

I was stunned and amazed when I first heard that I received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Thank you for making my dreams come true. I really didn't think I was going to be able to go to college, but once I was notified I knew that my life was changing forever. My goal is to be a lawyer and help troubled youth.



Gabe Jacobs-Hurtubise ▲

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

When I was told that I received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, my heart was beating so fast; I couldn't believe it! My mentor has been a great supporter. I am so grateful to him and The Annexstad Family Foundation. The far-reaching impact of their generosity has positively affected my family as well.



Leah Jacobson ◀

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Sociology

The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams at the school I've always wanted to attend. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish this goal without the generosity of the Annexstad family. I can now achieve what I had set my mind to. I've been so blessed by this opportunity. Thank you!



Robert Ung ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Business

My future is looking so much brighter; I have succeeded with the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation! I grew up without my dad to guide me through my childhood and adolescence. My childhood mentor was a good role model and friend to me. I am at a loss for words to express how deeply grateful I am to the Annexstad family. Without this scholarship, I wouldn't have attended a great university like this.

Lee Yang ▶

2011-2014

Degree: B.S. Computer Science

College is what defines my future. I thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for helping me take that first big step.



Bethel University

Zang Xiong ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Psychology / Reconciliation

I was overjoyed and blessed when I learned that I received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. It's playing a big role in my future and is taking a lot of the worry off financially. I'm the youngest of 12 kids, so that's a big deal! It is so awesome that the Annexstad family has such a big heart for those who are struggling.



College of St. Benedict



Stephanie Hengel ▲

2006-2010

Degree: B.A. Psychology

Everyone at the College of St. Benedict was so wonderful and helpful. The Annexstad Family Foundation gave me a career in the medical field allowing me to help people have a better life. Now it's my turn to help others.

Carleton College

Chavonn Williams ▶

2010-2015

Degree: B.A. Psychology and African American Studies

I knew that the goals I wanted to accomplish couldn't happen without a college degree. I can proudly say that I graduated! The fact that I have been given a life-changing opportunity through The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship keeps me motivated. I don't want to squander it. Thank you so much for giving me a chance when society said I couldn't. I have my dream job working with teens through STEM and art-related activities.



Gretchen Hughes ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Management

Since my graduation from the College of St. Benedict, I have worked for the College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University within their Intercultural and International Student Services and Residential Life Departments. In April 2016, I was awarded a Fulbright Award that will allow me to be an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. I'm am incredibly excited for this opportunity.



Concordia College

Lindsey Teigen ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Psychology

The day I found out I received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was the best day of my life! Thanks for giving me the opportunity to pursue my dreams. Now I can become a good role model for kids and be a positive influence.



Crown College

Skye Bonati ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Music and Christian Studies

I'm the first person in my family to go on to college thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation. I don't have the financial worry that accompanies so many students, which is a huge relief. I applaud the Annexstad family for recognizing the potential in young people and helping them succeed in life.



Gustavus Adolphus College

Amy Abrahamson Miller ▶
2001-2005
Degree: B.A. Biology

My life has been challenging to say the least. I had wanted to attend college, but would have not been able to afford to do so if I had not received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. I am forever grateful to the Annexstads for their generosity.



Anthony Afful ▶
2011-2015
Degree: B.S. Physics and B.A. Music

Currently I'm pursuing my master's degree at Bowling Green State University and during the summer have come back to Minnesota to support my family during times of transition.



Nadvia Davis ▲
2007-2011
Degree: B.A. Communication Studies and English

Through my experience with The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship program, I have learned more about the importance of mentoring and how my life has truly been impacted. I am so grateful for all the love and support that the Foundation has shown me. I graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and I am so grateful for all that was done to help me get to this point in my life. Please trust that when the time comes for me to give back, I will do so to honor those who have graciously given to me.



Jeffrey Dubose ◀
2010-2014
Degree: B.A. Physics

I can't say thank you enough for this scholarship. It gave

me the opportunity to reach my full potential academically and also provided me the chance to continue my football career. I am very appreciative of the work The Annexstad Family Foundation is doing and encourage them to keep helping young people pursue their dreams.

Veronica Dubose ▶
2007-2012
Degree: B.A. Dance

When I was notified that both my sister and I were chosen as recipients of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I couldn't help but jump up and down with joy! All I could think was how hard my mother worked to get us to a point in life where we would succeed. Your scholarship made everything we dreamed of possible. As a student, I appreciated the healthy balance of work and fun. I see myself giving back to youth in the future by providing them with healthy alternatives to negative activities. It is easy to see the passion the Annexstads have for helping children succeed. I hope to follow their example and be a positive influence to others.



Kelsey Feldman-Hutchins ◀
2002-2006
Degree: B.A. Studio Art

At age 16, I was working full-time to support myself and attending school with a goal of earning a degree. The Annexstads provided me the opportunity to attend a prestigious college, connected me to business professionals and gave me the opportunity to participate in fundraising events and share my gratitude. Now armed with my K-12 Visual Arts Teaching degree, my Work Based Learning Certification and EBD-Special Education License, I am the treasurer for my local Community Transition Interagency Committee Board as well as serving on the state Career and Technical Education Board. You have made a lasting impression on my life and my community.

Amanda French ▶
2003-2007

Degree: B.A. History / Sociology

In my hometown, I had always been known as that girl who lived in a foster home. Because of the Annexstads' priceless gift, I was able to become the person I really am, not who others had decided I was. The first day I walked on campus was surreal! I realized this is the moment I've been waiting for since I was a little girl. My dreams are coming true all around me!



Donte Green ▶
2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Business Management

I am grateful for a mentor that came during a critical time in my life. The Annexstad Family Foundation and my mentor taught me the importance of doing things the right way and doing one's best in every endeavor.



Alex Halvorson-Johnson ▲
2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Education

An alum, my mentor, introduced me to Gustavus when I was in 5th grade. Ever since then I decided that Gustavus was the only place I wanted to go. The Annexstad Family Foundation helped make my dream come true!



Kady Johnson ◀
2006-2010

Degree: B.A. English

The course of my life changed forever the day I received the Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. The Annexstad Family was such an important part of our college journey and the financial support is just the beginning of the community we become a part of. Thank you to the Annexstads for trusting that we are more than our circumstances and for allowing us to rise above and reach our full potential!



Michael Kramer ◀
2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

A childhood mentor worked at a college and exposed me to the campus experience. This inspired me to aim high and set my sights on Gustavus Adolphus College. Some of the best advice I have experienced is, "Enjoy life, have fun, but keep your focus and you'll go far." I am experiencing the rewards of that advice. Without the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation, I know I would not be here today. This scholarship made a huge difference in my future.

Carrie Naber ▶
2004-2008

Degree: B.A. Sociology

This scholarship is a great way to have a brighter future. I can now become the best that I can be. An education is a great gift. I am so proud to be one of the first people in my family to have a college education. I will use it wisely! Because of this opportunity, I can see myself as independent. I hope to someday give back and help other people like myself.



Jesse Newell ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.A. Athletic Training

I was ecstatic when I found out that I had received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Thank you for giving me the chance by putting the ball in my court. This is a huge opportunity and I am thankful from the bottom of my heart.



Tong Thao ▲

2008-2012

Degree: B.S. Geography

Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation. You've given me the opportunity to surpass the boundaries that were set for me. I've traveled from St. Paul to St. Peter, which greatly expanded my view of the world. I know I will only continue to expand my boundaries and opportunities with my degree. Many warm thanks!

Shaketta Reliford ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

It is rare to find people like the Annexstad family whose hearts are so filled with generosity. They have given me the chance to take a step in the right direction. There truly are people in the world who care about others.



Louis Trejo ◀

2003-2007

Degree: B.A. Financial Economics and B.S. Chemistry

I grew up in a single-parent household. I attempted to be resourceful by continuous self-assessment, observing and listening to others and focusing on school and sports. I am currently an Operations Manager at Wells Fargo. I aspire to obtain my master's degree in Business Administration and become a corporate executive. The Annexstads truly give young adults every opportunity to succeed in life. I am blessed to have been part of their mission!



Mindy Ung ◀

2008-2012

Degree: B.S. Nursing

I want to extend a huge thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation. I was in shock when I found out I would be a recipient of the scholarship. Going to college is something I had hoped for my whole life. You've given me a better future. I want to serve others someday so I can pay forward what The Annexstad Family Foundation has given to me.



Emi Nietfeld ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Computer Science

I started last fall as a Software Engineer at Google in Research. I've been doing a lot of outreach to women engineers, teaching Machine Learning 101 to 70 high school and college students, hosting a mentorship program for students at my alma mater, and giving personal coaching about job prep and negotiations. I also began learning Chinese. I'm finishing the second draft of my first book and looking for representation to publish it.



Harvard University

Indiana University, Bloomington

Christina Shelley ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.S. Political Science and English

I believe that, while it is important to work towards one's personal dreams, it is just as important to help others achieve theirs. The Annexstad Family Foundation helps students like me do something they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to do.



Minnesota State University, Mankato



Christina Kanz ▲

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Management

After my father's death, my mentor gave me the courage to stay strong and helped me to gain the confidence I needed to finish my education. I want a profession where I can help people, either mentally or physically, so I can be part of making someone's life better. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to move forward with my education. This scholarship has opened many new doors in my life.

Angie Foster Brown ▶

2006-2010

Degree: B.S. Community Health

With the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship I have become somebody! My mentor always had a positive perspective on everything. For an eight-year-old trouble maker who was doing poorly in school, she was the best possible influence in my life.



Anastasia Nereson ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

I cannot begin to put into words how thankful I am for the Annexstad family's generous donation to my college education. I think I would have stayed in the dark, emotional place I had been in if it hadn't been for this wonderful family. Now I can focus on living a happy, fulfilling life. I owe so much to all of the people who have helped me along the way, and I am motivated to have the same impact on someone else's life someday.



Marybeth Papadakis ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Food and Nutrition

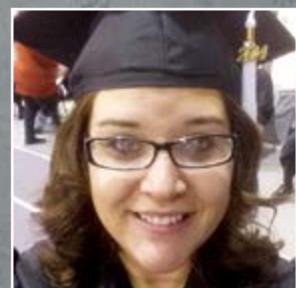
I am a single mother, so it was vitally important for me to get a college degree in order to expand my knowledge and my ability to begin a rewarding career. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was a huge blessing to me.

Jennifer Polinder ▶

2009-2014

Degree: B.F.A Art, Photography

The Annexstads make so many kids' dreams come true. This scholarship opened doors for me. It has allowed me to experience and explore things that will help me prepare for the future. My college experience was phenomenal! Financial freedom allowed me to focus on studying and attending classes without the stress of worrying about how I was going to pay for college.



Travon Sellers ▶**2010-2014****Degree: B.S. Mass Media**

I never knew my father, which left a huge void in my life. My mentor helped fill that empty place. I don't want to be another statistic of an African-American male in today's society who doesn't take advantage of the opportunity to get an education. As I began my journey through high school, I was an average teenager. Over time, I have grown and developed into a bright young man. I am very thankful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for helping me accomplish my goals in life and stay on my road to success.

**Shanique Williams** ▶**2010-2014****Degree: B.S. Mass Media**

I didn't think college was an option for me. When I found out I had received the Annexstad Family Foundation scholarship, all I could do was cry. What a blessing! I am the oldest of six kids with a single mother and I had a lot of responsibility placed on me. Spending time with my mentor gave me the chance to be a kid and the confidence that I could go to college one day.

**Brendan Sjodin** ▶**2006-2011****Degree: B.S. Economics**

I had a great mentor during an important part of my childhood. He was there for me. He listened. He took the time. He showed me how to become a good person. If the world were full of people like him and the Annexstads, this would be a much better place. What the Annexstad family has done for me is... fabulous! It really is unbelievable. This scholarship truly gave me a jump start on life.



Minnesota State University Moorhead

Michael Martin ▶**2007-2011****Degree: B.S. East Asian Studies**

I have never been the kind of guy who received awards, so when The Annexstad Family Foundation awarded me this scholarship, I was shocked! My mentor was my first experience with a positive role model. He was a wonderful change of pace for me. He not only taught me how to put myself out there and be noticed, but how to be confident in my strengths. I want to follow the lead of men like my mentor and Mr. Annexstad and become a positive influence.

**Timothy Stulken** ◀**2007-2011****Degree: B.A. Education**

This scholarship has been a huge blessing. My mentor taught me good manners, how to be polite and how to be financially smart. He has made a big difference in my life. So has The Annexstad Family Foundation for believing in me.

**Samantha Ross** ◀**2011-2015****Degree: B.S. Veterinary Medicine**

Being accepted to college was a great accomplishment, but being blessed by a scholarship changed my world! I'm truly thankful for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship because without it I would have struggled to focus completely on my academics due to my financial problems. Thank you all so much for all you do. Every one of you are amazing!

Mississippi State University

Scholarship Superstar

Gretchen Hughes



I always wanted to go to college. At St. Benedict's, a majority of the students studied abroad, which I could not afford to do. So instead I searched for summer jobs like working in an Alaskan fishery. I balanced my two internships in China and Bosnia and Herzegovina through student loans and taking classes while working in Shanghai to qualify for federal financial aid to afford rent. These growth experiences led me to become a Fellow within my alma mater's Intercultural and International Student Services Department where I worked with foreign students to promote cultural engagement and learning.

I am leaving for Taiwan in August for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program as an English Teaching Assistant improving language and knowledge skills. Following Fulbright, I will start my master's at the University of Minnesota in their Comparative International Development and Education program where I hope to continue my education through full-time employment and part-time studies.

I will never forget those who believed in me and made my accomplishments possible. It's inexplicably difficult for me to put into words just how much I value The Annexstad Family Foundation's support. To have someone believe so strongly in you that they are willing to invest in your life is a truly powerful feeling. Indeed, that feeling has often picked me up on my toughest days. When I think about my future and paying it forward, I hope to further work within international education so that opportunities to study, work and volunteer abroad can be made more accessible for those with high potential and high need.

Scholarship Superstar

Shawn Sanford



Since graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 2008, Shawn Sanford has maintained an unstoppable momentum that began when she received her Annexstad Scholarship. Just a handful of evening classes away from earning an MBA at Loyola University, Shawn has been working full-time while going back to school. Last summer she bought a house and planted roots in Chicago with her 5-year-old daughter. Between her responsibilities, Shawn volunteers with children from low-income families in troubled neighborhoods. "I want them to know that their reality doesn't have to be their surroundings. They can achieve their dreams and do well," she says. "I am so happy to mentor inner-city kids."

Shawn's priorities mirror her gratefulness to the Annexstads. "I grew up in foster care with no one pushing me," Shawn explains. "No one knew the day that I graduated from high school, nor that I was a speaker. Only my aunt discovered what I accomplished." Shawn says regular contact and support from the Annexstads during college made all the difference. "Someone was always there to ask, 'Shawn, how are you?' How would anyone have known that I was homeless during the summer? When I was emancipated from the state, it was Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad who saw what I needed. No matter how old a person is, they need a mentor. I am so thankful to Al and Cathy; they have done so much for me."

Shawn says the Foundation fuels her to perform her job while completing her advanced degree. "I could have chosen an easier program, but this is one of the top in the nation. I want to be a living testimony because of the care that came from the Annexstads."

North Dakota State University

Nicholas Nelson ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.S. Marketing

A college degree will allow me to have a career that I enjoy day in and day out. I am so thankful that the Annexstad family started their Foundation. I now have a future that has meaning. My childhood mentor was a positive role model and influenced my decision to join JROTC, which helped mold me into the leader and motivated person I am today.



St. Catherine University

Shalonda Hopkins ◀

2009-2014

Degree: B.S. Public Health

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is one of the biggest blessings I've received in my lifetime. I didn't have to worry about paying tuition and the debt that would accumulate. I'm so grateful for this scholarship.



Ashley Dubose ▲

2007-2012

Degree: B.A. Mathematics

The Annexstad Family Foundation will always have a very special place in my heart. The time, energy, thought, effort and love that you've poured into this Foundation, into the scholars, and into me is amazing. I hope you know that it is SO worth it. Your love and generosity have had a lasting impact on me and my family, and I'm confident it will have a lasting impact on the lives of all of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship recipients – past, present and future.

Roberta Howard ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Public Health

I'd like to be a social worker in a juvenile detention center working with troubled youth. After the death of my father, I felt like the world was crashing down on me.

With the help of a mentor, friends and family, I was able to pick up all of the broken pieces and get my life back in order. I am determined to accomplish my goals and I will never stop setting them for myself. The list will continue to get longer, and I'm going to keep checking goals off! It means the world to me that out of the goodness of the Annexstads' hearts I have this opportunity.



Andrez Rush ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Accounting

If it were not for the heartfelt generosity of the Annexstad family, I would not be in college today at St. Catherine University. I want to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for dedicating their financial resources so that many young people can go to college.

St. Cloud State University

Bradley Dingman ▶

2006-2009

Degree: B.A. Criminal Justice

The scholarship has allowed me to fulfill a lifetime dream. I am a better, more confident law enforcement officer because of my degree. I'm able to better provide for my family and provide a higher level of service to my community. I was able to earn a degree that unlocked unlimited possibilities for my future. I cannot thank The Annexstad Family Foundation enough for the lifetime gift of an education.

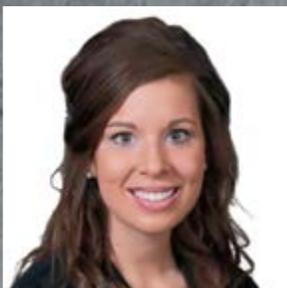


Ryan Goman ▶

2007-2011

Degree: B.S. Social Work

Saint Cloud State was a great fit for me. There is so much diversity there; it opened my mind to different points of view. My mentor was the first adult male I looked up to in my life. From the first day we met, he accepted me, helped build a great foundation for my future and continues to advocate on my behalf. I was very impressed the first time I met Mr. Annexstad. Through his passion, he made everyone in the room understand the importance of being part of the solution. I am now mentoring a young person. It feels great to be giving back and continuing the cycle of mentoring.



Krystal Kassahn ▶

2008-2011

Degree: B.A. Travel and Tourism

I am very grateful for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. At times, I felt like I needed to quit because I couldn't afford to go on. Yet I know that a college education is a key to a better life. The Annexstad Family Foundation is helping so many students who may have otherwise never received an education without their help.



Michelle Papadakis ▲

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Business

I am working in the Human Resources Department for General Mills. I am currently looking forward to my Thailand vacation in November.



Kelly Roering ◀

2005-2009

Degree: B.A. Painting, Photography, and Printmaking

Al and Cathy are real people. They honestly care about me and my future. The fact that the Annexstads decided to do this as a family says a great deal about how much they care about people like me. My mentor and The Annexstad Family Foundation believed in me and saw great potential. I'm going to make the most of my education. I won't risk losing their trust and faith in me.



Melissa Swanson ◀

2007-2011

Degree: B.S. Social Work

Being awarded The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship blew me away! I think what the Annexstad family has created is amazing – they are helping so many young people. I have always had a desire to be a teacher and help children learn. Through the influence of a caring mentor and the support of the Annexstads, I am a better person today. I'm on my way to achieving my goals.



Devon Fleck ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Communication

After gaining my degree from St. John's, I can wholeheartedly say that living with a monastic community teaching English to high schoolers is one of the best decisions I've made so far in my life. The Annexstads are wonderful people, and I couldn't have attended St. John's University without them!

St. John's University

St. Olaf College

Guttu Maskato ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Biology and Race and Ethnic Studies

It's hard to believe there are people in this world who want to genuinely help others, and they don't even know them! I'm so thankful for The Annexstad Family Foundation. The Annexstad Scholarship has been my inspiration. So often you hear people say they want to make a difference in the world, but I'm living the difference the Annexstad family is making in the world. I was speechless when I found out I received it. I'm so lucky to be part of something so magnificent!



Southwest Minnesota State University



Paris Koehler ▲

2008-2012

Degree: B.S. Justice Administration

I likely would not have attended Southwest State without this scholarship. I am thankful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for investing in my education and for believing in me. I feel called to return the generous gift back somehow through community service because the greatest gift we can give others would be an opportunity to develop themselves into better people.

Megan Welle ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.A. Philosophy

I am on a path of learning that is leading to great things in the future. I don't think there is any way I can express in words how grateful I am to the Annexstad family. They care so much about every scholarship student. I could instantly see their true goodwill the first time I met them. My mentor helped me as well by being a very good role model; I still aspire to that.



Leon Perry ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Graphic Design



My first reaction when I found out I received The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was, "No more worries!" I wasn't sure how I was going to play football, study and get a job. The scholarship helped ease those worries. My mentor taught me as a child how to do "grown-up things" and was someone I could look up to. I definitely want to be a mentor someday to give back to another young person.

Ka'Necia Harpe ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Political Science

I'm still working as a college adviser through the AmeriCorps Program. This summer during our training I trained all the advisers on how to effectively event plan. I am also sending off 136 seniors to college, 12 into the military and eight into the workforce. I recently completed my law school application and now I am just waiting to hear back.



Jasmine Shortt ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Political Science

None of the struggles I went through in my life were expected. Even though I had a plan, God had His own agenda. He taught me that it is not what happens to you in life; it is how you deal with it. I thank the Annexstads and Spelman for this opportunity.

Spelman College



ALUMNI

Stanford University

Hayden Rodarte ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.S. International Relations, Latin Language and Literature

The Annexstad family has changed my life! I have begun my JD program at Yale Law School. My career goals are to work in human rights advocacy, hopefully within the Inter-American system, or possibly human rights litigation.



University of Colorado, Boulder



Robert Ortega ▲

2010-2014

Degree: B.F.A. Film Studies

So many underrepresented youth in our country need support and guidance. Opportunities for advancement are not readily transparent. Having people like the Annexstads who are willing to support youth in our society through the gift of education is truly admirable.

University of Alabama

Trent Moore ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Philosophy

I have accepted the reality that my family cannot invest in my education. However, I am so thankful that The Annexstad Family Foundation has!



University of Georgia



Jennifer Iglesias ◀

2009-2013

Degree: B.A. Education

Through this scholarship, the Annexstads have shown me the importance of striving to be my best and to help others along the way. I am grateful beyond words.

Brittany Wilson ▶

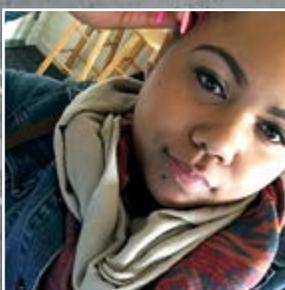
2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Health Promotion and Behavior

I have truly had an amazing and unforgettable experience at the University of Georgia and I have my mentor Miya and The Annexstad Family Foundation to thank for that. Because of this amazing scholarship program, I have made lifelong friends and have explored many of the wonders of college life. Attending UGA has helped shape me into a more mature and responsible individual. I could not have asked for a better experience. With my degree, I am now interning with a wonderful organization known as Project Safe Inc., and I am excited to see what my future holds.



University of Minnesota Duluth



Tyler McMillan ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Communication

Having a caring mentor has made such a difference in my life. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has been the best thing that has ever happened to me! I can never thank these special people enough.

Branden Nation ▶

2010-2013

Degree: B.A. English Literature, Language & Culture

Receiving this scholarship has been life-changing. I have found a direction and drive coming back to school. The education is priceless professionally, but most of all personally. I am eternally grateful. My experience at UMD has been outstanding. It has changed my outlook on life and my general disposition. Not too long ago, I went through periods of homelessness and carried a self-defeating attitude. Today, my ambition to grow and excel is no longer stifled by my circumstances, but revealed in an arena where I can actively engage my mind.



Lisa Paulson ▲

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Physical Education and Health

I came to believe that I could be a good student and go to college because a mentor inspired me. When I was awarded The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, it finally sunk in – I was really going to college! There is no doubt in my mind that when the time is right I will become a mentor to a young person and try to give back as much as I've received.

Jessica Parnow ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Graphic Design

The University of Minnesota Duluth was the perfect fit for me! I got involved and met people. I felt so much more connected than I did in high school. The Annexstad Family Foundation is a huge blessing in my life!



University of Minnesota Twin Cities



Mohamed Ali Amiin ◀

2010-2013

Degree: B.A. Biology, Society and Environment

I'm going to be a surgeon. A mentor in my youth guided me on a journey through which I could truly advance towards achieving my potential in life. I started to believe in myself because others believed in me. I never imagined myself going to college until he helped me believe I could. The Annexstad Family Foundation also inspires young people to pursue an education which is positive for everyone!

Eldred Bach ◀

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Elementary Education

I am currently serving as a kindergarten teacher at Beacon Academy in Maple Grove. I have been teaching there for three years now and serve on the School Board at Beacon Academy. I look forward to going back to school in the near future to explore my degree in education administration. My family continues our annual traditions of meeting up for holidays. We also stay busy by keeping up work on the farm!



Courtney Bell ▶

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Sociology of Law

Between The Annexstad Family Foundation and a close friend and mentor, my life has been touched by some of the finest people. When I was first notified I would become an Annexstad Scholar, I was in complete shock. I knew at that moment I would be okay. I would get an education and I would have a bright future! As a first-generation college applicant, I was fortunate to have her to motivate and encourage me.



ALUMNI

Sherry Durrah ▶

2007-2011

Degree: B.S. Political Science

In my immediate family no one had the opportunity to go to college – until I did. When I was told I would receive The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I was blown away. At the University of Minnesota everything was larger than life, different and full of change – I thank my childhood mentor and the Annexstad family for having faith in me.



Zakiya Edwards ▶

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Broadcast Journalism

A dear friend and mentor made me realize there is a much bigger world out there. By introducing me to new experiences and adventures, she taught me to dream big and believe in myself. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship empowered me to achieve one of my biggest dreams: becoming a college graduate. My future holds not only a quality career, but many opportunities to give back.



Alexander Grant ▲

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Chemical Engineering

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship Program is one of a kind... there really was nothing else like it! Becoming a recipient of this scholarship was a great opportunity for me. My childhood mentor was one of a kind as well. While he helped me through some tough times, he was also a wonderful example of how to be a truly good person and how to live your life caring and helping others. I aspire to be more like him. He and the Annexstad family have given me important tools to achieve great things – both personally and professionally.



Bridgette Hemesch ◀

2006-2010

Degree: B.S. Veterinary Science

Growing up on my family's farm, I wanted to be a veterinarian. My father was killed in a farm accident when I was seven. I was raised by a courageous mother and was the first person in my immediate family to attend college. The Annexstad Scholarship allowed me to go on to veterinary school. I am very thankful to this family. I received a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. I am currently an associate veterinarian at a large animal veterinary clinic.

Jacob Hemesch ▶

2006-2009

Degree: B.S. Agriculture and Food Business Management

As a kid, I really enjoyed things like fishing, but I didn't have anyone to do it with. Fortunately, a mentor came into my life. We were both looking for a friend to do "guy stuff." I am looking forward to the day when I can show the good people from The Annexstad Family Foundation what a successful young man I've become. Their generosity won't be wasted on me. The agricultural program at the University of Minnesota is where I found my connection. I will make the most of my college education.



Brandy Hill ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Child Psychology and Marketing

No matter what I am doing for a living, I want to make sure that it involves children and helping them to develop socially, academically and emotionally. I am so grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation. They are opening doors to many students who don't otherwise have the chance to go to college. An adult mentor came into my life at a time when I really needed a caring adult to pay attention to me, to listen to me, and to show me that I was worthy and deserving of love. I feel like I can accomplish anything now that I have my education!



Tierra Howard ▶

2009-2013

Degree: B.S. Youth Studies

I am more confident because I know that finances won't hold me back from succeeding. I'm living my life the way I've always wanted to. Graduating from a great school like the University of Minnesota has fulfilled that dream!



Cassandra Knott ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Biochemistry

Since graduation, I have worked as a medical scribe at Hennepin County Medical Center (a Level 1 trauma center) and at the University of Minnesota East and West Bank Emergency Departments. I am busy conducting research at the hospital, and I volunteer within the Hispanic community. Currently I am applying to medical schools and working toward achieving my goal of becoming a physician!



Kimberly Long ▲

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature

As a child, I learned from my mentor responsibility and appreciation for the good things in life. I am so grateful for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Because of this amazing support, I was able to focus on my studies and take my responsibilities as a student seriously. I received a first-class education at the University of Minnesota and for that I am truly thankful.



Leif Lusty ◀

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Management Information Systems

I'm working at Travelers Insurance in St. Paul, MN, in an IT leadership development program. Currently I'm a project manager and am expected to graduate out of the program in another couple years. My hope for

the future is to use the education the Annexstad Foundation afforded me to build a great career for myself, and most importantly, look for ways to pay it forward. I've been afforded many opportunities in the last five years, and it wouldn't have been without the program. I've found myself in a spot where I can give back to the community around me. My biggest hope for the future is to help others get the same shot that I did, because no one does it alone.



David Moreno ◀

2009-2014

Degree: B.S. Biomedical Engineering

I have recently been promoted to Senior Engineer for Target's Identity and Access Management team focused on information protection. I am very excited to become a first-time homeowner as well! The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me a superior education, which has opened doors for my career and my personal life. How can I ever thank you enough?

Ciara Newton ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.F.A. Ceramics and Painting

The Annexstad Family Foundation has allowed me to shape my future and make my dreams possible. I am so grateful that they believed in me.



ALUMNI

Kayla Othoudt ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Linguistics

My childhood mentor gave me the chance to do things I normally wouldn't do and I loved the individual attention! The scholarship allowed me to go to school without worrying about working all the time or having a huge debt to repay. I will give back to others and be a role model in a similar way. The University of Minnesota was a great fit for me; I loved being around all the people.



University of Notre Dame



Amber Barnes ▲

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Sociology and Japanese

I want to use the pillars of the Catholic teaching in any profession that I choose. I am overwhelmed by the support I've received from The Annexstad Family Foundation. Their belief in me has transformed into something I didn't see in myself. I know my dreams will come true!

Mao Xiong ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Business Marketing and Education, Family Social Science, and Leadership Integrated

I learned about cultural differences with my childhood mentor. The experience taught me how to be open with others and appreciate other nationalities. I am the first in my generation to earn a college degree. I continue to be amazed at what a gift The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is. I continue to make the most of this experience and will not take it for granted.



Serina Bellamy ▶

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Japanese and Anthropology

I felt my educational opportunities were limited because most people I knew attended community college. Attending the University of Notre Dame was a huge accomplishment that is only a reality because of the University and The Annexstad Family Foundation.



Tasmine Clement ▶

2012-2015

Degree: B.S. Engineering

I am so blessed to have found the University of Notre Dame! My education will give me the skills I need to truly make a difference in the world. The Annexstad Family Foundation's care and support helped me to realize my dreams and potential and has made a big difference.



Shanice Cox ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Science Pre-Professional and Theology

This scholarship provided me with opportunities to pursue higher education, explore possibilities surpassing my wildest dreams and gain a better understanding of my faith and spirituality as a graduate of the University of Notre Dame.



Scholarship Superstar

Haley Coller

My single mother would do anything for my brothers and me. Her selflessness and tenacity to pay the rent and keep us safe empowered me to take the opportunities Big Brother Big Sisters offered, including college readiness workshops. I began getting A's, bringing home multiple acceptance letters and winning through hard work.

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship changed our lives, both financially and emotionally, providing the extra push and encouraging care packages when I needed it the most. While at Gustavus, I interned at Goldman Sachs and was offered a job in Asset Management in New York after I graduated this year with a degree in Public Accounting and Political Science.

"Cathy and Al, thank you for making it possible for children of all colors, shapes and sizes to attain a four-year degree. Because of you I was able to attend one of Minnesota's best private colleges, graduate debt free, study abroad in Malaysia and was actively involved in campus leadership. You selflessly provide one of life's greatest assets. We need more people like you in this world!"

"I will be pursuing my CPA Exam in the next 6 months" she adds. "Within 2 years, I will sit for my CFA exam and in five years I will go for my JD and MBA. Long-term, I will own my own business and I plan to start a foundation that gives back to underprivileged youth such as myself. I want to empower young people to chase their dreams because I believe that there are families where children are not provided the environment and platform to flourish in their dreams."

Scholarship Superstar

Bridgette Hemmesch



Growing up on her parents' dairy farm in Owatonna, Minn., Bridgette Hemmesch always wanted to be a veterinarian. She is fulfilling that ambition now as the first person in her immediate family to attend college. After losing her father to a farm accident when she was seven, Bridgette persisted in her studies and received an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship that allowed her to go on to veterinary school. "I thank the Annexstad family for allowing me to be in the program," says this 2011 grad of University of Minnesota Twin Cities. "I worked very hard to take advantage of the opportunities I was given and make them worth the effort that was undertaken in the giving."

Earlier this year, Bridgette moved to a small town near La Crosse, WI., to accept a new job at a large animal veterinary clinic. There, she works with primarily dairy cattle, but also with beef cattle, sheep, goats and horses. "Here I can focus more on the dairy aspect of veterinary medicine, which will help me progress in my career," she says. "This clinic is made of younger, more progressive veterinarians, and I am also closer to home." Bridgette aims to help her family the best she can and stays motivated in her work by remembering that it takes many years to grow within her specialty. "I have to keep using my problem-solving and professional skills as I gain more experience," she explains.

Bridgette says the work moments that stand out to her are "simple times where someone really thanked me," even if she was unable to cure the animal, she says. "It is when people show genuine appreciation such as I have for the Annexstad family that I feel I am doing something worthwhile."

Ashley Dacy ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Chemical Engineering

I am so thankful that God has given me the chance to get to know such an amazing family like the Annexstads. The Annexstad Family Foundation does more than just give money for scholarships. The Annexstads convey a genuine interest in every student.



Andrew Fribush ▲

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Political Science

My life is a testament to the charity of others, like the Annexstad family. The Annexstads have my eternal gratitude and my earnest intention that I will not disappoint them for their investment in me.

Hope F. ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Theology

Attending the University of Notre Dame shaped me in more ways than I could have ever imagined, particularly through the ways I have grown as a theology major and in the relationships I built with faculty mentors, friends and the people I met while studying abroad in Chile. I am grateful to the Annexstad family for all that they do for the Notre Dame scholarship students, because they help us attend a school that permanently shapes us and changes our future paths.



Oscar Gonzales ▲

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Psychology and European Studies

I want to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for making my dream come true. Receiving my degree was a huge step for me, as I was the first in my family to graduate from college. I challenge myself to do better every single day. I am thankful that The Annexstad Family Foundation has helped make this possible.



Dionna Gary ◀

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Sociology

I would like to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for contributing to my education at the University of Notre Dame, not only financially, but also for the contribution of their time. Without the generosity of the of the Annexstads, none of it would have been possible. I am very grateful to know such an outstanding family.

Gary Hunt, III ▶

2008-2012

Degree: B.S. Information Technology Management

After graduating from Notre Dame in 2013, I worked as an IT Consultant at a business consulting and internal auditing firm. The following year, I started law school at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, earning Dean's Honors. Last summer, I conducted research for a professor at IU and completed a six-week summer associate position at a mid-sized law firm in Nashville, TN.



ALUMNI

Lisa Huynh ▶
2006-2010

Degree: B.A. Psychology

The Annexstad Family Foundation has shown me that there are people out there who really believe in me and the importance of a college education. Notre Dame exudes tradition and unity. As the only person in my family to attend college, I was worried I wouldn't fit in, but I quickly realized I was a perfect fit for Notre Dame.



Tania Mathurin ▶
2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Political Science and French

I am sincerely thankful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for providing the scholarship to help me attend the University of Notre Dame. My education will give me the power and the opportunity to make my dreams possible. Thank you!



Yolandis McCaskill ▲
2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Biological Science

I love that this is an "interactive" scholarship. The fact that the Foundation keeps in touch with each student is very cool. This scholarship program truly cares about each recipient. The Annexstad medallion I received made me feel welcome and cared for. Unbelievable!



Christine McDwayne ◀
2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Business Administration

I am a person who is curious, anxious to learn and who embraces new experiences. The opportunity that The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship gave me at the University of Notre Dame exceeded my wildest dreams.

Robert Mungia ▶
2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Information Technology Management

I'm very grateful to the generous people at The Annexstad Family Foundation who are giving students like me an opportunity. They are investing in me and my future, and I promise that the investment will be a good use of their money.



Eduardo Oronia ◀
2011-2015

Major: B.S. Architecture

I have been so blessed by The Annexstad Family Foundation. Without this scholarship, I wouldn't be able to continue on a path to realize the dreams I set forth to accomplish someday. I have aspirations of one day getting into politics. I want to do something big to help others in my lifetime.

Juan Rangel ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Political Science and Latino Studies

I am incredibly thankful for the Annexstads' generosity through these past four years. I cannot imagine going through college without their constant encouragement. It was an incredible feeling to know that not only did my close family and friends believe in me, but a completely unknown family in Minnesota did as well.



Maureen Sullivan ▲

2005-2009

Degree: B.A. Psychology

I believe the Annexstads came from a good place, good values, good hearts. They are just good people. Having lost both of my parents as a child, I knew what hardship was. Today I understand the importance of having someone there for you when you need support. My experiences have humbled me and taught me to help others whenever I get the chance.

Shawn Sanford ▶

2004-2008

Degree: B.A. African American Studies and Latino Studies

Because of my Annexstad Scholarship I was blessed with the opportunity to leave college without debt. The Annexstad family's outreach is like no other. There is a personal touch, and I was able to get to know everyone who came to visit, sent care packages, gave birthday cards or emailed to ask how I was doing. If it weren't for their support in all these ways, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing today. I am six classes away from earning my MBA: I attend evening classes in addition to working full-time. I still feel their encouragement during this next chapter in my life.



Adam Vargas ◀

2008-2012

Degree: B.A. Psychology

The best part about The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is the fact that we're not just receiving an award. We are receiving inspiration and compassion along with so many kind letters and care packages from an entire family who truly cares for all the recipients and hopes for their success in every aspect of life.



Matthew Zepeda ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Business

The Annexstad Family Foundation helped make my Notre Dame dream become a reality. I am thankful for them and my mentor who inspired me during my youth to believe that I could go to college.



University of St. Thomas

Devin Cazin ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. English

Your scholarship has opened so many doors for me. It has given me the golden opportunity to gain independence and put myself out in the world to find out who I am.



Cameron Cochran ▶
2008-2013

Degree: B.S. Mechanical Engineering

I wish to express my gratitude to The Annexstad Family Foundation. Receiving this scholarship has done more than just pay for college. It has shown me that someone has recognized my potential and, in turn, has helped me see it myself. Everyone around me is so proud of my accomplishments. This serves as even more motivation to succeed and not let the Foundation nor myself down. I received more than just a scholarship. The Annexstad Family Foundation gave me the chance to be a better me. For this I will be eternally grateful.



Stephany Osuji ▲
2006-2010

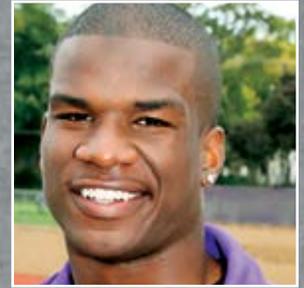
Degree: B.A. Marketing Management

I have kept my focus and background in marketing, market research and communications. After receiving my B.A. in Marketing Management from St. Thomas, I have worked in the public, private and nonprofit sectors doing marketing and market research. Most recently, I have become an Intern Coach for the BrandLab. The BrandLab works with minority high school and college students to get them ready for the marketing and advertising industry. I also sit on two boards; one is for Theatre Pro Rata and the other is The Associate Board for The Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities.

Walter Franklin ▶
2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Education is the most powerful tool in the world today. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is giving me the gift of education. Whether it was getting good grades or doing well in sports, my mentor taught me as a youngster that we get out of life what we put into it and, if we work hard, good results will come.



Mitchell Welle ◀
2008-2012

Degree: B.S. Neuroscience

Your scholarship changed the course of my decisions I made and ultimately changed my life. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I probably would have stayed home or done something different with my life. This scholarship has afforded me so many more opportunities. It has opened doors that were once closed. It's given me options for my life that I never thought possible. Thank you!

Brianna Gee ▶
2009-2013

Degree: B.S. Human Resource Management

My college experience was great! Financial freedom has given me more educational opportunities. I'm excited to be working toward my future while enjoying the college lifestyle. My childhood mentor helped me become a responsible adult. She always knew what to say to encourage me and cheer me up. In the future, I hope to help others like she and the Annexstad family have helped me.



Sonya Hernandez ◀
2009-2013

Degree: B.A. Mass Communications

Money, or lack of it, would have determined my future. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to pursue my dreams! My mentor helped make education a priority for me. Armed with a college education, I am now able to see a future for myself.



Winona State University

Chelsey Peterson ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Exercise Science

I have moved to the Twin Cities. I am very lucky to have found a full-time job in my field as a Fitness Specialist with a company called HealthSource Solutions. This September I will be coming up on my one-year anniversary as a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in the Twin Cities. I am proud to say that BBBS has been a huge part of my life since the age of five, starting out as a little. Here I am at 24, hopefully giving a little back and making a difference!

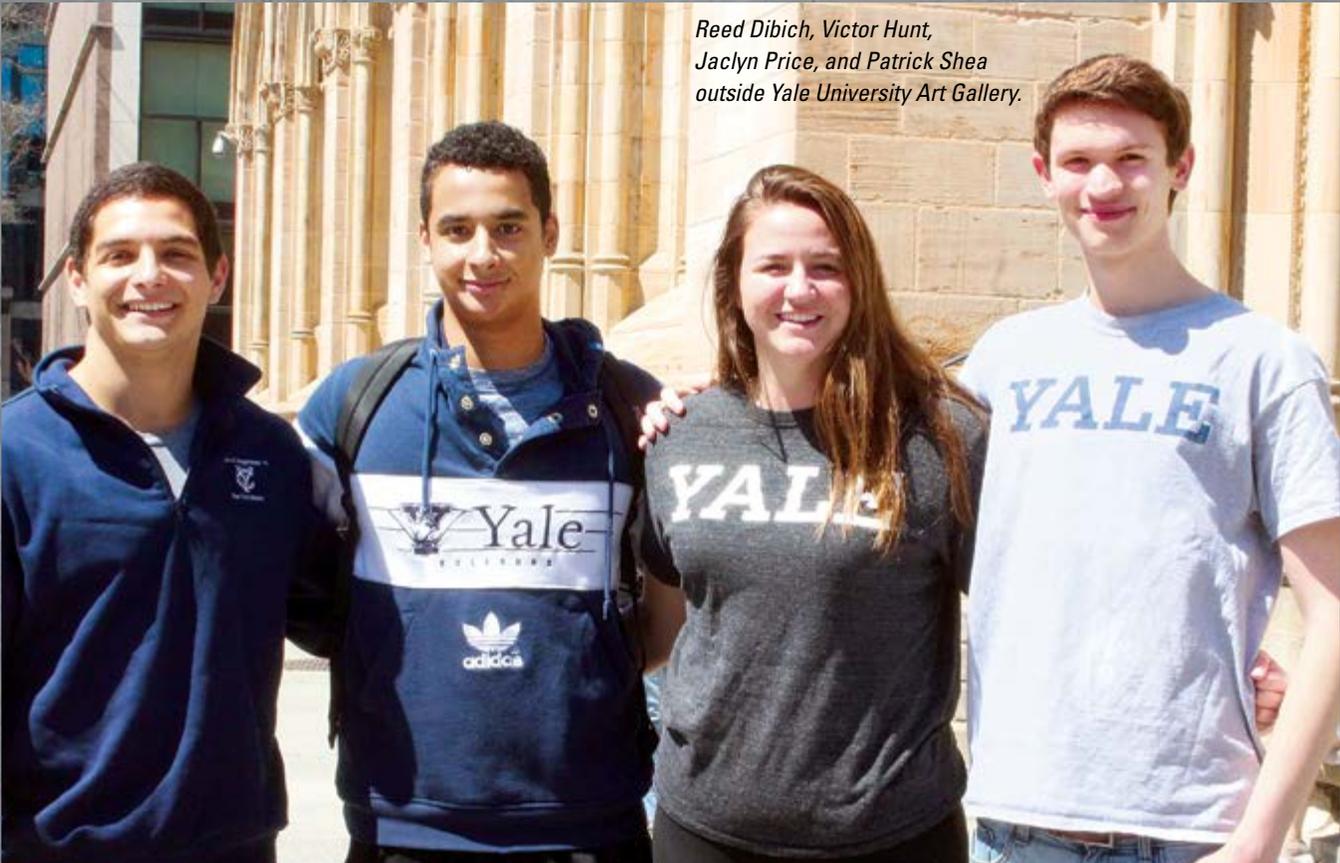


Isaac Wenzel ◀

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Mass Communication

I am studying for a career in broadcasting. I'm currently working at the radio station on campus and I love it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my dreams a reality!



*Reed Dibich, Victor Hunt,
Jaclyn Price, and Patrick Shea
outside Yale University Art Gallery.*

ALUMNI

University of Minnesota



Eric W. Kaler President

“

The best road to success is an education. It's critical for the future of our country. The Annexstad Family Foundation aligns with the mission, vision, and values of the University of Minnesota where we look for grit, persistence, determination, and raw intelligence in all of our students. The Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship Program is the perfect answer to the challenging problems facing America because it enables disadvantaged students who display immense potential to attend highly selective institutions across the country. It's about providing opportunity.

”



Scholars

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

Bethel University

Dah Dah ▶

2015-2019

Major: Communication and Theatre

My journey from Burma to Thailand to America was long and hard. I am so blessed to have parents who are always striving for more and they motivate me to do the same. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means a lot to me and my family. Since I am the last to go to college in my family, my parents don't have the budget to help me. I look forward to staying involved at Bethel University through gospel choir and theater plays as well as gaining knowledge in my field to be successful in my future career.



Grant Mortenson ▶

2015-2019

Major: Computer Science

I plan to move into the computer science field, and so I am pursuing a B.A. in Computer Science as well as a minor in Biblical and Theological Studies. With this, I hope to be involved in mission outreach on the technological front. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has graciously allowed me to pursue my education, and without it, I would likely not be attending Bethel.



Boston College



Karla Cruz ▲

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Karla Cruz to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Karla will be representing the class of 2019 at Boston College.

Eric Encarnation ▶

2015-2019

Major: International Studies

As a first-generation American and first-generation college student, being a recipient of The Annexstad Family Foundation's Scholarship will help me achieve my dreams of attending college without having to worry about my socio-economic status holding me back. I truly feel that I can achieve whatever I set my mind to. While at BC, I hope to gain a better sense of my strengths and begin to figure out what career choice will fulfill my passions. My college experience has been surreal, and none of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Annexstads. I am only one year into my Boston College experience and I already feel as if I can take on the world!



Heidi Korems-Wolinski ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

I know that not everyone gets this opportunity. I am thankful to receive the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship and to attend Carleton College. I am looking into career fields in which I can help others.

Carleton College

Rachel Rabska ▶
2015-2019
Major: Sociology

Throughout my time in the Los Angeles foster care system, I knew that education would be my ticket to a better life. I kept my head down, studied diligently and told myself that if I just got into a good school, I would begin to forge a life entirely my own. The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship has given me the financial stability I need to allow myself to fully enjoy my academic and intellectual enrichment. I no longer feel the pressing urge to push myself through the present in pursuit of the future, rather, for the first time, I can enjoy my life as I live it. I am so grateful to the Annexstads for giving me this freedom to be happy.



Duke University



Alexandra Sanchez Rolon ◀
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

This year has been a challenge, but not financially the way I thought it would be. Living with my grandmother, her social security checks do not allow for a college education, let alone a car. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation, I wouldn't be in college right now. I've forged so many relationships, created so many friendships and memories, and most importantly, I've learned from so many life lessons that have come from my higher education. It's an experience I could never replicate anywhere else, and I have the Annexstad Family to thank for that.

Ariona Lee ▶
2015-2019
Major: Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology

With both my mom and brother in school, financial support was a major factor when it came to me. My mom and brother's hard work has inspired me to push beyond my circumstances, yet I never imagined attending a prestigious school such as Emory University. The Annexstad Family Foundation helped open the door for me to rise above my circumstances and reach my full potential. Thank you for showing me that hard work can make all the difference in the world. After college I will give back to my community through the power of medicine.



Emory University



Lalita Martin ▲
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

Your scholarship has given me such a gift and it inspires me to be generous and thoughtful in similar ways. The Annexstad Family Foundation is an excellent example of investing in a student's future, and I look forward to helping students in similar ways when I get the chance.



Tanique McDonald ◀
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

Children around the world dream of the opportunity to create a new life through education. By receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I was granted the gift of education and the opportunity to better myself and make that dream possible for others. You have blessed me, and I intend to use my blessings to bless others.

Georgetown University

Ojuolape Junaid ▶

2015-2019

Major: International Economics

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has given me the opportunity to devote myself to my studies and activities. I have joined the African Students of Georgetown Organization and the Design the District Initiative, which introduces students to the world of design. I plan on growing through my extracurricular life and discovering the many opportunities that Georgetown offers.



Georgia Institute of Technology



Raymond Chester ▲

2015-2019

Major: Nuclear and Radiological Engineering

My goal is to graduate from Georgia Tech with honors in Nuclear and Radiological Engineering. The knowledge I obtain will be my tool to change the world's energy production and consumption. Nuclear energy is a top option for the future's source of sustainable energy, and I hope to contribute to the nuclear field. The Annexstads have allowed me to focus on my academics without adding to my family's debt. I look forward to providing help to others like The Annexstad Family Foundation has provided me.

Steven Lujan ▶

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

I'm so grateful for the support from The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Not having to stress about finding a job has been such a relief. I have been able to spend more time focusing on school and other extracurricular activities.

I feel that this scholarship has offered me the ability to actually live and experience the college to the fullest extent.



Rosny Colas ▲

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Rosny Colas to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Rosny will be representing the class of 2019 at Georgia Institute of Technology.



Vanessa Rodriguez ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Vanessa Rodriguez to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Vanessa will be representing the class of 2019 at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Gonzaga University

Loren Carrillo ▶

2015-2019

Major: Political Science

As a Gonzaga University scholar, I want to inspire my peers to become leaders and be more involved in their community. By majoring in political science, I can increase my political efficacy and create public policy that will rejuvenate our current education system, allowing me to use my leadership skill set to its full potential. None of this would even be possible without the help from The Annexstad Family Foundation, so I thank you.



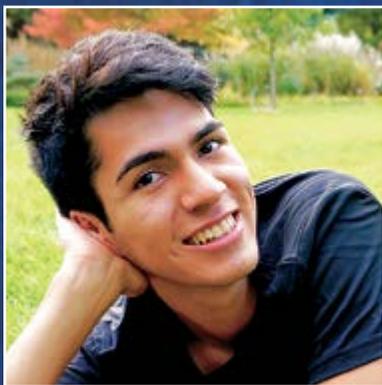
Gustavus Adolphus College

Elizabeth Love ▶

2015-2019

Major: Pre-Veterinarian

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Elizabeth Love to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Elizabeth will be representing the class of 2019 at Gustavus Adolphus College.



Brian Perez ▲

2015-2019

Major: Spanish and Financial Economics

Having lived in Guatemala for two years, I am challenged with understanding unfamiliar topics. The transition from high school to college was a challenge that motivated me. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has given me the opportunity to focus on a successful career and graduate with little debt. I hope to get either my master's or doctorate and teach at the college level.



Emma Robbins ◀

2015-2019

Major: Psychology

I grew up with essentially a single mother because my dad was diagnosed with an illness and unable to care for himself, which left us with many financial challenges. I have always wanted to attend college, and these challenges have motivated me to

work harder. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I would not have been able to attend Gustavus. I am tremendously grateful to the Annexstads for giving me this opportunity. My goal is to have a career in psychology after earning a graduate degree.



SaNoah LaRocque ◀

2015-2019

Major: Neurobiology

Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is helping me on my path to become a doctor. This scholarship is not only impacting my life, but also my family, by giving us the opportunity to break the cycles of poverty and violence. In my culture, we believe that our lives today impact seven generations to come. The Annexstads are impacting my future generations, my future patients and their own families. Thank you!

Harvard University

Caleb Ringkob ➤

2015-2019

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Thank you for helping me achieve a world-class education, one that will allow me to use my biomedical engineering degree to develop meaningful advancements in medical technology. I want to yield tangible relief for those who suffer debilitating pain, just as my dad suffered and passed from ALS. The indescribable pain of losing a father inspires me to dream of ways to revolutionize the medical field. I seek to be an innovator who works collaboratively to alleviate the many ailments that continue to confront families across the world.



Michigan Technological University



Alyssa Smith ▲

2015-2019

Major: Physical Therapy

I aid in the well-being of my autistic brother and provide support to my loving family. I have found motivation and a love for those who experience difficulties in their daily life. My dream is to build a career out of my desire to care for and aid those who find difficulties in their own life. I'm excited to pursue a degree in physical or occupational therapy and support the children and adults who bring an extra special light into this world. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad!

Michael McGee ➤

2015-2019

Major: Chemical Engineering

My family goes back three generations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. With my degree I will travel the world, using my knowledge to better companies' environmental footprint. The Annexstad Family Foundation has allowed me to vastly expand my knowledge, and has given me great hope for my future.



Minnesota State University, Mankato



Yuseina Brito Lino ◀

2015-2019

Major: Elementary Education

Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is helping first-generation Latina students like me break stereotypes. I am an officer for Latino Wellness and Teachers of Tomorrow, and I want to empower future students

through their education. Your incredibly generous scholarship relieves the financial pressure and allows me to focus on my goals.



Sarah McNallan ◀

2015-2019

Major: Exercise Science

I am honored to be a recipient of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship and very grateful for your generosity. Growing up in a large family, it was clear from a young age that it would be my responsibility to finance my continuing education. You have shown me that hard work does pay off, and I look forward to my years as not only an undergraduate, but also in the future as a graduate student as well.

University of Alabama

Dr. Stuart Bell President

“

The Annexstad Family Foundation plays an important role in helping young people achieve their dreams of a college education. Our partnership with the Annexstad Family Foundation is a natural fit because our shared goal is helping our students succeed. The Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program provides incredible opportunities for some of our most outstanding students.

”



University of Notre Dame

Rev. John J. Jenkins C.S.C., President



“

Given the encouragement to pursue dreams and the resources to discover and develop talents, every young person has the potential to excel in his or her pursuits. By offering scholarships for post-secondary education, the Annexstad Family Foundation provides hope and confidence to deserving students. At the University of Notre Dame, we are proud to be affiliated with an organization that shares our commitment to being a source for good, particularly by educating our world's future leaders.

”



Morehouse College



Henry Bowe ▶
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Henry Bowe to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Henry will be representing the class of 2019 at Morehouse College.



Carlos Hood ▶
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Carlos Hood to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Carlos will be representing the class of 2019 at Morehouse College.



Princeton Johnson ▲
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Princeton Johnson to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Princeton will be representing the class of 2019 at Morehouse College.



Ashley Rude ◀
2015-2019
Major: Pharmacy

This winter I will be applying for the Pharmacy program in order to continue my goal of becoming a pharmacist. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has made a tremendous impact on me and is constantly continuing to help me achieve my dream. I am so grateful for all of the wonderful Annexstad family members.

North Dakota State University

Daniel Schmiesing ▶
2015-2019
Major: Mechanical Engineering

I am extremely thankful for The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship! It is greatly appreciated after my difficult childhood. With the loss of my sister, the divorce of my parents, and my mother getting cancer, it was hard to stay positive. My childhood taught me to stay strong no matter what happens. This motivation has directed me to take classes at in NDSU's Mechanical Engineering program. Because of the scholarship, I will leave college with little debt as I start a career.



Wyatt Whiteaker ▶

2015-2019

Major: Chemistry Education

My past motivates me to be a better student, mentor and person. My mother passed away from lung cancer when I was 14, and my father passed from heart disease when I was 17. Everyday I try to be the son that my parents would be proud of. At NDSU I am involved in a collaborative research project between the Engineering and Education departments. I volunteer at Upward Ed, a non-profit organization empowering students with learning disabilities. I cannot express my gratitude enough to The Annexstad Family Foundation for your gracious support.



Northern Michigan University

Courtney Qualley ◀

2015-2019

Major: Business Management

Northern Michigan University is perfect for me! I love the class sizes because I can make friends and can get to know my professors on a more personal level. Thank you for your incredible generosity, Annexstad Family Foundation! I know my future is going to be amazing and I can't wait!

Northwestern University

Hannah Whitehouse ▼

2015-2019

Major: Music Education and Social Policy

Through The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship I can fulfill my dream of studying Music Education and Social Policy. I am the first in my family to attend college, and I credit much of my academic success to the extensive music education programs that my school offers. My future includes making music education more accessible to low-income, urban youth and doing policy work associated with education reform.



Natalie Vega ▶

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

As a low income student, I am forever grateful that The Annexstad Family Foundation has allowed me to pursue my degree. I am motivated to explore, choose a career path and create meaningful change in the world. My current studies in civic engagement are furthering my understanding of what that means in my own life and how I can go about that effectively and make the most of it.



Spelman College

Monique Monroe ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Monique Monroe to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Monique will be representing the class of 2019 at Spelman College.



Nike Shimobi-Obijuru ▶

2015-2019

Major: Sociology

Thank you for the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship. As the oldest of three in a single-parent household, I receive little support. Now I can continue attending Spelman without fear of amassing a huge debt. Thank you for helping me achieve my dream of becoming a technical writer!



Stanford University



Azucena Marquez ▲

2015-2019

Major: History

The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me the opportunity to chase my dream of going to Stanford and honor my mother's memory and all my family members who always cheer for me. I am majoring in History with a concentration in Law and minoring in International Relations with a concentration in International Security. I plan on going to law school and becoming a corporate lawyer. Currently I am on the founding board of Stanford Women in Politics, and I tutor middle schoolers through organization called East Palo Alto Stanford Academy.

Alesha Westbrook ▶

2015-2019

Major: Health Science

My dream of becoming a pediatrician almost ended when I found out that I had stage IIA Hodgkin's lymphoma in high school. My experience through handling surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation will help me in my future to provide similar guidance that doctors gave me – hope that there is life after cancer. I owe The Annexstad Family Foundation my complete gratitude for your generosity – I will go out and change the world!



Paula McCloud ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

Thanks to the Annexstad Scholarship, I have been able to explore my academic interests worry-free. I lost both my mother and my grandmother during my junior year of high school, and I can honestly say my faith was shaken. However, I know that they are watching over me, and I have to make them proud. Being at Stanford has allowed me to do that and much more, and I could've never attended this university without the investment of The Annexstad Family Foundation.



Austin Goodwin ◀

2015-2019

Major: Advertising

Often in life we find ourselves talking about second chances. Rarely do we acknowledge those who had did not have a first chance. Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation and their generosity, I was given my first chance to live out my dream of being the first in my family to attend college. They planted the seeds of generosity, and now I can do everything in my ability to assure something beautiful grows from that seed.

University of Alabama

Molly Morgan ▶
2015-2019
Major: Chemical Engineering

I have always been fascinated with chemical engineering because it has the potential to drive positive innovation. Because of the Annexstads, I am able to pursue my dream of studying Chemical Engineering without the financial burden. Being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar is by far one of my biggest blessings, and I am forever thankful for the opportunity that is has provided me.



University of California,
 Berkeley



Shay Devon Urrea ▲
2015-2019
Major: Business

My first year at the University of California, Berkeley was the freshman experience I had expected and more. I have people on my side like the Annexstad family that believe in me. I have no other option than to show The Annexstad Family Foundation that every cent of my scholarship was worth it. I wish I could come up with a better phrase than just "thank you." So I hope you'll see my gratitude when my education takes me all over the world, while being a role model for foster children around the world.

Ana Sinyavina ▶
2015-2019
Major: Business Management

Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, my entire college experience would have been filled with getting a job and worrying about student loans before actually focusing on my curriculum. You have given me the security and freedom to put my studies first, join honors organizations and become a University Steward. I will forever be grateful for the impact the Annexstads have had on my life.



Hilda Leticia Zarate-Cervantes ▶
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Hilda to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Hilda will be representing the class of 2019 at University of California, Berkeley.



University of Chicago



Courtney Cook ◀
2015-2019
Major: Biology

I come from a low-income, rural community in Indiana. My goal is to be informed on how to improve healthcare issues as a doctor. I simply could not even dream about achieving this goal without being able to study at University of Chicago without any financial barriers. The Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship has helped lessen the financial burden of college and has therefore allowed me to take the steps necessary to reach my goals. I could not be more grateful to be given these opportunities.

Husam Haj ▶

2015-2019

Major: Mathematics

I grew up in the Chicago Public Schools system where I witnessed a variety of problems. Trying to solve the many disparities, I applied and was accepted to the CPS Advisory Council. I believe that everyone deserves equal access to a quality education and my past will help me lead experiences as a council member. My goal is to receive my degree in the financial field. I would hope to have a consulting job that takes me around the world while solving problems that clients face. This scholarship means a lot to me given the additional support network. This Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship has given me better access to a quality education, and I hope to also provide a similar support to other students in the future.



University of Georgia



Nicholas Gentile ▲

2015-2019

Major: Finance

I remember when I found out that I had received this scholarship. I couldn't contain myself. I was jumping for joy because The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allowed me to attend UGA without having to worry about the financial burdens of student loans. The Annexstads have truly blessed me.

Sterling Carter ▶

2015-2019

Major: Biology and Political Science

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship program is like no other. You have allowed me to attend one of the most prestigious schools in the nation. Your scholarship has released the majority of my fears allowing me to focus on biology and political science. I will make the most of your generosity and focus on studying within the medical field and also playing a role in today's government.



University of Michigan

Sonny Jenema ▶

2015-2019

Major: Naval Architecture and Business

I am honored to accept The Annexstad Family Foundation's Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship. You have opened the door for me to achieve things never before possible, and I'm deeply grateful. Growing up in a broken family and leaving home at an early age proved challenging. With this opportunity I will strive to further improve myself and look to ways in the future to help those around me.



Ashton Russo ◀

2015-2019

Major: Mechanical Engineering

My hope for the future is that I will be working for a major automotive company on a design team. When I was younger I was homeless for about five years, and it was extremely difficult to overcome. Fortunately I was able to still attend school and thus I motivated myself to learn so I could be successful in the future. My scholarship is very important as it allows me to pursue higher education, regardless of my income. The Annexstads give a bright future to those willing to work hard – thank you!

Barbara Venson ►
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship means everything to me because it's allowing me to be able to be the first in my family to attend college. I can major in whatever I seek that will help me improve areas around me and become a proud role model for my younger siblings. Despite all of my life's challenges, I will persevere and hold my head high with confidence.



University of Minnesota Twin Cities



Jasmine Brown ►
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Jasmine Brown to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Jasmine will be representing the class of 2019 at University of Minnesota Twin Cities.



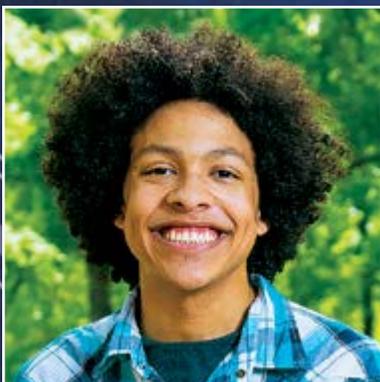
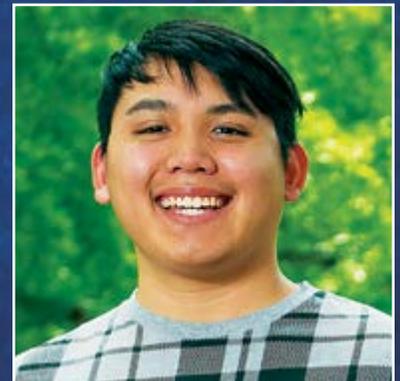
Rita Kwakye ▲
2015-2019
Major: Supply Chain and Operations Management

You have given me my dream to study abroad and receive my bachelor's degree. I dedicate my free time to the African Student Association, Black Student Union, Women in Business and Supply Chain and Operations Club. Coming from a refugee family that came to America during the Liberian Civil War, I want to make my family proud. My goal is to work for the United Nations or own my own businesses in West Africa and America. I want to give back to my community, assisting in the rebuilding of Liberia.

University of Mississippi

Tan Le ►
2015-2019
Major: Exercise Science

With The Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship, I have no worries of whether or not I'll be able to pay for college. This lets me focus on my education rather than expenses. My mother and father instilled in me the importance of higher education. I thank them for working hard to help me get to where I am today.



Francisco Santos ◀
2015-2019
Major: Computer Science

Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation from the bottom of my heart for giving me this tremendous advantage to make my dreams to come true. Through your generosity, I am able to give back to my supportive family and my community.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Afi Apefa Bello ▶

2015-2019

Major: Global Studies and African, African American, and Diaspora Studies

My family immigrated to the U.S. for my family to have a better life. I cannot express my gratitude enough to The Annexstad Family Foundation for giving me my dream of going to UNC Chapel Hill. While focusing on my studies, I also support the Organization of African Students' Interests and Solidarity and Chi Alpha campus Fellowship. I also enjoy volunteering with the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs in activities and events, which helps underserved and minority students. I am committed to making the most out of my college education, career and life. Thank you for being part of my journey.



University of Notre Dame



Brianna Hagans-Johnson ▲

2015-2019

Major: Accounting and Spanish

My parents have certainly influenced my understanding of who I am and who I want to be – a mature, resilient, and intellectual young woman. Thank you Annexstad Family Foundation for allowing me to become an Annexstad Scholar and providing me with the financial support needed to assist in the process of helping me develop into the best individual that I can be.

Martin Hottel ▶

2015-2019

Major: Broadcast Journalism and Reporting

I've learned in life that I have the option to either be pitiful or powerful, but I can never be both at the same time. There's fear, there's faith, there's loss and there's grace. I've seen it from both sides, and this is what it means to be alive. Trials and tribulation are what have made me stronger, and it is the grace of God shown through people and programs like The Annexstad Family Foundation that have allowed me to make it to where I am today. For that, I am forever grateful!



Ruben Inzunza ◀

2015-2019

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Education has served as an equalizer. The circumstances of our birth have nothing to do with the choices that we make. As Takeshi Shudo, the Pokemon scriptwriter, once wrote, "I see now that the circumstances of one's birth are irrelevant. It is what you do with the gift of life that determines who you are." These words are what inspired me to make the choices that formed me into the person that I am today. I hope to continue to make the correct choices as I advance through life.



Sofia Hargil ▲

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Sofia Hargill to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Sofia will be representing the class of 2019 at the University of Notre Dame.

Adrian Lore ▶

2015-2019

Major: Anthropology and Peace Studies

There's something out there for each of us, vaguely, on the horizon. And there are unique qualities we have each been given to reach it. Education is not the method, but the madness; we will find clarity only from the confusion, and we will come to understand not only what lies out there, but how we will reach it. Education isn't the paint, or the brush, or even the canvas – it's the easel that sustains the endeavor. If I emerge from college feeling oriented and sane, I will feel that I have done it.



Logan McAbee-Thomas ▲

2015-2019

Major: Psychology

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Logan McAbee-Thomas to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Logan will be representing the class of 2019 at the University of Notre Dame.

Cristian Magdaleno ▶

2015-2019

Major: Anthropology and Peace Studies

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation I am studying Anthropology and Arabic language, with hopes of going to law school focused on immigration or international law. I live my life by many quotes (it's what happens when you read a ton of books) and Octavio Paz, a Mexican poet and diplomat said, "Wisdom lies neither in fixity nor in change, but in the dialect between the two."



Tristan McGrath ▶

2015-2019

Major: Psychology

I have always believed we were put on this earth to help other people. We all have a purpose. I would just like to thank everyone at The Annexstad Family Foundation for allowing me to begin fulfilling my purpose.

Psychology is my passion, and my dream is to become a clinical psychologist.

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I can begin my dream on the right foot.



Kesi Rivera ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

I was so excited when I was told I could attend the University of Notre Dame debt-free! My ability to dream the impossible and have the tools at my disposal to make those dreams come true is because of The Annexstad Family Foundation. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to eventually better my life and my community without the stress that money can bring. It is an absolute blessing. All I can say is thank you!

Juliana Tiscareno ▶

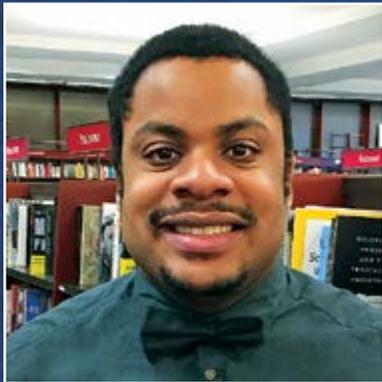
2015-2019

Major: Accounting

Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation and your generosity in helping me in my mission to achieve my scholarly and life goals. With this scholarship, I get to worry less about the finances concerning my education, and focus more on being the best student I can be. As a first-generation college student blazing the trail for my younger brothers and cousins, it is the best gift I could ask for. I am inspired by foundations such as this to create my own scholarship foundation in the future when I am fortunate enough to give back the gift of educational support and encouragement that I have benefited from. Thanks, Al and Cathy!



University of Pennsylvania



James Fisher ▲

2015-2019

Major: Communications and French

A favorite quote of mine is, "Failure is a better teacher than success." So while at the University of Pennsylvania, I plan to try new things and learn as much as I can. Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation for this opportunity!

Makayla Vasquez ▶

2015-2019

Major: Business Management

Notre Dame has always been a dream of mine passed on by my great-grandfather. I remember being five years old and running around the living room cheering on Notre Dame football. It is especially amazing to me to be able to say that I am the first in my family to be attending college. My hopes are to continue on to graduate school to get a degree in Sports Management and make my great-grandfather proud.



Michael Krone ◀

2015-2019

Major: Political Science and Economics

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to learn from some of the most inspiring people in the world – my professors, my classmates, my friends and my Penn family. This would not be possible without your generosity. I am so lucky! Now I can learn how to hone in on

my skills and help to change the world through developing policies that help other people across the country.



Ashley Forbes ◀

2015-2019

Major: Environmental Science

Having an absent mother due to drugs has been the most difficult challenge that I've faced. However, I have used this to my advantage to overcome many other challenges. This is why the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship is most important to me and my education. It gives me the opportunity to lay a foundation in which I can accomplish my goals. I want my education to be the reason that others find motivation in their lives, and I want to be able to show people that opportunities such as me receiving this scholarship are a true blessing and will help them soar to any height they dream of.

University of Redlands

University of St. Thomas

Andrew Dolge ▶

2015-2019

Major: Computer Science

I have always considered myself a student who loves the act of learning and challenging myself. To that end, I participated in my high school's International Baccalaureate Diploma program where I developed my critical thinking skills and my insatiable curiosity. I made incredible like-minded friends. My degree in Computer Science is the perfect balance of creativity and technicality for me. Due to my family's financial background, I could only afford a single year of college. But now through the generous Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I can guarantee myself a degree! You have my eternal gratitude.



Taylor Weeks ▶

2015-2019

Major: Education

My goal is to graduate with a degree and greatly inspire people to be happy. My passion for music and the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program has enriched my college experience and helped me to focus on my goals for tomorrow. Through your generosity I have already found a purpose to my life and can't wait to positively affect others.



Vanderbilt University



Charles Miceli ▲

2015-2019

Major: Economics and Human and Organization Development

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Charles Miceli to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Charles will be representing the class of 2019 at Vanderbilt University.



Kadie Smolock ◀

2015-2019

Major: Public Policy

I am so happy that, through every obstacle and every doubt, I am where I am today. I know I chose the right university and have no regrets, and I'm grateful that The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship recognized me and helped me along this path. I intend to go to law school after

Vanderbilt so I can speak up for others who feel like they don't have a say in some area of their life. I look forward to seeing where my journey will take me, and hope I, and others like myself who receive this scholarship, are able to better our lives and the lives of others in time.



Naimah Turner ◀

2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Naimah Turner to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Naimah will be representing the class of 2019 at Washington University in St. Louis.

Washington University in St. Louis

Briana Wynn ▶
2015-2019
Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation is proud to welcome Briana Wynn to the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship program. Briana will be representing the class of 2019 at Washington University in St. Louis.



Western Carolina University



Andrew Stegall ◀
2015-2019
Major: Business Administration

I am truly thankful for the Annexstad family and their scholarship program. Without this amazing blessing and opportunity, I know that I would have struggled financially throughout my college career. Now I am free to pursue my dreams fully and devote more time to my studies and prepare myself for the next steps in my journey. I thank the Annexstad family, my family and, most importantly, God. I have lived with my grandparents since I was eight years old, and I have become the young man I am today thanks to their guidance. Without my grandparents and this wonderful scholarship, I have no idea where I would be today. I plan to study and attain a degree in Business Administration & Business Law at Western Carolina University, and then I hope to go on to law school to obtain a law degree to practice family law. My goal is to help children and families that are in less than ideal situations much like I was as a child. I truly believe this dream of mine is within my grasp now that the huge burden of figuring out how to pay for college has been taken off my shoulders. Thank you, Annexstad family, from the bottom of my heart.

Winona State University



Crystal Becker ◀
2015-2019
Major: Elementary Education

The generosity from the Annexstads has given me more hope than I ever thought was possible. This scholarship means the world to me, and I am forever grateful for everyone who made it possible. I hope one day I will be able to help students believe in and achieve their goals just as they have helped me with mine. There are children everywhere who have gone through horrible experiences or situations. I am not alone; but I want those children to have me be that light in their life. I want to be a person who doesn't judge, can understand their difficulties and give them something to strive for in life. My teacher saw something in me that maybe I didn't even see in myself and supported me throughout the years to become the dedicated person I am today. I want to pass that legacy on to those same special children. This is not the end of my journey; it is just the beginning of a new one.



Zaria Smith ◀
2015-2019

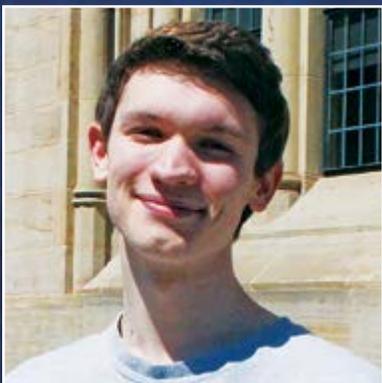
Major: Psychology and Communications

My hope for the future is to become successful, meaning to have all the resources I need to live everyday. Although I am a first-generation college student, I will be the example for my younger siblings to inspire them to do better. This scholarship saved my life. It also relieved a mountain of stress. I no longer have to worry about the financial part of college but can now focus on academics and enjoy my college experience at Winona. I plan on starting my own practice someday and giving back as much as I can to the communities who have supported me throughout my journey through life.

Yale University

Jaclyn Price ▶
2015-2019
Major: English

I will never forget the moment I first received news that I was a recipient of the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship. For my parents and me, it meant that I was able to attend the school of my dreams unencumbered by the financial stresses of a private university. But this scholarship is even more than that. For me, it has meant opportunities that I never dreamed of, and a mentor who truly cares about my well-being. It has given me the motivation to succeed in my education, and it has brought meaning to the notion that with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible. I am eternally grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for their faith in me, and I hope that someday I will be able to touch the lives of others with the same generosity and compassion that the Annexstads have shown me.



Patrick Shea ◀
2015-2019

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation's Leaders of Tomorrow National Scholarship is a huge help in accessing and affording a college education. Because of the scholarship, I am able to devote my energy to my classes and all the wonderful experiences college has to offer, rather than scrambling to pay for it. Knowing many people with similar low-income backgrounds who unfortunately do not have resources like this scholarship, I know how fortunate I am, and I am so thankful. You have shown that there are people rooting for me to succeed, and through their own generosity have allowed this to happen. The Annexstad Family Foundation is not only a scholarship program but also a community of support for students like myself that I am so happy to have!

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Carol L. Folt Chancellor

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Carolina has a proud history of welcoming students from all walks of life. Extraordinary talent often arises from extraordinary circumstances, and The Annexstad Family Foundation is a wonderful partner in recognizing students who have overcome hardship on their path to college. The Foundation's support not only helps talented students achieve their dreams, but also strengthens our entire campus community.

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"Acceptance into one's dream institution is great, but it means nothing if one cannot pay for it. I am fortunate to have the generosity and support of The Annexstad Family Foundation."

– Kayvon Asemani, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2018

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
16 Years of Changing Lives

