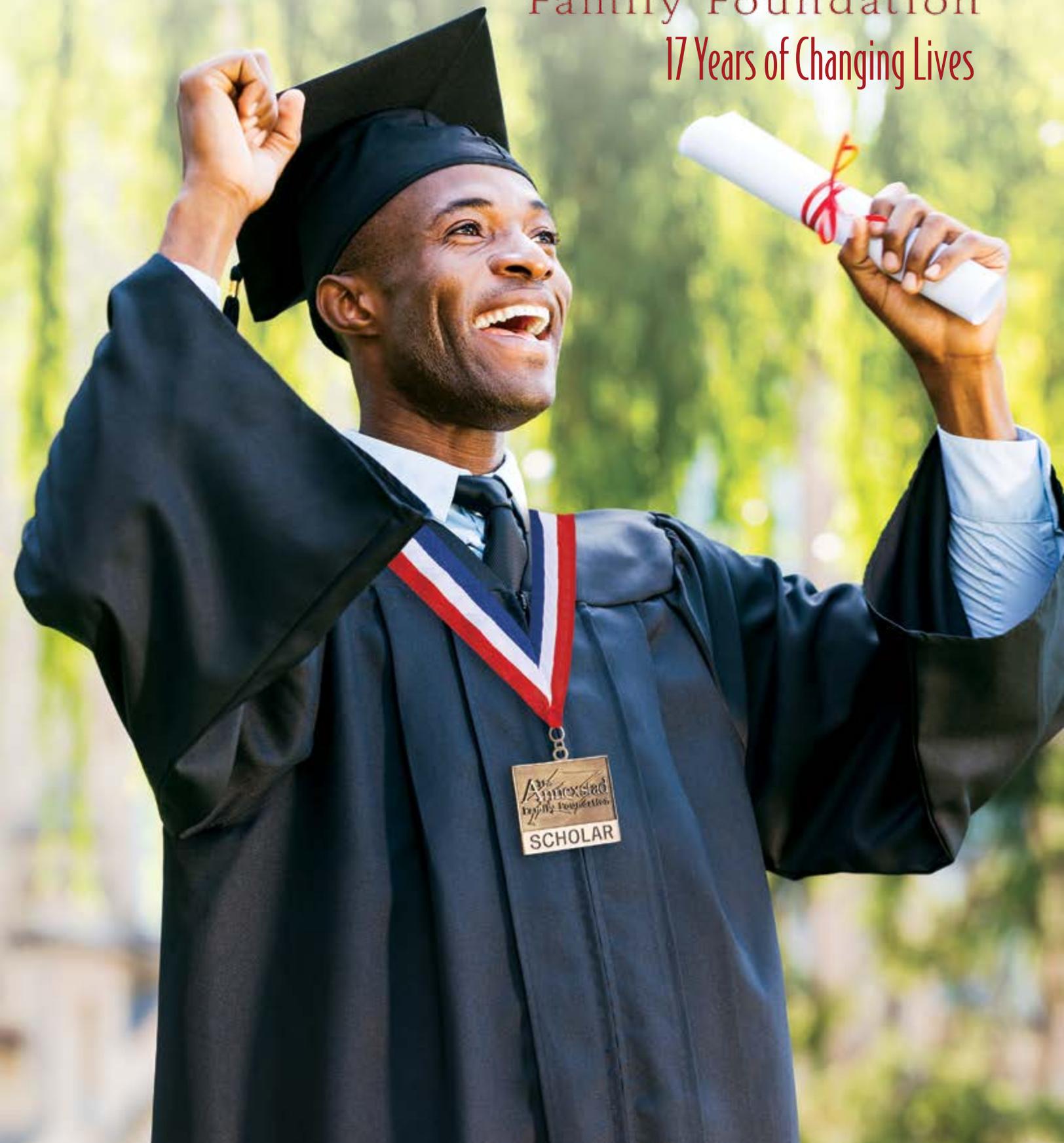


The
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Family Foundation
17 Years of Changing Lives



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17 Years of Changing Lives

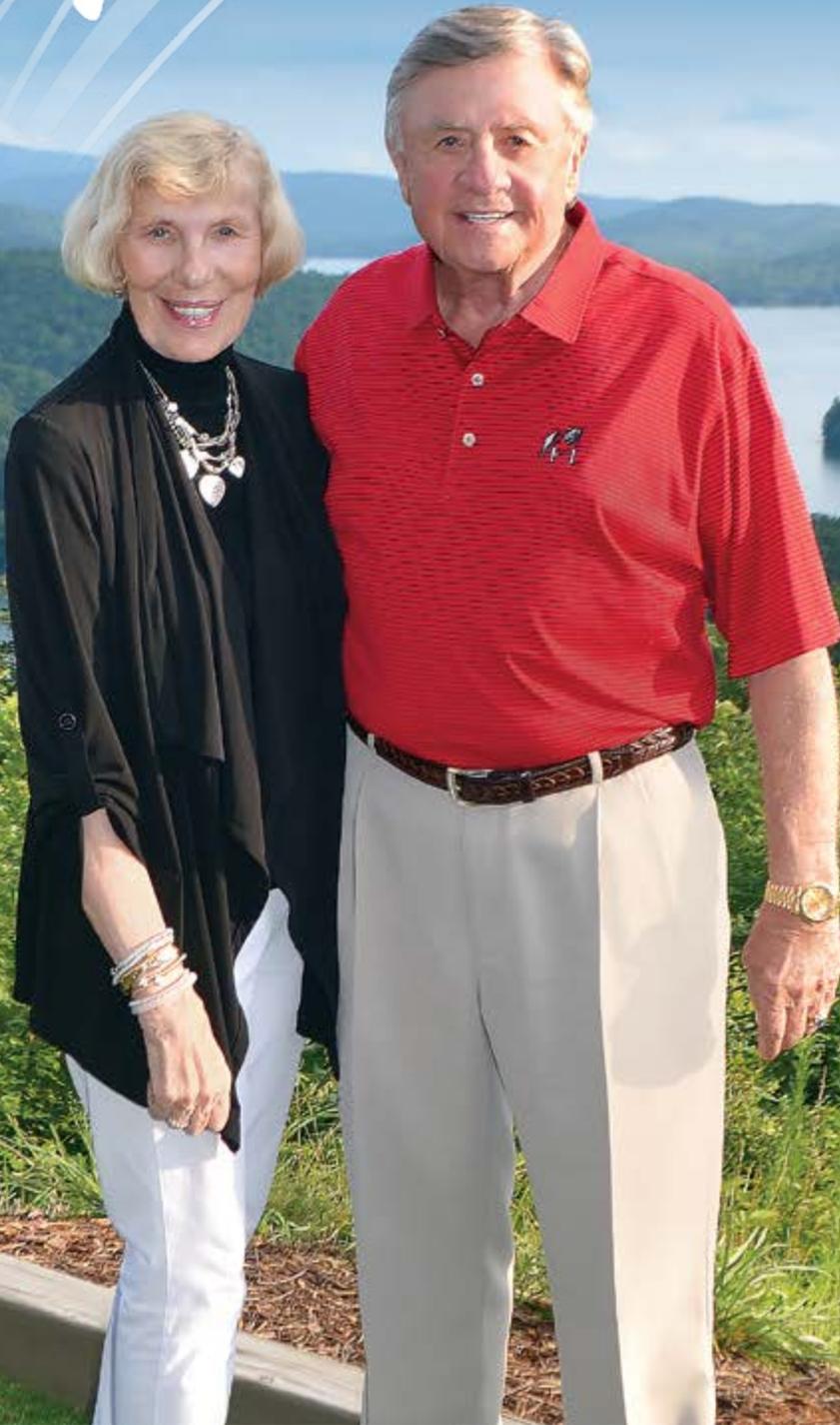
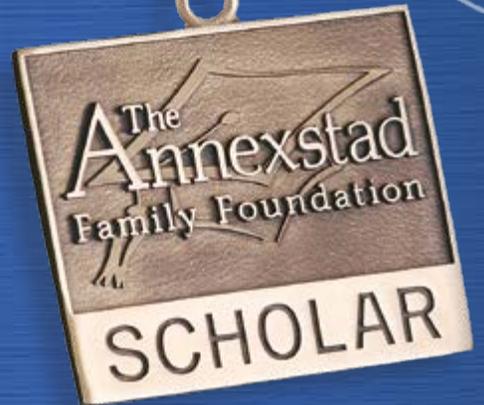


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The
Annexstad
Family Foundation

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Building a Legacy of Leaders

The Annexstad Family Foundation Mission



"All of our 669 Annexstad Family Foundation Scholars are equipped with infinite knowledge, tremendous energy to succeed, and a passion for giving back to our world," share Cathy and Al Annexstad. "You are born without knowledge, but you either have energy and passion or you don't. It's your surrounding circumstances that define you. For most of our students, the odds are stacked against them, like being raised by a single mother, handling tragic accidents or illness, coming from low-income neighborhoods or perhaps battling homelessness. When faced with these challenges, Annexstad Scholars are determined individuals with a thirst for knowledge that can't be quenched. These are students who deserve an opportunity to go to college and learn how to make our world a better place."

Sensing a special opportunity to help young people who have endured extraordinary challenges in life, Al and Cathy established The Annexstad Family Foundation. Their noble mission is to provide college scholarships to deserving young people who, in their words, have "bright minds, big dreams, and little means to make those dreams come true." The Annexstad family has created a lasting legacy that will significantly alter the lives of many.

children as they assume membership on the foundation's board." Simply put, when you affect hundreds of young adult lives, you are bolstering hundreds of families, communities and cities. That kind of change can move mountains, enhance opportunities, and grow big ideas into the kind of world everyone wants to live in.

"Cathy and Al believe that education must continue to be the great equalizer in life," shares Executive Director Dick Sherwood. "Over 90% of Annexstad Scholars are the very first in their families to go to college. More than half come from single-parent homes. Nearly half represent a beautiful mosaic of diversity having come from one of our nation's minority communities. Every one of them is exceptionally bright and has overcome significant personal hardship in their young lives. Remarkably, over 90% of Annexstad Scholars graduate or are on track to earn their undergraduate degrees in four years. And virtually all Annexstad graduates are gainfully employed in their chosen fields or are pursuing advanced degrees."

And these Scholars are overwhelmed by the Annexstad family's incredible generosity! They have been given meaningful opportunities to try new activities or pursue their passionate

Giving Hope and Opportunity to Bright Minds with Big Dreams

- An Overwhelming Majority of Annexstad Scholars Graduate Debt Free!
- 92% of Annexstad Scholars Graduate in 4 Years
- 95% of Annexstad Graduates are Gainfully Employed or Pursuing Advanced Degrees
- 669 Scholarships Awarded to Date
- 86 New Scholars in 2016; 90 Awarded in 2017
- 245 Graduates to Date
- 65 Participating Colleges and Universities
- Average 2016 Scholar ACT Score is 29

"Unfortunately, in America today far too many kids will not reach their God-given potential as contributing members of our society," adds Tom Annexstad, Vice President and Director of Development. "While this is costly to them personally, it is likewise detrimental to our nation. The Annexstad Family Foundation is deeply committed to the notion that out of the ranks of exceptionally bright young people who have overcome immense hardship in life can emerge future leaders for America. Those young leaders begin to fully develop when they are given the opportunity for higher education."

"I have learned over the years that to sustain anything of value an enterprise must have an inspiring but realistic vision," expands Patti Annexstad Marinovich, CFO and Secretary-Treasurer. "As founders, my parents Cathy and Al have long harbored a vision that higher education is the surest pathway to success for many young people who come from very challenging backgrounds. This is a vision that I share and one that is being passed on to my

interests. More importantly, they all volunteer and want to give back to their community. Just take a look through this book and you'll experience the incredible gratitude and magnitude of the energy and passion that these Scholars have for our world.

Cathy and Al know every one of these students' stories and boast about them as if they were their own children. Each year, the couple is invited to university graduations all over the country. They receive photos via emails and texts from the students, and they visit campuses during the school year to meet the students in person. They have charged student mentors, Shannon Dale and Elin Wahman, with visiting Scholars on campus to make sure the students are thriving with the right resources for success. They send care packages full of necessities and fun items. But even more special is the embossed medallion that each Scholar receives – it is a badge of honor and a priceless treasure that changes a student's outlook from bleak to empowered. That's amazing!



Annexstad Family Foundation Board Members Al and Cathy Annexstad, Tom Annexstad, Patti Annexstad Marinovich (on left) and Karen Annexstad, Shane Annexstad, Morgan Marinovich, Mackenzi Marinovich (on right) with University of Notre Dame Scholars: Tommy Nguyen, Avian Robinson, John Henry Hobgood, Kesi Rivera, John O'Brien, Jessica Gomez, Ashby Martin, Rachel Lewis, Cristian Magdaleno, Briana Hagans Johnson, and Tristan McGrath.

Georgetown’s Habon Ali shares, “As a child, I learned the way to survive was by earning an education. I grew up in a small Kenyan village in a brick hut, with no privacy – physical or emotional. My brother, mother, and I were stuffed together in a small room consisting of four cement walls that restricted us. In this room, I learned that being female would inhibit me from becoming anything other than a housewife or a mother. My passion for women’s rights comes from my mom not being able to be educated when she was younger. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means the world to me because it helps me in my endeavor to help others. I am thankful and grateful to have the chance to make a difference in others’ lives.”

“I am living a dream; a dream that I once thought was too good and too unrealistic. A dream that once made me look like a fool to some people; a dream that was turned into reality with support

from my family, The Annexstad Family Foundation, and everyone who has stood by me through this journey,” says Tenzin Choenyi, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College. “Looking back, I don’t blame myself or others who doubted me. After all, I was just a Tibetan refugee kid from Nepal who spoke little to no English as a high school freshman with a big dream.”

Honoring Family Legacies

Both Cathy and Al lost a parent early. Al lost his dad, Sanford, and Cathy lost her mom, Marie. After such devastating losses, they looked to their families and communities to help shape them. It was these 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 indeed, a powerful force for social change.

Left: Cathy and Al Annexstad with Erica Ellefson from Gustavus Adolphus College. Middle, front row: University of Alabama Scholars: Rosemary Hartline, Kailey Lones, Javier Figueroa; back row: Ana Sinyavina, Molly Morgan, Meg McGuire, Rulondo King, Steven Tice, and Annexstad Family Foundation Program Administrator Elin Wahman. Right: Patti Annexstad Marinovich, Foundation CFO, with Scholar Raymond Chester at Georgia Institute of Technology.





Left: Annexstad Family Foundation Vice President and Director of Development Tom Annexstad presents Notre Dame Scholar John O'Brien with his prestigious medallion. Middle: DeJimon Brooks and Ahmed Abdirahmen from Carleton College. Right: University of Georgia Scholars (left to right): Efra Uscanga, Lorretta Chappell, Chantell Jackson, Gabrion Johnson, Nick Murray, and Tyler Murray.

Al honored his late mother, Alice Annexstad, the Foundation's first Scholarship at Gustavus Adolphus College in 2000. Alice served meals to college students there for four decades. To date, 27 "Gusties" have been awarded Scholarships, paying forward Al's gratitude for the sacrifices his mother made in his youth.

The Annexstads are also honoring Cathy's mother Marie Eustice with a special Scholarship awarded to an aspiring student teacher at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In the 1950s, Marie went to night school for two years to complete her bachelor's degree in Education. Just before graduation, Marie lost her life in a car accident. In 2012, the University posthumously awarded Marie's degree and presented it to Cathy and her brother Bill.

These two incredible women were inspiring examples of courage and fortitude. The Foundation's mission is a fitting tribute to their memories.

Cathy Annexstad reminds us, "Our 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."

Left: University of Notre Dame Scholar Brandon Hardy. Middle: North Dakota State University Scholars Wyatt Whiteaker, Duncan Swanson, and Ashley Rude. Right: Scholars Maggie Walstrom, Sierra Fedder, and Gabriell Edel at the Minnesota State University, Mankato 2017 Graduate Celebration.



Inspired Dedication

Alice Annexstad

Gustavus Adolphus College holds a special place in the hearts of Cathy and Al Annexstad. Soon after losing Al's father when Al 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 where over the next four decades she served nourishing meals to generations of "Gusties."

Alice was revered and loved by 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, Al and Cathy established The Annexstad Family Foundation. Without hesitation they began 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. "Our partnership has led to 27 students attending and graduating Gustavus then fulfilling our mission of making their lives count."



In 2014, Gustavus honored The Annexstad Family Foundation by naming the Annexstad Mall that 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. "It is magnified many times over by the success we see our Annexstad Scholars having at Gustavus as they continue on a path to productive and rewarding lives."



Twenty-seven "Gusties" have been awarded Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarships to Gustavus Adolphus College honoring Al's mother, Alice Annexstad.



Honoring Education

Marie Eustice Scholarship

Cathy Annexstad's mother, Marie Nicholson was born in 1906 and graduated in 1927 from Mankato Normal College with a teaching certificate. Marie began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse. There she taught eight different grades math, science, and English until 1938 when she married Bill Eustice. Marie raised their two children, Cathy and Bill Jr., until she returned to her love of teaching in 1953, once again in a one-room schoolhouse. Two years later, she transitioned to a fourth-grade classroom at a school in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

Marie excelled in education thanks to her incredible work ethic and her ability to reach children of many different ages. Her caring approach to academics involved preparing her students for life-long learning, while she developed long-lasting relationships with the families she served along the way.

In the late 1950s, Minnesota established a requirement that all teachers must have bachelor's degrees. To earn hers, Marie commuted an hour each way to Minnesota State University, Mankato on nights and weekends. All the while she continued to teach full-time. On a wintry December morning in 1959, just before graduation, Marie tragically lost her life in a car accident.

In 2012, as Minnesota State University, Mankato bestowed honorary doctorate degrees upon Al and Cathy Annexstad for their humanity and contributions to the University, President Davenport posthumously awarded to Marie Eustice her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As he presented her diploma to Cathy and her brother Bill, there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

That same day, the Minnesota State University, Mankato announced the Marie Eustice Scholarship. Every year, a selected student in their junior year completes the two-year Elementary Education Professional Program completely debt-free. It is given to a deserving student who has not had the easiest path in life, but who possesses outstanding potential to become an extraordinary elementary education teacher... just as was dear Marie.

Tierra Jorgensen is the first recipient. Focused on graduating in 2018 with her degree, Tierra has been inspired by her son's academic struggles. "My ten-year old son has disliked school since kindergarten, and he has always been my number-one motivator. I want to show him that everyone who applies and believes in themselves is capable of doing great things. Failure is not an option, but positivity always is!

The Annexstad Family Foundation has made it possible for me to complete my bachelor's degree while relieving the stress of financial burdens. Marie Eustice was an exceptional woman, and I hope that I can impact as many lives as she did. Thank you also for my Scholarship medallion, which reminds me of all the people who believe in me and help make my dreams come true."

Marie Nicholson Eustice, mother to Cathy Annexstad and Bill Eustice, Jr.



The first Marie Eustice Scholar, Tierra Jorgensen.

Minnesota State University, Mankato, circa 1950.

Gustavus Adolphus College

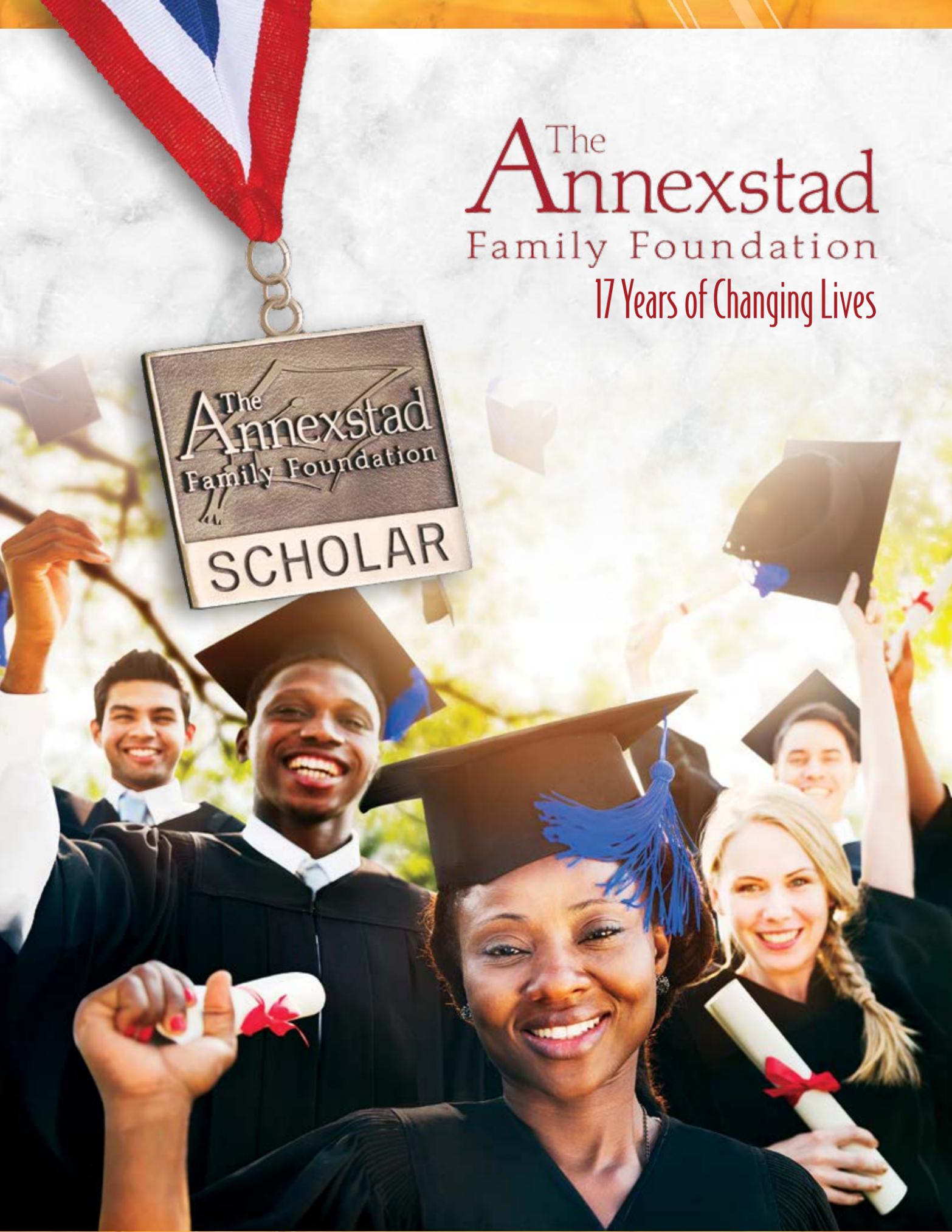
Becky M. Bergman President



“

Gustavus Adolphus College and The Annexstad Family Foundation are both firmly committed to providing access to talented student regardless of financial need. Since 2000, we have partnered to equip 27 Scholars with the tools to go into the world and act on the great challenges of our time. The Annexstad Family Foundation truly opens the door to education for these outstanding students.

”



The
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17 Years of Changing Lives

Annexstad Family Scholarships

Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship Program

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

At the core of the program, the hand-selected Scholarship recipients show a great deal of character, grit and intelligence. The program invests in extraordinary future leaders 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 for life of their fellow citizens.

Candidates for this Scholarship are exclusively identified by participating colleges and universities. Leaders for Tomorrow Scholars earn their undergraduate degrees as free from debt as possible.

Horatio Alger Association

Al and Cathy Annexstad Scholarship

In 2010, Al 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 a challenging upbringing. The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans 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, 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*

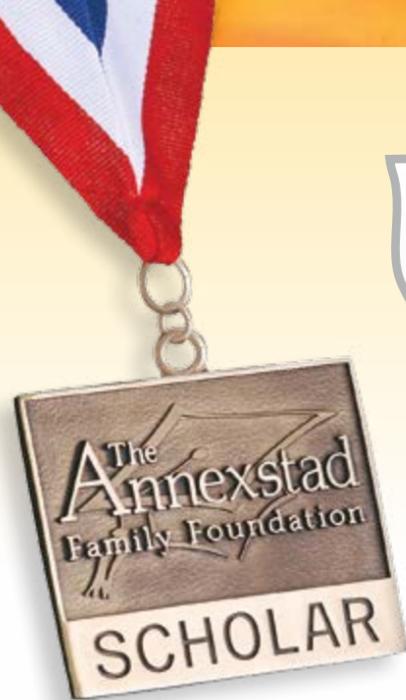
CFO of The Annexstad Family Foundation Patti Annexstad Marinovich with Georgia Institute of Technology Scholars (left to right): Elmer Gonzalez, Charitty Tuttle, Vanessa Rodriguez, Courtney Shirley, Florey Fung, Shaunice Saunders, Raymond Chester, Program Administrator Elin Wahman, and Ivan Cvijetinovic.



- 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
Bjorgo-Munoz, Janessa
Dah, Dah
Hser, Hsa Hsay
Mortenson, Grant
Xiong, Zang
- 5 Boston College**
Barry, Lou
Briar, Naren
Collier, Jared
Cruz, Karla
Dowling, Kayla
Encarnacion, Eric
Fotopoulos, Joseph
Hunt, Angelo
Okorie, Chiamaka
- 6 California State University San Bernardino***
- 7 Carleton College**
Ahmed, Abdirahman
Brooks, DeJimon
Gonzalez, Paula Campos
Korems-Wolinski, Heidi
Rabska, Rachel
Williams, Chavonn
- 8 Clemson University**
Smith, Xavier
- 9 College of Charleston***
- 10 College of Saint Benedict**
Bevan, Amanda
Hengel, Stephanie
Hughes, Gretchen
Morral, Catlin
Rodriguez, Yariset
- 11 College of the Desert**
- 12 Concordia College**
Teigen, Lindsey
Williams, Britany
- 13 Crown College**
Bonati, Skye
- 14 Duke University**
Ahmed, Mohamed
Argueta, Laura
Brockman, Emily
Cheng, Amy
Clayton, Timothy
Hamill, Haley
Middlebrooks, McKenzie
Sanchez-Rolon, Alexandra
Wayne, Moses

- 15 Emory University**
Blount, Christian
Gaytan, Nayive
Guyette, Lindsay
Lee, Ariona
Martin, Lalita
McDonald, Tanique
Paul, Brandi
Porto, Joshua
Rhee, Amie
Rivera, Suzanne
Sell, Jason
Thompson, Tristen
- 16 Georgetown University**
Ali, Habon
Cooper, Demetrius
de Araujo, Katie
Garcia, Elsie
Junaid, Ojuolape
Larios, Karen
Lujan, Steven
Perez, Kevin
Perez, Yanely
- 17 Georgia Institute of Technology**
Bruschi, Melissa
Chester, Raymond
Cvijetinovic, Ivan
Fung, Florey
Gonzalez, Elmer
Johnston, Heather
Hunt, Angelo
Robinson, Alexis
Rodriguez, Vanessa
Saunders, Shaunice
Shirley, Courtney
Tuttle, Charitty
- 18 Gonzaga University**
Carrillo, Loren
McCloskey, Jesus
- 19 Gustavus Adolphus College**
Abrahamson, Amy
Afful, Anthony
Araya, Christian
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
Meadows, Patrick
Naber, Carrie
Newell, Jesse
Perez, Brian
Reliford, Shaketta
Robbins, Emma
Spaulding, Elizabeth
Thao, Tong
Trejo, Louis
Ung, Mindy

- 20 Harvard University**
Boone, David
Ellison, Zachary
English, Kevin
Fox, Justin
George, Mario
Howard, Reuben
LaRocque, SaNoah
Morris, Taylor
Nietfeld, Emi
Ringkob, Caleb
Zhao, Shao
- 21 Hillsdale College***
- 22 Indiana University Bloomington***
Egeler, Frances
Shelley, Christina
- 23 Louisiana State University***
- 24 Luther College**
Magdalena, Jele
- 25 Michigan Technological University**
Brown, Ashley
Collard, Spencer
Cortez, Xena
McGee, Michael
Saldana, Riley
Smith, Alyssa
- 26 Minnesota State University, Mankato**
Abdulahi, Yaxye
Anderson, Skylar
Brito Lino, Yuseina
Brown, Angie (Foster)
Buchanan, Tiarra
Chambers, Dante
Cordova, Emily
Creger, Payton
Edel, Gabriell
Fedder, Sierra
Grove, Blake
Herber, Hunter
Jorgensen, Tierra
Kanz, Christina
McCrimmon, Ronnie
McNallan, Sarah
Nguyen, Zoey
Nereson, Anastasia
Papadakis, Marybeth
Green, Donte
Sellers, Travon
Sjodin, Brendan
Van Dalen, Hannah
Walstrom, Maggie
Williams, Shanique
- 27 Minnesota State University Moorhead**
Hettwer, Amber
Martin, Michael
Rudenick, Molly
Stulken, Timothy
Winkelman, Kattlynn
- 28 Mississippi State University**
Ross, Samantha



- 29 North Dakota State University**
Al-Hammad, Adam
Chicaderis, Vincent
Johnson, Mel
Nelson, Nick
Nelson, Samantha
Rude, Ashley
Semmens, Jacob
Schmiesing, Daniel
Swanson, Duncan
Whiteaker, Wyatt
- 30 Northern Michigan University**
Galindo, Logan
Martin, Kelsey
Qualley, Courtney
- 31 Northwestern University**
Abdullah, Hazim
Contreras, Xiomara
Crite, Brandon
Famurewa, Kayla
Issa, Yousef
Rees, Emmaline
Sevilla, Laura
Singh, Devesh
Vega, Natalie
Whitehouse, Hannah
- 32 Pomona College**
Edmonson, Zemias
- 33 Saint John's University**
Ellis, Terrence
Fleck, Devon
Louks, Noah
Tha, Ayebra
- 34 St. Catherine University**
Collins, Precious
Dubose, Ashley
Hopkins, Shalonda
Howard, Roberta
Kelley, Ici
Rush, Andrez
Walker, Dycreehsia



- 35 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
- 36 St. Olaf College**
Culpepper, Dimitri
Dubose, Mariah
Maskalo, Guttu
Welle, Megan
- 37 Southwest Minnesota State University**
Eder, Rashaan
Koehler, Paris
Perry, Leon
- 38 Spelman College**
Britton, Courtney
Brown, La'Candis
Craddock, Brie
Fearce, Chelesa
Harpe, Ka'Necia
Hayes, Unique
Holmes, Jada
King, Nia
Lewis, April
Mickens, Ataesia
Mitchell, Cheyane
Monroe, Monique
Nash, Jordan
Shimobi-Obijuru, Nike
Shortt, Jasmine
Westbrook, Alesha

- 39 Stanford University**
Demir, Nikita
King, Chelsea
Marquez, Azucena
Mason, Eric
McCloud, Paula
Rodarte, Hayden
Sambrick, Maria
Tran, Christina
Williams, Joelle
Zoch, Jeffrey
- 40 Texas Christian University**
Mason, Charity
- 41 University of Alabama**
Figueroa, Javier
Goodwin, Austin
Hartline, Rosemary
King, Rulondo
Lones, Kailey
McGuire, Meg
Moore, Trent
Morgan, Molly
Partlow, Mitchell
Pruitt, Graci
Perez, Genesis
Sinyavina, Ana
Tice, Steven
Todd, Kenneth
- 42 University of California, Berkeley**
Borja-Snell, Aumunique
Chen, Cynthia
Lewis, Britany
Lopez, Jessica
Ong, Vincent

- 43 University of Chicago**
Collins, Kelly
Cook, Courtney
Haj, Husam
Kirkes, Eric
Kuehnle, William
Moore, Shauna
Mosley, Da'Shawn
Quiles, Amanda
Shotwell, Amira
Sokolowski, Kuba
- 44 University of Colorado, Boulder**
Handy, Andrea
Ortega, Robert

- 45 University of Georgia**
Brown, William
Carter, Sterling
Chappell, Lorretta
Coleman, Savannah
Iglesias, Jennifer
Johnson, Gabrion
Klos-Gromadzka, Maja
Li, Xueying
Montgomery, Devon
Murray, Nicholas
Murray, Tyler
Player, William
Rivera Ramirez, Abel

65 Prestigious Colleges & Universities

National Scholars Changing the World!

* New college & university partners in 2017



Gonzales, Oscar
Hagens-Johnson, Brianna
Hargil, Sofia
Hobgood, John Henry
Hunt, III, Gary
Hutchinson, Michael
Huynh, Lisa
Inzunza, Ruben
Kress, Monika
Lewis, Rachel
Linden, Katrina
Lore, Adrian
Magdaleno, Cristian
Martin, Ashby
Martinez-Silva, Pablo
Mathurin, Tania
McAbee-Thomas, Logan
McCaskill, Yolandis
McDonald, Breanna
McDwayne, Christine
McGrath, Tristan
Meyer, Sasha
Mikes, Andrew
Miller, Matthew
Mungia, Robert
Moxley, Jasmine
Nguyen, Tommy
O'Brien, John
Oronia, Eduardo
Parnell, Lamara
Rangel, Juan
Rausch, Erin
Rhyne, Christopher
Rivera, Kesi
Robinson, Avian
Sanford, Shawn
Smith, Kimberly
Sullivan, Maureen
Tarnasky, Aaron
Tiscareno, Juliana
Ton, Anvi
Valapatia, Varsha
Vargas, Adam
Vargas, Dolores
Vasquez, Makayla
Vucinich, Taylor
Zepeda, Matthew

Dolge, Andrew
Ellis, Bethany
Erickson, Hazel
Fields, Shaye
Franklin, Carissa
Franklin, Walter
Garner, Janelle
Osuji, Stephany
Villwock, Nicholas
Weeks, Taylor
Welle, Mitchell
Woessner, Logan

Knott, Cassandra
Kwakye, Rita
Lee, Eileen
Long, Kimberly
Lusty, Leif
Medina, Alexander
Moreno, David
Newton, Ciara
Nyuma, Rosemary
Othoudt, Kayla
Rivers, Kadeeja
Schaffer, Gabriela
Xiong, Mao

- 58 **University of Wisconsin – Madison**
Paust, Amien
- 59 **Valdosta State University**
Smith, Joanna
- 60 **Vanderbilt University**
Boyd, Joi
Brown, Zackary
Conwell, Sara-Catherine
Driscoll, Maureen
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- 61 **Washington University in St. Louis**
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Ward, Haley
Wenzel, Isaac
- 64 **Wittenberg University***
- 65 **Yale University**
Dibich, Reed
Hunt, Victor
Lilollari, Adela
Lopez Aguirre, Oscar
Mahoney, Madison
Morsy, Abdelrahman
Olivares, Kevin
Price, Jaclyn
Shea, Patrick
Toste, Helder

46 **University of Kentucky***
Uscanga, Efra
Wilson, Brittany
Wilkerson, Ashley

47 **University of Michigan**
Ashford, Emma
Belko, Gage
Brooks, Andre

Davis Jr., Anthony
Jenema, Sonny
Liston, Alexandria
McCowin, Ariana
Russo, Ashton
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Washington University of St. Louis Scholars Jeffrey Sheptin, Chelsea Branson, Annexstad Program Administrator Elin Wahman, and Connor Perkins.

“A majority of our scholars are the first in their family to go to college. 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 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 remain focused on getting a great education and affecting change.”

– 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 believe our veterans are a vital resource to 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 systems.

**Al and Cathy Annexstad
Hope and Inspiration Scholarship**

The Annexstads have never forgotten their hometown roots. Cathy and Al often speak fondly of their childhood memories in Minnesota. They understand in a very personal way what

a teen 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.

**Annexstad Family Foundation
Hope and Inspiration Scholarship**

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

Partnership in Practice

A Far-reaching Commitment from the University of Georgia



Director of Student Financial Aid
Bonnie Joerschke.

establish a relationship of mutual respect, reliability, and accountability. If needed, she directs them to free tutoring, key advisors, professional counseling, medical center services, on-campus jobs, or the University’s Exploratory Center for help with any challenges within a specific major. She reminds us that family problems can, and do, follow these students to campus. The Foundation is fortunate the relationships established with Annexstad Scholars at the University of Georgia parallel the trusting relationships that the Foundation’s staff builds in an appropriate way with these aspiring students. More often than not, our joint efforts help to alleviate the problem.

At a recent luncheon hosted by the University to honor Annexstad Scholars, Bonnie shared some personal thoughts which reflected hers and the University’s far-reaching commitment. She said, “In a way I feel like a grandparent to many of these special young people. I have been working with Annexstad Scholars for eight years and have personally watched them become strong, vibrant, and self-confident young adults. As a first-generation college graduate myself, I come from a background similar to the Annexstad Scholars. I see in them the same drive and self-determination it took me to achieve a college degree that ultimately changed the course of my life.”

She concluded by saying, “The hardships these young people have encountered in their lives make them tough and resilient, but it is the exposure to an academic community, critical thinking, college and local activities and/or employment, and the attainment of their degree that makes them stand out. The Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship provides the generous financial opportunity to access and earn an undergraduate degree, giving them the opportunity to grow beyond the classroom. They all say college would have been impossible without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. They all desire someday to be that person, like Cathy and Al Annexstad, who helps another young student achieve their dreams in life. This is, indeed, what leadership is all about.”

One of the principal reasons the Annexstad Family Foundation has experienced such significant success in assisting Leaders for Tomorrow Scholars in earning their degrees in a timely way and as free from debt as possible is the way in which the Scholarship program is administered. First-generation students who come from financial and personal hardship oftentimes represent an extraordinary challenge. Aiding them in achieving the dream of a college education necessarily involves much more than financial assistance.

This is where friends and partners like the University of Georgia come in. Working closely with the Foundation’s staff the University of Georgia has set the bar high in terms of how a participating institution can help assure that Leaders for Tomorrow Scholars earn their degrees. The commitment that the University of Georgia makes is led by the institution’s Director of Student Financial Aid Bonnie Joerschke. Bonnie’s and the University’s efforts to embrace Leaders for Tomorrow Scholars in a supportive and compassionate way is truly extraordinary.

Each spring, Bonnie and her staff reach out to Annexstad Scholars and other aid applicants from similar backgrounds informing them of the many resources available to them at UGA that provide academic, financial, social, and emotional support to students in need of these services. Bonnie maintains frequent and consistent meetings with each Leaders for Tomorrow Scholar which helps

University of Georgia

Jere W. Morehead President

“

The University of Georgia greatly values its partnership with The Annexstad Family Foundation. Through their generous support of the Leaders for Tomorrow and the Horatio Alger Association – Al and Cathy Annexstad Scholarship Programs, they are helping talented UGA students who have faced adversity in their lives obtain a college education and become our nation’s future leaders. I am deeply appreciative of The Annexstad Family Foundation and continually inspired by our Annexstad Scholars.

”



University of Notre Dame

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



“

For nearly three decades, Notre Dame has made financial aid its top fundraising priority, and, more recently, we have devoted significant resources to support low-income and first-generation students. The mission of The Annexstad Family Foundation aligns perfectly with these efforts, and we feel privileged to work in concert with them to make the dream of a college education a reality for young people who have, in the face of great challenges, excelled in all facets of their lives.

”



Graduates

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
Class of 2017

Auburn University

Ella Turner ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Communication

The Annexstad Family Foundation will never fully know the impact they have had on my life. Their kindness and generosity has allowed me to exit my schooling debt-free, and their kind actions have taught me so much about how I should treat others. I have gained an extended family in my fellow Scholars, and we are loved by these amazing people. The Annexstads provided so much support every semester and I will carry that with me into the rest of my life. I hope to one day return the kindness that has been shown to me to someone else in need. I also want to make them proud in my future and show them that their investment in my education was valued so much more than they can ever know.



Augsburg College

Jacarri Roberson ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Journalism

Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has changed my life! Having financial freedom to pursue my education has helped me push past a chronic medical condition that I discovered after my first year, regaining mobility and most of my eyesight. I am working at Greenspring Media as a Custom Publishing Writer, composing my own original content. My goals are to move abroad to explore and to live on all seven continents. I would love to pursue blogging, magazine writing, and photography while traveling the world.



Boston College

Jared Collier ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Linguistics

I leave Boston College with a world-class degree and very little debt. The world and its opportunities have opened up to me, and I can work toward building a life for myself and my family. This challenging environment has been conducive to a balanced and holistic formation – pursuing learning for the sake of learning and benefiting me completely. My experience at Boston College has been invaluable, and I greatly appreciate your generosity. Thank you.



Chiamaka Okorie ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Nursing

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has had a huge impact on my life! I received access to a college experience that transformed my life's direction. I found my passion for nursing and was able to study and volunteer internationally. I have grown so much in these four years, and it's all thanks to you. I am dedicated to supporting and advocating for others. Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime!



College of Saint Benedict

Yariset Rodriguez ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. English

Education is priceless and essential to all individuals, however, in this country, not all receive the opportunity for a quality higher education due to the substantial price tag. Through their generosity, The Annexstad Family Foundation helped me afford an incredible experience at the College of St. Benedict. I will be forever grateful to them.



Duke University

McKenzie Middlebrooks ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Neuroscience

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to learn from some of the most intelligent and established professors and to study alongside some of the most talented and ambitious students. After the past four years, I have finally realized that I, too, am intelligent, talented, and ambitious. Confidence is one of the greatest things that I have gained; it has allowed me to grow and succeed in ways that I never thought possible. Thank you for the encouragement, kindness, and financial support of The Annexstad Family Foundation.



Emory University



Brandi Paul ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Chemistry

Finances have always been in the forefront of my mind. Upon being accepted into Emory, my fears of not being able to afford an education were heightened. Emory has an excellent Chemistry program and is in close proximity to the Center for Disease Control. The Annexstad Family Foundation allowed me to bypass obstacles and enabled me to put all of my attention and time into working towards my goal of a career in Biomedical Research. I want to change people's lives, and you have allowed me to do that.

Amie Rhee ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Biology

The Annexstad Family Foundation supports students in a way no one can ever imagine. They not only provide financial support, but also the motivation to move forward and face challenges in life. With such enormous support and love from the Annexstad family, I feel more confident than ever. You will always remain as a family in my heart, and words cannot express how grateful I am.

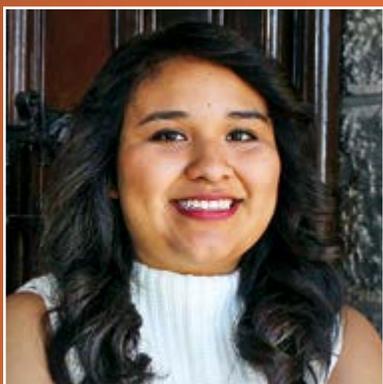


Suzanne Rivera ►
2013-2017
Degree: B.S. Nursing

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to complete my undergraduate education with minimal student loans and worry about my financial situation. I am the first in my family to go to college and to graduate. Your Scholarship has allowed my main focus to be on my studies, not how I was going to afford my education. Thank you.



Georgetown University



Yanely Perez ◀
2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Government

I want to personally thank you for all the help you have given me. The Annexstad Family Foundation is doing amazing things, and I am so privileged to have been chosen as an Annexstad Scholar. I hope that one day I will be able to help another student like me.

Georgia Institute of Technology



Melissa Bruschi ◀
2013-2017

Degrees: Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

You can either let hardships define you and hold you back, or you can let them propel you to newer and greater heights. Being blessed with The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to soar to new heights. I look forward to using my Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering degree to find a breakthrough in Tissue Regeneration and Pharmaceuticals that will treat brain diseases and medical issues.

Heather Johnston ►
2013-2017
Degree: Public Policy

I am beyond thankful for the time, attention, and contribution that the Annexstad family has invested in my college education. Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I feel more valuable and I am more confident in being able to overcome my disadvantaged start to college.



Gustavus Adolphus College

Neida Juantos ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Psychology

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has had a big impact on my life! When I was a child, my family emigrated from Mexico to give me a brighter future. We were very worried about my future, but you made it possible to attend my dream college. I studied Psychology allowing me to work in the field I love, helping people with mental illnesses. I also studied Spanish here which connected me to my roots as a Mexican American. My education has taught me how to be a critical thinker, conscious, empathetic, and a good leader. My education has enriched my life so that I can continue to help others.



Harvard University



Justin Fox ◀

2013-2017

Degrees: B.S. Environmental Science and Public Policy

You have given me the means to fulfill my dreams and have given my life privilege that few are lucky enough to have, and even fewer deserve. And as I look around at all these luxuries: this campus, every meal I've eaten, every hot shower I've taken, and now this diploma above my mother's china cabinet... wonder, "Why me? Why anyone?" I feel incredibly humbled to be a recipient of your altruism, and I'm striving to become someone who doesn't have to question why.

Reuben Howard ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. English

Thank you for the opportunity to go college and for making such a huge investment in my future!



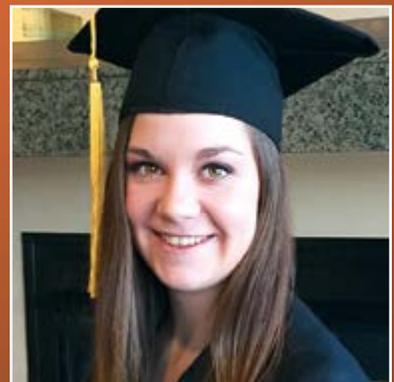
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Gabriell Edel ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Recreation, Park and Leisure Services

Author Brian Herbert said, "The capacity to learn is a gift, the ability to learn is a skill and the willingness to learn is a choice." The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me all three. I am gainfully employed by FarmAmerica as their Event Coordinator and Agriculture Educator. I will be planning events, writing grants and evaluations and providing educational opportunities. My passion is advocating for the agriculture industry. I am forever grateful to Al and Cathy Annexstad for selecting me as a recipient.





Sierra Fedder ◀
2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Urban and Regional Studies

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship changed my life by giving me the financial ability to receive my degree, limit student loans and work to save money for my brother to go to college – this is very special for me. You gave me resources and introduced me to people who could direct me to what I needed. With this freedom, I hope to help other students attend school. My future affords me the opportunity to help several smaller communities develop their plans for public services that will help a multitude of citizens and their futures.

Maggie Walstrom ▶
2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Law Enforcement

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has changed my life! I never thought I could go to college, but because of your generosity I have been able to follow in my uncle's footsteps and honor his legacy. I am currently a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserves. I also work for the Anoka Police Department at the state hospital, at North Mankato Police department as a Reserve Officer, and at the Brooklyn Park/George Mason University as a Student Researcher. My goal is to complete 20 years in the military and be a SWAT Team Member, or a K-9 Officer. Thank you for making my dreams come true!



Minnesota State University Moorhead



Kattlynn Winkelman ◀
2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Graphic Design

When my mother lost her job during the recession, my life was flipped upside down. My parents had to borrow money to pay bills and it gave me a true perspective on the reality of budgeting. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I would not have gone to college. I am excited for my future to work in a design firm where I can be around people who can give me feedback and knowledge and who can help me grow as a Designer so I can do the same for others.

Morehouse College



Shakeal Moore ◀
2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Philosophy

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to go to college, surpass financial difficulties, and earn a place in the graduating class of 2017. I am forever grateful for your kindness.

Gonzaga University

Thayne McCulloh President

“

The Annexstad Family Foundation's belief in demonstrating care for young people in today's world through education is truly appreciated by Gonzaga University. The Annexstads' commitment and generosity in supporting students in need perfectly aligns with our Jesuit mission and effort to increase access to education for all. We are grateful for our Annexstad Scholars, who, with the support of these scholarships, will lead lives of leadership and service for the common good.

”



Georgia Institute of Technology

G.P. “Bud” Peterson President



“

I can think of no better way to create a more promising future for society than to invest in the education of promising young people. Here at Georgia Tech we are “Creating the Next...,” the next leaders, the next business men and women, and the next entrepreneurs and innovators. With the support of The Annexstad Family Foundation, we are able to ensure that a Georgia Tech education is within reach of students from extraordinary circumstances, helping them develop their leadership potential and change not just their lives, but those of their families for generations to come!

”

Northwestern University

Xiomara Contreres ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was a lifesaver! While family life was challenging, I could still focus on fulfilling our dream. Attending Northwestern has opened so many doors – grants, internships, research opportunities, study abroad, and friendships. My education has opened my mind, taught me to be a critical thinker and to make the world a better place. I am an Associate Product Marketing Manager at Google and may go to graduate school to study nonprofit management in a few years.



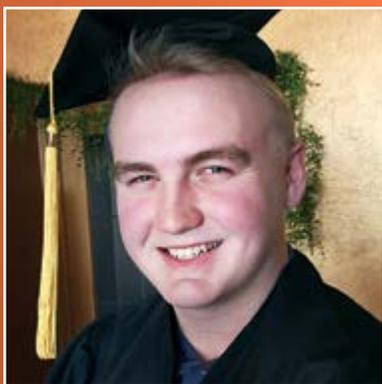
Emmaline Rees ◀

2013-2017

Degrees: B.S. Education and Social Policy

Education has meant everything to me, and attending Northwestern University has felt like receiving a golden ticket. I have built a family filled with professors, faculty, and amazing students that mean the world to me! I am extremely proud to be an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar and to represent an organization that strives to help others succeed. This fall, I will be studying Law at the University of Virginia with a long-term goal of becoming partner at a big firm. I may be the first in my family to receive a Juris Doctorate, but I won't be the last!

Saint John's University



Noah Louks ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Global Business Leadership

My family and my mentor saw the potential in me to pursue a higher education. My mother means the world to me – raising me on her own, surviving a rare form of cancer, and motivating me to take advantage of possibilities. The blessing of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to go to college. Without you, I do not know where I would be in my education or my life. Thank you for believing in me so now I can provide for my own family through a successful career.

St. Catherine University

Precious Collins ►

2013-2017

Degrees: B.A. Legal Studies and B.S. Communication

My mom wanted a better future for me and that led me to college. It has definitely been hard to manage a double major, multiple jobs, and all the things life throws at me. But, with perseverance, it is all possible. My education means the world to me; it has opened so many doors for me to become something. Without The Annexstad Family Foundation, I would not be where I am today. They created a path for me to gain knowledge, become a leader, and focus on my future in Law.



GRADUATES

St. Olaf College

Dimitri Culpepper ▶

2013-2017

Degree: Economics

Every opportunity has the possibility to change your life in either a positive or negative way. But how will you know if you don't seize it? College is one of those opportunities that might seem impossible, but it is also one of the most awarding. I love St. Olaf College and all the opportunities I have seized there from making new friends, studying in New Zealand and Costa Rica, and also having the ability to use the amazing career center to set up my job with United Health Group. You gave me the opportunity to succeed, and it was my job to make sure no opportunity was wasted.



Spelman College

JeBriesha Craddock ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. International Studies

I am extremely grateful for the trust that The Annexstad Family Foundation has put in me to succeed. I am immensely thankful and have every intention to pay it forward. Thank you, thank you – a million and one times, thank you. You give each of us the extra support we need to do more and be more.



Chelsea Fearce ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Biochemistry

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to pursue my education stress-free. It is a blessing to not have to worry about debt when I apply to medical school. My mother can focus on raising my brother and sister. The Annexstad Family Foundation has been a light in a dark tunnel. You have given me hope for a future that seemed unattainable. Thank you.



Jada Holmes ◀

2013-2017

Degrees: English and Pre-Medicine

I could not be more grateful for and proud to have been an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship Recipient. You helped make my dream of attending Spelman College come true!!! Moreover with less of a financial burden and the ability to concentrate on my class work and my future without the strain of college finances, I was able to fully develop my ideas and talents to their highest potential. As a result, I maintained a high GPA and was involved with various co-curricular activities. Thank you for helping to make these dreams come true by lightening my financial burden.



Stanford University

Maria Sambrick ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

The Annexstad Family Foundation has relieved the financial burden of my education, but more importantly to me, has been a constant and reliable mentor during my Stanford career. The care packages around finals week and yearly check-ins have meant a lot to me. Thank you for supporting me, but more importantly, thank you for acknowledging my tumultuous journey to Stanford – recognizing my struggle and perseverance. Without parents, it is so reassuring that others graciously reach out with support.



University of Alabama

Genesis McMullan ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Social Work

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has not only relieved me of financial burdens, but has also given me a Scholarship family for which I am forever grateful. In May of 2016, your generosity allowed me to study and perform social work in Cuernavaca, Mexico. There are not enough words to describe how grateful I am or the impact this Scholarship has made on my life. You have taught me that it does not matter where I came from or what I have overcome, but that I deserve to achieve my dreams.



Graci Pruitt ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude

Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship I have graduated from my lifelong dream school, the University of Alabama completely debt-free. You have provided me an extraordinary blessing and a complete support system – I am forever grateful.

Steven Tice ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. in Communications and Information Sciences and B.A. Commerce and Business Administration

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is the reason I was able to embark on the amazing journey my college career has been. I have been able to pursue a dual-degree program, attain multiple internships, and volunteer through service organizations! These experiences have challenged me in ways that are already beginning to pay off several times fold! Looking back at my last four years, there is not a single irreplaceable memory or triumphant victory that does not trace directly back to your heart and immense generosity. Every future success will be built off of the educational foundation you have given me.



GRADUATES

University of California, Berkley



Jessica Lopez ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Integrative Biology

Without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I would have not been able to finish school. I am truly grateful. With your help I have grown to be independent, have become a strong student, and an inspired mother. I owe my independence to you.

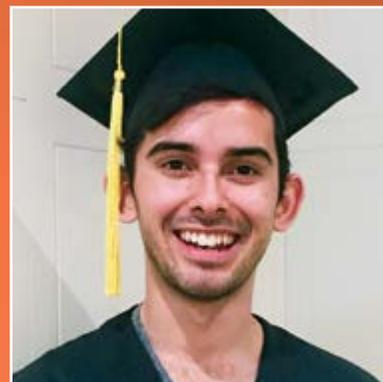
University of Chicago

Eric Kirkes ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Music

Being a low-income student who was raised by my grandparents, it was often hard to relate to others growing up. While I had many moments where I felt like I did not belong, I know that I will be able to make an impact on my life. Your Scholarship has allowed me to become a better thinker, writer, and leader. I have gained experience by working at the Logan Center for the Arts where I managed staff, created marketing materials, and produced events. It has been wonderful to be a part of such a dynamic community.



Amanda Quiles ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Comparative Human Development

My education at the University of Chicago means I have the opportunity to have a career I love. My goal is to be a counselor or social worker for a high school or hospital settings. The Annexstad Family Foundation's Scholarship has been there for me all four years, including sending extra touches of awesome care packages!



University of Colorado, Boulder

Andrea Handy ◀

2013-2017

Degrees: B.A. Sociology and B.S. Public Health

I can't thank you enough for my education and for the endless opportunities you have given me! You have paved the way for me to achieve anything I put my mind to, and you have given me the chance to live a life that so many others aren't as fortunate to live. Not only am I thankful, but I am now going to find ways in which I can contribute to someone else's college career in the future because you've made that possible for me. Thank you so much!





William Brown ▶
2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Agribusiness

The Annexstad Family Foundation made me it possible to go to and graduate from UGA without a huge amount of debt. Without the financial pressure I can choose the career path I most love.



Maja Klos-Gromadzka ◀
2013-2017

Degree: B.A. International Affairs

The University of Georgia has opened my eyes to a world that I didn't know existed before. I immigrated to the state at the age of 12. I always thought that I had a very broad international background, so I pursued a degree in International Affairs. I have met people with many diverse and unusual backgrounds and that experience has shaped me into a proud graduate. I am so thankful to be an Annexstad Foundation Scholar. You have provided me a blessing that allowed me to attend the school of my dreams.

Xueying Li ▶
2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Chemistry

After years of healing and caring for myself, one day I received a phone call from Lori, the Assistant Director of Scholarships from UGA. She told me that I had been selected to receive The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. I thought, "Wow, someone, somewhere, does care!" You touched my heart and gave me a future. I am eternally grateful!



Efra Uscanga ▶
2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Computer Science

Some say that time is money, but I believe money is time and stress. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies and build the foundation of my career. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to secure any of my internships or such a great job. You gave me the opportunity to fulfill my potential, challenge myself, and do things I never imagined. Your Scholarship has altered my trajectory and I will to prove that I was worth taking a chance on. Thank you for everything!





Andre Brooks ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S.E. Mechanical Engineering

Being the first of my family to go to college, there wasn't any advice about paying for higher education. So I found myself lucky to have both a Scholarship to cover my expenses and a new community to surround myself with. My time at the University of Michigan was far from easy, but it was a challenge that allowed me to find myself as a person and gain the skills necessary to pursue biomimetics. The Annexstad Family Foundation has allowed me to call Michigan my alma mater and I could not be more grateful. Thank you.

University of Minnesota Rochester

Philip Nguyen ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Health Sciences

I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota Rochester with a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences, and I am now on my way to be a medical laboratory scientist (MLS). I don't think I could be as successful today if it weren't for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Initially, I was hesitant to go to college because of the financial costs. But thanks to the Annexstads, they helped alleviate those worries and focus more on my education instead. Now that I am done with school, I plan to finish my clinical rotations for the lab experience, take the Board of Certification (BOC) exam for my profession, and apply to hospitals in need of MLS graduates.



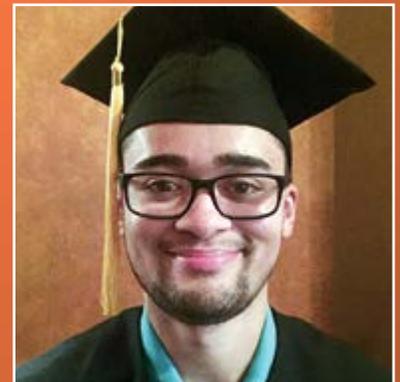
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Jason Bates ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S.B. Accounting

Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation for their incredible support. The financial hardships I endured growing up led me to go to college where I have the best chance to make it out from my lower socioeconomic upbringing. At one point in my life I was homeless, which was an emotionally stressful time that affected my social well-being. With the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation, I have grown academically, personally, and socially. I want to become a Financial Advisor to help others how to take care of their lives.



Abigail Gabriel ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Psychology

I am grateful to you for recognizing my academic honors and capacity for excellence and for galvanizing me to translate my adverse life experiences into an impactful career. I plan to become a research professor committed to scholarly activism and the representation of marginalized populations. I am motivated to transcend cycles of poverty and domestic violence and to cultivate my passion for diversity and social justice among underrepresented and minority groups. This fall, I will begin a Ph.D. program in Family and Human Development at Arizona State University to study racial/ethnic identity development and risk/resilience outcomes in Multiracial-Americans and Asian-Americans.



Scholarship Superstar

Xiomara Contreras



"I was told from the beginning that education was the key to moving my family forward," shares Xiomara. As a child of Mexican immigrant parents, she focused on her goals to ensure her family's journey was worth it. "My family kept me motivated, particularly my mom. She sacrificed so much! When I am ready to give up, I think of my mom and move forward."

In eighth grade, Xiomara received a scholarship to a Massachusetts boarding school. While she was away studying, her stepfather divorced her mother, resulting in a traumatic experience for the young student. "By the time I was a senior, my family had moved five times due to financial instability," she recalls. "During my junior year, my mother was seriously injured in a car accident that left her temporarily disabled and unable to work for a year. Then my grandfather, great grandmother, and biological father passed away, causing more emotional and financial distress. I felt helpless.

"The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was a lifesaver! Attending Northwestern has opened so many doors – grants, internships, research opportunities, study abroad, and friendships. My education has opened my mind, taught me to be a critical thinker, and inspired me to make the world a better place. I am an Associate Product Marketing Manager for Google now, and I may go to graduate school to study non-profit management. Every day I am exploring, learning, and tremendously grateful for the incredible and generous support that has been gifted to me."

Congratulations to 2017 Northwestern University Graduate Xiomara Contreras on receiving her B.A. in Communication Studies.

Scholarship Superstar

Steven Tice

"Curiosity has always been a driving force in my life, combined with the fact that I have always appreciated an academic challenge," explains Steven. "Seeing my parents work incredibly hard and yet be paid less than they deserved further motivated me to pursue a college degree.

"While going to college was always my dream, our family's financial situation took a tremendous hit my junior year of high school. My stepfather was unexpectedly laid off from his job of 17 years. This made this massive goal look more and more out of reach, until The Annexstad Family Foundation stepped in!

"Just last year, after my father had been in the hospital for 45 days, he passed away while I was taking finals. I had been driving home weekly to be with him, and our relationship was in the best place it had ever been. My UofA friends immediately embraced me with an immense amount of support.

"There is not a single irreplaceable memory or triumphant victory that does not trace directly back to The Annexstad Family Foundation's heartfelt generosity for supporting Scholars. Every future success will build off my educational foundation. Thank you so much for allowing me the most challenging and rewarding years of my life!

"My plans include moving abroad and teaching conversational English in a university setting! This will expand my worldview, grow my skillset, and help me to pursue an M.A. in Advertising or Applied Linguistics. I am also working to become proficient in Mandarin and hope to become a university professor working with first-generation students to develop their dreams."

Congratulations to 2017 Graduate of University of Alabama Steven Tice with a B.A. in Communications and Information Sciences plus a B.A. in Commerce and Business Administration.

Cavonte Johnson ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.M.E. Mechanical Engineering

Playing Big 10 Football and pursuing a dream to go to the NFL brought me to college. I have overcome a lot so, without the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation, I might not have gone to college. I am working at Mortenson Construction, estimating projects in the preconstruction of solar and renewable energies. My future career path will lead me to a position in renewable energies or medical devices. Every day is a gift – I never thought I would live to graduate, so every day is a blessing.



Kadeeja Rivers ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Nursing, Magna Summa Cum Laude

My goals keep me motivated to make this world a better place. I have faced many obstacles along my way in college, but throughout I have chosen love over hate. I plan to take and pass the NCLEX Exam to become a Registered Nurse, then eventually go back to school and receive my Doctorate in Nursing Practice. I want to give back to my people and serve the communities that need it the most. Being an Annexstad Scholar has given me higher education and incredible prospects. Thank you!

University of Notre Dame

Breanna Devore-McDonald ►

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Computer Science

My parents were foster care providers, so I grew up knowing I wanted to help others and take care of my own family. My family's love and support has kept me motivated to overcome financial hardships, being far away from home, and being a woman in a male-dominated field. Being an Annexstad Scholar is a reminder that there are great people in the world who will go out of their way to ensure the success of others. I am starting my Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts where I will be able to teach my own college-level classes with hopes of becoming a professor. Thank you and Go Irish!



Elizabeth Escobar ◀

2013-2017

Degrees: B.S. Sociology and Pre-Health

I have wanted to be an OB/GYN since I was eight years old, so college was integral. I am motivated to become a doctor and help others in need. I have overcome poverty and domestic violence and now I will graduate because of the generosity of The Annexstad Family Foundation. Notre Dame taught me values and compassion. I have met people who have forever changed my life. These past four years have cemented my desire to serve others and have opened my true passion. I look forward to attending the University of Illinois at Chicago this fall.

Jessica Gomez ▶**2013-2017****Degree: B.S. Neuroscience and Behavior**

My drive to give back motivates me, so I have focused on becoming a physical therapist. I had many obstacles to overcome including poor healthcare and I look forward to helping future generations of families in need feel better and seek education. I love The Annexstad Family Foundation – your care packages have been the best! I have developed a great network through your alumni, and you even helped me with resources to find summer housing on campus when I was afraid of being homeless. You have given me a more enlightened perspective on life, and I can't wait to give back and help others.

**Michael Hutchinson** ◀**2013-2017****Degree: B.S. Electrical Engineering**

I am motivated, and at the same time, humbled, that I am able to be a part of the Notre Dame experience. I would not have been able to afford this opportunity if it were not for the The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Because of this, I am extremely grateful and am incredibly appreciative of your support of me.

Monika Kress ▶**2013-2017****Degree: B.A. Psychology**

Aside from personal success, I am motivated by the notion that whichever career path I take, I will be able to make a positive impact on the lives of other people. Being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar has helped me realize just how many people want me to succeed. It amazes me that complete strangers had so much faith in me and my potential to succeed. I look forward to a career in Healthcare, Childcare, or Education where my fun-loving and understanding personality can shine. A college education is the best gift that I have ever received, and I am glad that I will be able to put it to good use. Thank you, Annexstad Family Foundation!

**Anvi Ton** ◀**2013-2017****Degrees: B.A. Finance and Sociology**

Acclimating to a college environment with peers who were ambitious and high-achieving was a humbling and motivating experience for me. Being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar has significantly impacted my life and taken away the significant economic burden. I am interning at an investment bank in Washington, D.C., within the Private Wealth Management practice. Eventually, I hope to apply for research grants including the Fulbright Scholarship in order to conduct research abroad while working in conjunction with a microfinance non-profit.

Dolores Vargas >

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Psychology

I cannot begin to thank you enough for your generosity that made my dream of attending college a reality. I promise that I will make the most out of the resources you have given me, as I hope that others do the same. Many thanks from my family and myself.



University of Pennsylvania



Tahir Bell <

2013-2017

Degrees: B.A. Political Science and Creative Writing

The Annexstad Family Foundation has provided me with the means to complete my undergraduate education. Without them, I would not have been able to afford to go to college. For this, I am truly and extremely grateful. Thank you for your generosity and your determination to support us.

Daisy Perez >

2013-2017

Degree: B.A. Sociology, concentration in Law and Society

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship made attending my number-one choice school possible. More than that, it provided a network of individuals inside and outside of Penn who are always willing to help me. I will forever cherish The Annexstad Family Foundation's generosity, goodwill, and support that made attending and succeeding at my dream school possible.



University of St. Thomas

Kenzi Coborn >

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Urban and Regional Studies

I thank you for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. It was a great honor to receive such a prestigious award. The support you have given me has allowed me to focus solely on my education and my volunteerism instead of finances. I place great value on my education here at University of St. Thomas. Growing up in North Minneapolis, I always knew I wanted to pursue a degree. Thank you for your generosity. I look forward to the time that I can help others as you have helped me.





Bethany Ellis ◀
2013-2017
Degree: B.S. Biology

I am especially proud to earn a degree from UST due to its values and integration of building faith and character. I am forever grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for their immense generosity and support. I am inspired to helping others by giving back to the community. I will continue school to be a Chiropractic Physician specializing in Sports Chiropractic for under-served areas. I want to be a mentor to students who may not have the financial means to be able to achieve their goals.

Shaye Fields ▶
2013-2017
Degree: B.S. Marketing Management

As the first in my family to go to college, I have had to face many things on my own including my family moving away and having had four family members pass away. During all of this, I was being challenged academically while taking on school, work, coaching, and volunteering. Being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar provides students like me the chance to see that people believe in you no matter your background as long as you are willing to show you can take on the challenge. My future goals include coaching basketball at the Division 1 or pro level or becoming a Sales President for a healthcare company.



Vanderbilt University

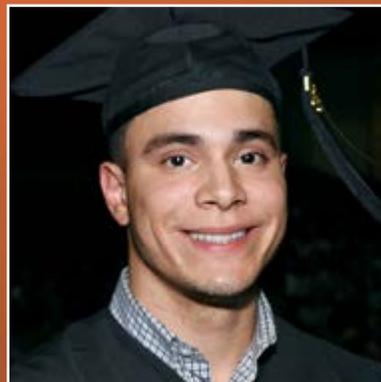


Maureen Driscoll ◀
2013-2017
Degree: B.S. Human and Organizational Development

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has opened the door for opportunities that I never knew existed. I am infinitely grateful for your generosity, kindness, and the opportunities your Scholarship has presented me.

Alexis Mundo ▶
2013-2017
Degrees: B.A. Medical Health Science and B.A. Spanish

The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me a better future. I appreciate the help I have received both financially and academically at this institution.



Washington University in St. Louis

Chelsea Branson ▶

2013-2017

Degrees: B.S. Systems Science and Engineering

The funds and community provided by The Annexstad Family Foundation have helped me in numerous ways. I am forever grateful to those who believe I am more than my past, and that the family I was born into does not define my level of success. Now I am one of the lucky few escaping poverty, and I have the means to pursue my dream of helping others and making the world a better place. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my dream of attending a great university a reality.



Jeffrey Sheptin ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Chemical Engineering

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to continue my education without experiencing a financial hardship. I hope to use the knowledge and experience gained from my education in my future career to improve the community and help others the way the Annexstad family has helped me.



Winona State University



Taylor Larson ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Nursing

I am educated and well-prepared to care for others as a professional nurse. Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation, I was able to obtain my B.S. degree with no debt. I plan to become a Pediatric Nurse at the Rochester Mayo Clinic and care for newborn children to 18-year-olds while I continue growing as a professional nurse to care for all of my patients. Thank you for my future!

Max O'Brien ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Geology

My mom has worked day and night to give me a future. She has motivated me especially after I was struck crossing the street by a drunk driver, putting me way behind in school. Together we focused and I was accepted to my dream school. Becoming an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar has changed my life significantly and now I want to go on to receive a master's degree in Structural Geology, and eventually start my own environmental consulting firm. I can't wait to see what my future holds in store for me.



Stefan Dibich ▶

2013-2017

Degree: B.A Humanities

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has allowed me to focus exclusively on my studies instead of finding jobs to make ends meet. I would like to personally thank the Annexstads for my Yale education. I will never forget their kindness and support, and most importantly, their example motivates me to pay their generosity forward.



Abdelrahman Morsy ◀

2013-2017

Degree: B.S. Political Science

I am eternally grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation. Both you and Yale has allowed me to do research, start a campus club, excel in a new language, and travel. I am grateful for everyone who has contributed to my education!



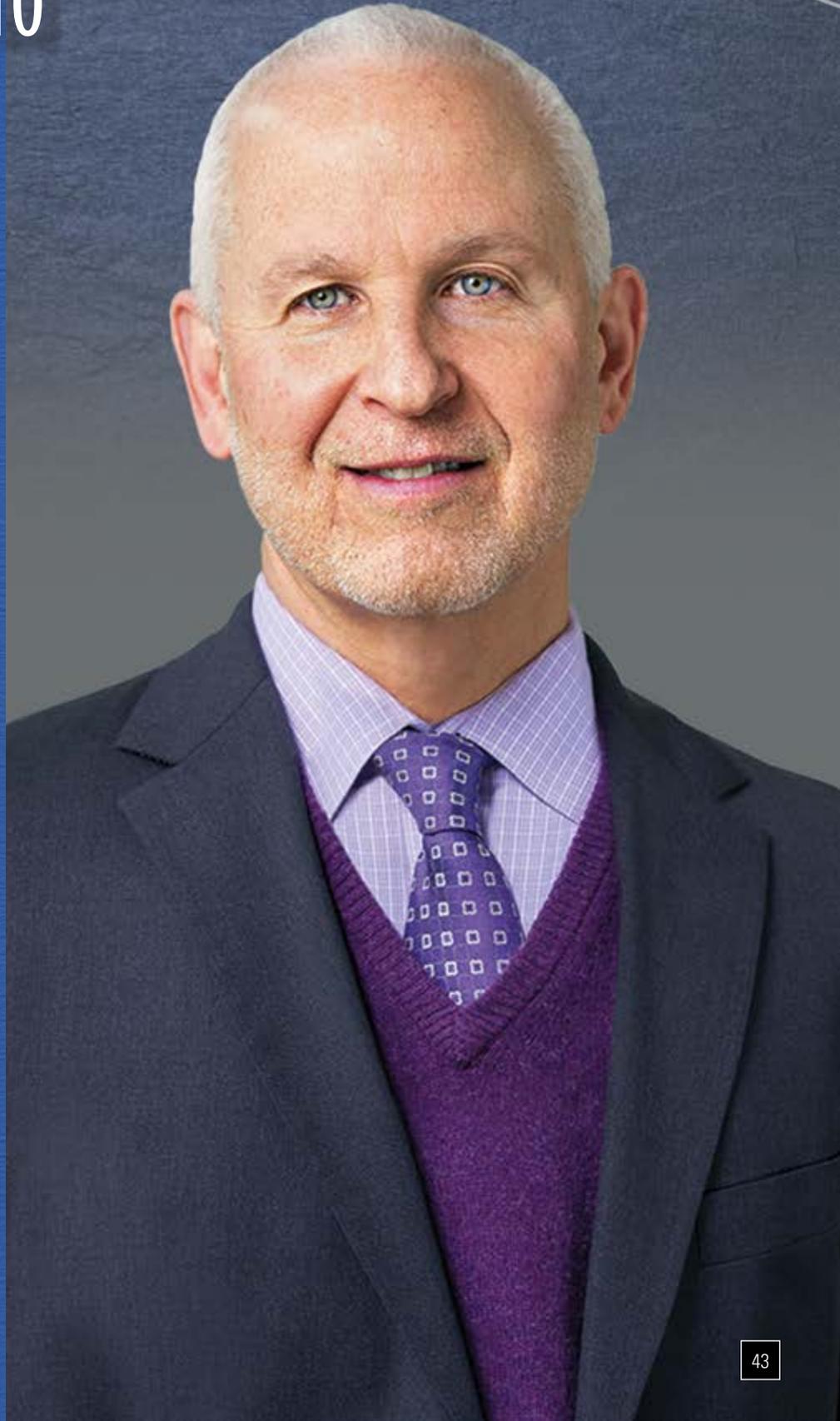
Northwestern University

Morton Schapiro President

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Northwestern University is honored to partner with The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship program. We are deeply grateful to the Foundation for the continuing support of so many of Northwestern's outstanding students. Thanks to this scholarship support, these students are able to augment their classroom experiences by serving as campus and community leaders as well as in internships that prepare them for successful careers. We commend the Annexstad Family for mentoring new generations of student leaders at Northwestern through this wonderful Scholarship program.

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North Dakota State University

Dean Besciani President



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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.

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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

Degrees: 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 got this notification 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. Social Work

Thank you for the opportunity to receive a first-class education that has propelled my career as a social worker. In July, I graduated with my master's degree in Social Work from Minnesota State University, Mankato and passed my LGSW licensure exam. I received a promotion to Intake Clinician at the South Central Human Relations Center, where I have worked for five years. I accept referrals for Adult Mental Health Case Management and determine their eligibility, complete assessments, make diagnoses, begin working on their goals, and assign them to a long-term case manager. I would like to broaden into developing and managing services for those affected by cancer. In 2014, I received chemotherapy treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma and realized that in our small community cancer resources are very limited.



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

Tyler Barthel ▶

2012- 2016

Degree: B.A. Missional Ministry

My experience at Bethel University was amazing! I grew in more ways than I could imagine. I work with at-risk youth and I look forward to continuing with my ministry and pursuing a master's degree. Thank you for the tremendous opportunity of being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar!



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.

Boston College



Falilou "Lou" Barry ◀

2012-2016

Degrees: B.S. Finance and Management and Leadership

My experience at Boston College was life-changing. Without help from The Annexstad Family Foundation, college would not have been possible and I would not be the man I am today. My college experience was filled with lessons learned and valuable people I will never forget.

Carleton College

Chavonn Williams ▶

2010-2015

Degrees: B.A. Psychology and African American Studies

I knew that the goals I wanted to accomplish couldn't happen without a college degree, but 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.



College of Saint 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 that has allowed me to help people have a better life. Now it's my turn to help others.



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

Degrees: 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.



Duke University



Amy Cheng ▲

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Economics

Thank you Annexstad Family Foundation! I was the first in my family to receive a higher education and words cannot express my sincerest gratitude. Your generosity has inspired me to me pursue a future in empowering others. I thank you for your kindness and inspiration.

Georgetown University

Karen Larios ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. International Business

If not for the hardships in my life, being a first-generation Latina college student without parents, I would not be the person I am today. I am a strong, kind, hard-working human being, filled with dreams and determination. Today, I focus on being a role model for others, especially for kids who have grown up in disadvantaged communities, and I advocate for poor communities and higher education.



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. After graduating from Gustavus, I am now achieving my ultimate goal of applying to vet school. I am forever grateful to the Annexstads for their generosity.



Anthony Afful ◀

2011-2015

Degrees: 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.



Haley Coller >

2012-2016

Degrees: B.A. Public Accounting and Political Science

I am a current analyst in Goldman Sachs Asset Management. I wrapped up a two month backpacking trip to Europe in December. I visited over 10 countries and 14 cities! It has been wonderful enjoying the big city and all that it has to offer. I am thankful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for opportunities they provided me!



Nadvia Davis >

2007-2011

Degrees: 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 I 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

Degrees: B.A. History and 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. Thank you!



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**

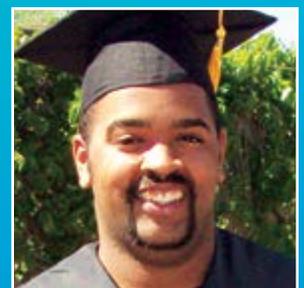
A childhood mentor worked at a college and exposed me to the campus experience. This inspired me to aim high and set my sights on Gustavus Adolphus College. Some of the best advice I have experienced is, "Enjoy life, have fun, but keep your focus and you'll go far." I am experiencing the rewards of that 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.



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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University of Minnesota

Eric W. Kaler President



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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 Annexstad Family Foundation 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.

”



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!



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 somebody else back with what The Annexstad Family Foundation has given to me.

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
Degrees: 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!

Harvard University

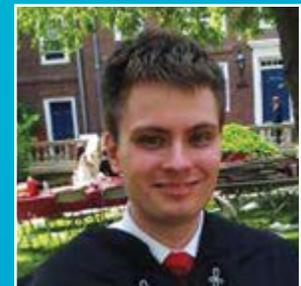
David Boone ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.S. Computer Science

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 to help me on my journey. Faith helped me follow a path that led to Harvard. I am working to support my family and be a constant reminder of what is possible.



Taylor Morris ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.A. Anthropology, Cum Laude

Coming from a low-income home, I was so grateful to be an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar, go to a great university, and graduate debt-free. You gave me the option to pursue my interests without worrying as much about financial considerations. I am working in a legal aid non-profit, and I hope to attend law school. None of that would be possible without the education I received.





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.

Indiana University Bloomington

Christina Shelley ▶
2009-2013
Degrees: 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



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. I am grateful for my strong work ethic and steadfast morals. Currently I am a Programmer and look forward to pursuing 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 won't ever be able to express the gratitude I have toward AI and Cathy Annexstad for the many experiences that college has given me, including hope.



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 troublemaker who was doing poorly in school, she was the best possible influence in my life.



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

The Annexstad Family Foundation has helped me so much that words cannot begin to describe. You have motivated me to focus on 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.



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.

Anastasia Nerson ►

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.



Jennifer Polinder ▲

2009-2014

Degrees: B.F.A. Art and Photography

I graduated from MSU in December of 2014 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. I majored in photography and minored in Art History. I am working on taking my photography to the next level by making it my full time job! I am also engaged to my fiancé Jamie Kent. We have been together for 4 years and plan on getting married next year. In July 2016, we had a beautiful baby boy named Brayden and are also in the process of buying a house! I am so very thankful for the Annexstads and everything they do!

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.



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.



Travon Sellers ▲

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Mass Media

I have been pouring all of my energy into my full-time marketing role at the National Sports Center, my freelance business, and being a father of a 13-month-old. Recently I was presented with three awards by The Institute of Leadership and Mentorship (ILM) including: Young Entrepreneur Award, Golden Rule International Award, and World Civility Award. The Institute of Leadership and Mentorship provides an opportunity for leaders to develop and build in their capacity through business and other avenues. None of this would have been possible without receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship!

Shanique Williams ►

2010-2014

Degree: B.S. Mass Media

I didn't think college was an option for me, however I decided to turn in the application for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. When I found out I had received the 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.



Minnesota State University Moorhead

Amber Hettwer ▶

2012-2016

Degrees: B.A. Psychology and B.A. Biology

Graduating from MSUM is something 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. Currently I am a Residential Program Manager at Connections and plan to pursue graduate school for counseling. 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 you have done not only for me but also for many others like me.



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 also 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.

Mississippi State University



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!

ALUMNI

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 was broke with nothing to pay for my education. However, God placed blessings on Earth and The Annexstad Family Foundation answered my prayers. How can I ever say thank you enough? I graduated from a prestigious institution and received an invaluable education all because of Cathy and Al Annexstad.



I am at the University of Notre Dame studying to receive my Master of Education. None of 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

I am a sales associate with Pepsi Co. and have an opportunity for a promotion.

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 Al and Cathy 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 had the ability and the smarts to make something out of my life; your Scholarship afforded me that opportunity. I have a degree in Respiratory Therapy that will allow me to help people and specialize in Neonatal and Pediatrics.



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.



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 am an engineer in the government. 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 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.



Kayla Famurewa ▲
2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Communication Studies

I have pursued an Integrated Marketing and Communications Certificate at Northwestern. 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.

Saint John's University

Terrence Ellis ▶
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Nutrition

My challenging background has driven me out of my comfort zone to build the best possible life for myself. I never saw myself going to a 4-year university. Not only did I graduate, but I have been accepted into the Clinical Exercise Physiology Master's Program at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. So my past has really shaped who I am today and is also the driving force that pushed me every day to pursue greatness. I sincerely thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for blessing me – my dreams would not have been possible without them.



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 school students 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. 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.



Andrez Rush ▶
2011-2015

Degree: B.S. Accounting

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

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 my mentor Mary, 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.



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.

Scholarship Superstar

Cavonte Johnson



"Playing Big Ten football and a dream to play in the NFL brought me to college, but being accepted to a Top 5 Engineering program and a desire to help the world led me to graduating from college," shares Cavonte Johnson, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

"I am the first in my family to graduate from college; this is something I don't take lightly. I never knew my father and my mother is incarcerated, so I was lucky enough to be helped by The Annexstad Family Foundation because there was no one available to financially support my education.

"I currently have an internship at Mortenson Construction working on estimating projects in the pre-construction of solar and renewable energies. Solar energies are the future – I like making a difference in our world.

"Every day I wake up and I treat it as a gift – an opportunity to become a better person. I never thought I would live long enough to graduate from college, so every day is a blessing, a significant blessing!"

Congratulations to Cavonte Johnson, 2017 Graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering!

Scholarship Superstar

Makayla Vasquez



A first-generation college student, Makayla Vasquez is a senior Business Analytics major at the University of Notre Dame. "I have made it this far because of the amazing support system my family has given me. They push me to do better and reach farther," beams Makayla with pride.

"Five years ago, my mom passed away and I promised myself to become a woman she would be proud of. My education is the most important thing in my life, because it will make my dreams of being successful a reality. I am proud to work on campus as a Retail Associate with Campus Dining and an Equipment Manager for our 'Fighting Irish' football team!

"Being an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholar has allowed me to pursue higher education. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude for your unyielding support. You have given me tremendous possibilities and a future where I can follow my dreams!"

Makayla Vasquez is a senior studying Business Analytics at the University of Notre Dame.

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.

Lynn Koester ▶

2011-2016

Degrees: B.S. Accounting and British Studies

Graduating was one of the greatest things to happen to me in my life. I have pursued my CPA exam; this has been the greatest experience, and I loved every minute of it.



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.



St. Olaf College



Mariah Dubose ◀
2012-2016

Degrees: 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 brought students of color into the STEM fields and was the co-chair of the Actuary Club. I have moved to Chicago joining Accenture as a Consulting Analyst. I am forever indebted to The Annexstad Family Foundation for making my undergraduate studies possible.



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.

Guttu Maskato ▶
2010-2014

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

It's hard to believe there are people in this world who want to help you better yourself, and they don't even know you! 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.



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.



Spelman College



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 finally completed my law school application and now I am just waiting to hear back.



Ataesia Mickens ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Political Science

While Spelman College was 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. Throughout college, their support remained constant and their interest in my journey was well-received and 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 to create.



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. It 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.

Stanford University

Hayden Rodarte ▶

2009-2013

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

The Annexstad family has changed my life! I will be starting my JD program at Yale Law School at the end of August. My career goals are to work in Human Rights Advocacy, hopefully within the Inter-American system, or possibly Human Rights Litigation.



Joelle Williams ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Human Biology

I am so grateful for my Stanford degree and for all the incredible 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! Currently I serve as a John Gardner Fellow, am interning at a non-profit focused on foster youth, and have applied 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.



ALUMNI

University of Alabama

University of California, Berkeley

Trent Moore ▶

2010-2014

Degree: B.A. Philosophy

I accepted the reality that my family could not invest in my education. However, I am so thankful that The Annexstad Family Foundation did!



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. My passion is a career in human resources. I discovered that my strength lies in people, whether that be recruiting new officers, motivating team members, 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. 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. Thank you Annexstad Family Foundation for being a part of my support system!

**Da'Shawn Mosley** ▶**2012-2016****Degree: B.A. English Language and Literature**

I have been in Washington, D.C., where I am working as the Online Assistant of *Sojourners* magazine, helping to create content for the magazine's website by writing and reporting on religious and political news. I have 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 the Annexstads so much for their incredible generosity.

**University of Chicago****Shauna Moore** ▲**2012-2016****Degree: B.A. East Asian Languages and Civilizations**

I recently finished participating in a tutoring program with AmeriCorps! The school taught the children to operate by the acronym "RISE," which here stands for: Respect, Integrity, Self-Discipline, and Excellence, a standard to which I have committed to hold myself without excuse. I was selected, this past November, to be a National Rhodes Finalist, and was able to interview with 12 other scholars from around the country! I had an excellent experience, but was not ultimately selected.

**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 Colorado, Boulder**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 helping others along the way. I am grateful beyond words.

**Devon Montgomery** ◀**2013-2017****Degree: B.S. Mechanical Engineering**

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is the best thing that has ever happened to me! I can never thank them enough. It's made such a difference in my life.

University of Georgia

Ashley Wilkerson ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Mathematics

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I made some of the dreams that I have had since I was five years old come true. The University of Georgia was my dream school. Becoming a Teacher and traveling abroad were also dreams of mine. 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 spent a semester in New Zealand. So now I am on my way to helping other students reach their dreams!



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 you, I have made lifelong friends and have explored 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 Michigan

Gage Belko ▶

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Architecture

I am working for an architectural firm while taking acting classes and I have joined 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 if I work hard and embrace uncertainty and even failure, I can succeed. While I pride myself on my independent nature, I have learned to let people help me and to always help others, because connections are 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 gave me. The Annexstads' selflessness inspires me not only to cherish my education, but also to pay such acts of generosity forward in all aspects of my life. I am now attending California College of the Arts working 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

Branden Nation ▶

2010-2013

**Degree: B.A. English Literature,
Language and Culture**

Your Scholarship has been life-changing. I found a direction and drive in going back to school. Education is priceless professionally, but most of all personally. I am eternally grateful. My experience at UMD 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.



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.



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!



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 my mentor, Nancy, 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.

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 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.



ALUMNI

University of Minnesota Twin Cities



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 earn 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!



Mohamed Ali Amiin ◀

2010-2013

Degree: B.A. Biology, Society and Environment

I'm going to be a Surgeon. My mentor, John, has guided me on a journey through which I can 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 John helped me believe I could. The Annexstad Family Foundation also inspires young people to pursue an education, which is positive for everyone!



Courtney Bell ◀

2007-2011

Degree: B.A. Sociology of Law

Between The Annexstad Family Foundation and my mentor, Sara, 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 Sara to motivate and encourage me.

Spelman College

Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D. President

“

Spelman College appreciates The Annexstad Family Foundation's consistent support of our students. By establishing the Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarship, the Foundation is providing critical resources for Spelman students, many who are high achievers and future leaders with great need. This investment aligns with our overarching strategic goal to ensure that no student is prevented from completing her education due to financial challenges. We are sincerely grateful to the Foundation for their commitment to Spelman women who are making a choice to change the world.

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Emory University



Dr. Claire Sterk President

“

Part of what makes Emory University distinctive is its uncommon balance between ground-breaking, transformative research and an emphasis on excellent teaching and mentoring. Emory is committed to educating the next generation, discovering new knowledge and making a positive impact on the world. These are values and commitments we share with The Annexstad Family Foundation. By supporting young people who have endured extraordinary challenges, we are able to help shape bright minds and empower individuals for the benefit of society.

”

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

My dear friend and mentor, Elizabeth, 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 also 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, Perry, is 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. Perry and the Annexstad family have given me important tools to achieve great things – both personally and professionally.



Bridgette Hemmesch ◀

2006-2010

Degree: B.S. Veterinary Science

Growing up on my family's farm, I wanted to be a veterinarian. My father died 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 Hemmesch ▶

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

Degrees: 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!



ALUMNI



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!



Megan Jacot ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.S. Nursing

Receiving the Annexstad Scholarship has truly been a blessing. Receiving the Scholarship 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 received 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!



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!

Eileen Lee ▶
2012-2016
Degree: B.S. Health and Wellness

Last year, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Health and 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. 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.



Kimberly Long ▼
2007-2011
Degree: B.A. Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature

As a child, I learned from my mentor, Jen, 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

Currently I'm working at Travelers Insurance in an IT Leadership Development program. Outside of work, I am engaged to my fiancée, Katie, and we are planning to be married next June. We're also

currently house shopping! In my spare time, I finally did something I dreamed about since I was a kid and got my motorcycle license and my first motorcycle last year. Katie and I love traveling. We've been to Arizona, Wisconsin, and Iceland, and we're planning trips to Colorado, Canada, and an as-of-yet unchosen honeymoon location! I could not have done any of this without the help of The Annexstad Family Foundation!



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?



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.



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.



Mao Xiong ▶

2010-2014

Degrees: 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 family 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

Degrees: 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.



Amber Barnes ◀

2011-2015

Degrees: 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!

University of Notre Dame

ALUMNI

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

Degrees: 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.

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 helped us attend a school that has permanently shaped us and changed our future paths.



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 Annexstads, none of it would have been possible. I am very grateful to know such an outstanding family.

Oscar Gonzales ▶
2008-2012

Degrees: 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.



Gary Hunt, III ▶
2008-2013

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.



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.



Katrina Linden ▶
2012-2016

Degrees: 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 am working with low-income, minority communities such as my own, addressing education deficiencies and various other disadvantages these communities face. My heartfelt thanks goes out to Notre Dame and the Annexstad family for everything you have done for me.



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!

Tania Mathurin ▶
2008-2012

Degrees: 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!





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.



Matthew Miller ►
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Chemical Engineering

Thank you so much for your generosity. I feel extremely blessed to have been a recipient of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. 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 that have been blessed by your generosity as well.

ALUMNI



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.

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.



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

Degrees: 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.

Scholarship Superstar



Tyler Murray

"Nothing is impossible" is the mantra of Tyler Murray, a junior Scholar at the University of Georgia. He holds significant memories of the day his mother passed away and the day his father cut off all communication with Tyler. "I survived by deciding that mediocrity is never an option. Doing the best at everything is my focus. I know that if I do things 110% and affect those around me in a positive way, that nothing is impossible!"

"My goal is become a Software Developer and an Information Systems Officer fulfilling my desire to become a Manager/Director in the Computer Engineering field. I look forward to getting my MBA and one day starting my own company. I also would love to travel the world and have a family someday.

"The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means more to me than words could ever do justice. You have allowed me to take on the role of the UGA Odyssey Mentorship Leader, given me the opportunity to meet incredible people, and study at one of the best schools in the country. UGA really cares about its students and the education that we are getting. Go Dawgs!"

The University of Georgia is proud to have Tyler Murray as a junior Scholar studying Computer Systems Engineering.

Scholarship Superstar

Logan Woessner

"I attribute my desire to go to college to a few key people in my life, namely my mother and mentor," believes Logan Woessner.

"Seeing what they achieved in life through the opportunities and advantages college gave them encouraged me to pursue a degree and motivates me to finish it."

"During my college career, I have had a number of obstacles to overcome, but none so vital as the transition from high school to college, establishing strong study habits and developing time-management," he adds. "My University of St. Thomas education means the world to me, and being an Annexstad Scholar has changed my life. My education will provide me an avenue to wherever I decide to go, whether it be graduate school, pharmacy school, or straight into the health care industry. I am currently employed as an Undergraduate Research Assistant at the University of Minnesota's College of Pharmacy, and as a Pharmacy Technician at Walgreen's. I plan to pursue a Pharm. D., Ph.D. program and work in the pharmaceutical industry after graduation next spring.

"I have just completed graduate research at the Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Design at the University of Minnesota, School of Pharmacy. The chance to do graduate-level chemistry research as an undergraduate is the biggest triumph of my academic career so far. I am excited to be working in a field where I can apply the knowledge and skills I have learned at University of St. Thomas.

"The most significant thing that has happened in my life so far was when I found out that I would be able to attend the University of St. Thomas as an Annexstad Scholar. You have changed my life, and I am forever grateful!"

University of St. Thomas senior Logan Woessner is studying Neuroscience with a minor in Chemistry.

Christopher Rhyne >

2012-2016

Degrees: 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 believed in me, which in turn helped me believe in myself.



Shawn Sanford >

2004-2008

Degrees: 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.



Kim Smith >

2012-2016

Degrees: B.A. German and B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I had the opportunity to make the American Dream come true for me. I am working for John Deere in their Engineering Development Program and love my new job.



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.



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.



Aaron Tarnasky ▲

2012-2016

Degrees: 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.

ALUMNI



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 Redlands

Elena Arellan ▶
2012-2016
Degrees: 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 Al and Cathy Annexstad 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

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.



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.



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 in college. 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.

Carissa Franklin ▶
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Social Work

I would like to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for their continued support. You made it possible for me to receive my education at the University of St Thomas. Your investment in me was a great one. I am a social worker as I am focused on being the change I wish to see in the world. Thank you so much!



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 non-profit 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.



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 dream of becoming a Physician. Thank you, Annexstad family, for helping my dreams come true.



Elyse Lopez ◀
2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Biology

Over the past several 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 and I want to become a Doctor and spend the rest of my life helping others. I am thankful for the help I have received, and I hope to one day return the favor to another deserving student.



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 the 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 has given me options for my life that I never thought possible. Thank you!



Vanderbilt University

Washington University in St. Louis

ALUMNI



Adriana Ungerleider ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.S. Biochemistry

Because of The Annexstad Family Foundation's amazing gift, I was 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. 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.

Winona State University

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. 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.



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 sister. Here I am at 24, hopefully giving a little back and making a difference!



Isaac Wenzel ▶

2011-2015

Degree: B.A. Mass Communication

I studied for a career in broadcasting. I worked at the radio station on campus and loved it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my dreams a reality!

Yale University



Kevin Olivares ◀

2012-2016

Degree: B.A. Economics

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is a blessing. It helped to fund my education and provide 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

Degrees: B.A. Latin American Studies and History of Art

I have completed an accelerated program to get my teaching credentials and teach in my local community. 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 getting my master's degree in Global Affairs or Latin American Studies.



ALUMNI

Scholarship Superstar



Tenzin Choenyi

"Starting out in college, my reading and writing skills were below average for a college student," describes Tenzin Choenyi, a first-generation senior at Gustavus Adolphus College. "As a result, I was determined to put in twice the amount of time and effort as other students to read and write papers. There are lots of people counting on me to be successful in life, which keeps me motivated day in and day out."

"My Gustavus Adolphus College education means everything to me. I am a much better person today than I ever was before college. I have met wonderful people who will be friends for life, and I am grateful for the faith and opportunity The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me. You have made a significant impact on my future!"

"I am fortunate enough to work in the Economics/Management Department as a Student Administrative Assistant, grading tests and assisting professors and the staff. My goal is to become an Investment Banker and help companies make better decisions that will maximize the value of the shareholders."

Tenzin Choenyi is a senior studying Financial Economics at Gustavus Adolphus College.



Scholars

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
Class of 2020

Bethel University

Janessa Bjorgo-Munoz ▶

2016-2020

Major: Psychology and Reconciliation Studies

College was never a reality because I come from a low-income family and paying for college was a huge obstacle. Your Scholarship is extremely important to me because I can continue my education and not perpetuate the stereotypes that Latina women often face when it comes to higher education. I want to support incoming students of color, so I will be mentoring over the next three years as a way of giving back.



Boston College



Hsa Hsay Hser ▶

2016-2020

Major: Biology

My focus is to help save the environment so that future generations can benefit from nature's resources. I have become involved in a Peer Empowerment program and an Asian Christian Fellowship. My disability prohibits me from learning as fast as my peers, but this motivates me to work hard, be creative, and challenge myself. Your Scholarship allows me to support myself and become a future Physician Assistant.



Naren Briar ▲

2016-2020

Majors: Political Science and Economics

I came to America in 1996 as the daughter of two Kurdish refugees. Growing up as a first-generation American was challenging, but losing my older sister was even worse. I found myself unmotivated and doomed to fail. My admittance to Boston College and receiving your Scholarship was my turning point. I learned that even at my lowest point, others believe in me. Because of your faith, I want to gear my education towards public service, giving back to the nation that rescued my family, eventually go to law school, and become a Senator.



Joseph Fotopoulos ◀

2016-2020

Major: Political Science, Pre-Law

This Scholarship eases the financial burden I face, enables me to worry less about how I will be able to fund my college education, and lets me focus on my goals. I am extremely grateful that the Annexstad Family recognizes my potential and encourages me to succeed in life. I hope to follow in the Annexstad family's footsteps and help students with similar struggles reach their full potential.



Ahmed Abdirahman ◀

2016-2019

Major: Cognitive Science

I am a Somalia immigrant who grew up in Maine. It is challenging being a first-generation college student, having to figure out my educational path, but the effort my family put into helping me motivates me to work harder. I hope to contribute valuable research in the field of Cognitive Science, pursue a graduate degree, and give back to those who have shaped me. I can't thank you enough for your unyielding support.

Carleton College



Paula Campos Gonzalez ▲

2016-2020

Major: Human Psychology

My focus is to organize and direct medical mission trips to low-income areas of Latin-America and the world. I volunteer as a Medical Interpreter in a local clinic serving Latino immigrants. As a Latina immigrant growing up in a single-mother household, I knew it would be impossible for me to attend college without financial aid. Due to my brain injury, my ability to work is limited, and thus your Scholarship is a true blessing. I hope to continue my education and find a career that allows me to help people.

College of Saint Benedict



Amanda Bevan ◀

2016-2020

Majors: Biology and Pre Medicine

My focus is to become a successful Neurologist and specialize in Alzheimer's and dementia. I look forward to opening my own practice and joining Doctors Without Borders so I can make an impact on our world. I would also love to start a non-profit to help abused children get the help they need. Your Scholarship holds a special place in my heart. My grandparents have raised me since I was five, protecting me from family issues, and they do not have additional income to fund school. I have zero regrets in my life and am motivated to grow into my full potential. Thank you for giving me the future that I long for.

Emily Brockman ▶

2016-2020

Major: English

There are no words to express my gratitude for the freedom that The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship grants me. Duke has been the best and most challenging experience for me. As an Alaskan Native moving to the south, this year has been a big learning curve in adapting to living in an affluent environment, responding to cultural differences, and nurturing my aspirations to become an English teacher. My goals are clear, and I am putting in the hard work and effort to make you proud.

Duke University



DeJimon Brooks ▶

2016-2020

Major: Psychology

I am from a low-income family that resides in the south side of Chicago. I am very grateful for The Annexstad Family Foundation because your Scholarship allows me to afford college and participate in a myriad cultural clubs including Black Student Alliance, the African and Caribbean Association, and the Archery Club. Attending Carleton has been one of the best choices I have ever made.

Clemson University



Xavier Smith ▶

2016-2020

Major: Biochemistry

Your Scholarship offers me a chance to prove that people with challenges can succeed as much as anybody else; my challenges don't define me. I am grateful that my guardian, my grandmother, does not have to be financially challenged to support me. I want to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for believing in me and allowing me to prove myself to the world.

SCHOLARSHIPS





Timothy Clayton ◀
2016-2020
Major: Undecided

Words cannot express how truly grateful I am for your investment in my future. I promise that I will not let this investment go to waste.

Emory University



Nayive Gaytan ▲
2016-2020
Major: Undecided

I aspire to take my education to the doctorate level and conduct research that focuses on the factors surrounding experiences of individuals from marginalized communities because our perspectives are highly underrepresented in academia. I am grateful to have been named a recipient of your Scholarship because the additional financial support has allowed me to focus on my education and begin to incite change without being worried about making ends meet.

Christian Blount ▶
2016-2020
Major: Undecided

I am very grateful to the generosity of the Annexstad Family Foundation. Thank you for your investment in my future!



Lindsay Guyette ◀
2016-2020
Majors: Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology

No matter how hard life gets, I know that I have the power to excel my future. Knowing that others care and are truly hoping to see me succeed is exciting. Eventually, I'd like to use my education to carry forward the dream of The Annexstad Family Foundation and help provide underprivileged youth with scholarships and the resources they need to succeed.

Georgetown University



Elsie Garcia ◀
2016-2020
Major: Undecided

Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation for this incredible opportunity. I am proud to be an Annexstad Scholar at Georgetown University.

Kevin Perez ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Philosophy and Economics

As a first-generation student from a low-income, single-parent home, I have overcome inherent burdens. The Annexstad Family Foundation has let me fully pursue my passions. I want to work in the financial industry, shape global economic policies, and promote economic educational empowerment programs for marginalized communities in South Florida and Colombia. On campus, I am serving as the Financial Director of the Georgetown Minority Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs, Cultural Director of the Latin American Student Association, and coordinator for PorColombia. Thank you for this opportunity!



Georgia Institute of Technology



Elmer Gonzalez ▲

2016-2020

Major: Computer Science

Your Scholarship has given me the opportunity to become a first-generation college student and achieve my goals. My parents have motivated and supported my endeavors and tried to help me navigate my education. Without their love and the support from my teachers, I would not have been accepted to one of the best public colleges. It is the Annexstad family who has lifted an extreme economic burden from my family's' shoulders and given me the chance to attend college.



Alexis Robinson ◀

2016-2020

Major: Computer Engineering

My goal for the future is simply to succeed in life. As a first-generation college student, I know what a grace it is to have people who believe in me. As a Computer Engineer, I want to be able to work towards new technology that will increase the quality of life for everyone and give back to the community

that believed in me. Not everyone is lucky enough to receive this opportunity, so I will strive to continue to be worthy of all the belief that The Annexstad Family Foundation has invested in me.

Charitty Tuttle ▶

2016-2020

Major: Industrial and Systems Engineering

I am from a small town in Georgia where very few people earn a degree. I always knew I was capable of more. My mother has always worked to ensure that I was afforded every opportunity. She is my inspiration and the first person I want to give back to upon receiving my degree. Your Scholarship means that I will be able to graduate debt-free and begin helping others as soon as possible. I believe a person's life is wasted if it is not spent giving back to the world.



Gonzaga University

Jesus McCloskey ▶

2016-2020

Major: Broadcast Studies

My hope for the future is simply to be happy with the life I am living and happy with the people in my life. I grew up in a low-income household with a single mother of many children. Affording a college education was definitely viewed as a luxury – one that no one in my family was able to experience. Some didn't even finish high school. Thanks to the Annexstad Scholarship, I am able to break the tradition and be the first in family to attend a 4-year university in hopes for a better life and future.



Gustavus Adolphus College

Christian Araya ▶

2016-2020

Major: Biology

I plan to pursue my interest in Pre-Med and become a cardiologist. This goal is a long one, and it will take years of concentration and focus. My inspiration is my grandmother who was a village herbal doctor. She helped many people in our village and worked hard to raise me while treating my grandfather who had severe heart problems. I want to follow in her footsteps, care for others, and lessen their suffering. My father brought me to the United States to have a better education to accomplish my goals, but we did not have enough income to financially support my education. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has helped me realize that I can still pursue my goal and become the first one in my family to receive a higher education.



Harvard University



Zachery Ellison ▲

2016-2020

Majors: B.S. Mechanical Engineering and Philosophy

I am the first person in my family to graduate high school and the first to go to university. Because of the generous financial aid program at Harvard and the Annexstad Family Foundation, I can afford a college education. I could not be more grateful.

Patrick Meadows ▶

2016-2020

Major: Political Science

I am truly grateful for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship as it has allowed me to focus on my academic interests without the fear of a financial burden. Coming to Gustavus has opened my eyes to so many opportunities, and I know that none of this would have been possible without the help and generosity of the Annexstad family. I look forward to going to graduate school and one day giving back to my Gustavus community, much like Cathy and Al Annexstad.



Kevin English ▶

2016-2020

Major: Undecided

Thank you to the Annexstad Family Foundation in their investment to my future. I cannot even process their generosity, because it seems so surreal.



Spencer Collard ◀

2016-2020

Major: Mechanical Engineering

I hope to work as a Design Engineer in the automotive industry. I have struggled through the loss of my mother, and I work hard to accomplish the things I know she would want me to achieve. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allows me to accomplish my goals.

Michigan Technological University

Clemson University

James P. Clements President

“

I am a firm believer that education is the key to a better life, both for individuals and for society as a whole. I am grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for making a college education possible for so many young people, and I am extremely proud that Clemson is now a partner school in the Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship Program.

”



University of Michigan



Mark Schlissel President

“

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.

”

Riley Saldana ▶

2016-2020

Major: Civil Engineering

Growing up, I never thought I would attend college. In fact, I did not think I would ever graduate high school – too many negative influences surrounded me. It amazes me that I am pursuing a Civil Engineering degree. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity of being an Annexstad Scholarship recipient. With my degree, I intend on applying my skills in the real world to help innovate society and give back to others in financial need like you have done for me!



Minnesota State University, Mankato

Yaxye Abdulahi ◀

2016-2020

Major: Electrical Engineering

Growing up in a third-world country with about half the population not having a college degree makes me know how lucky I am. Every day I wake up knowing there are a million people out in the world who don't have the opportunities that I do, and that makes me work extra hard. I want to pursue the Electrical Engineering field because I want to change the world. I am grateful to The Annexstad Family Foundation for providing me this opportunity.



Hunter Herber ▶

2016-2020

Major: Pre-Medicine

I am from a small farming community where a Mayo Clinic was nearby. My family and friends have experienced multiple medical complications. This inspired me to not only pursue medicine, but to one day make a lasting impact in the field. Your Scholarship allows me to pursue an education without having to stress about how to pay for it. I can pursue interests including conducting undergraduate research, Mankato's honors program, Pre-Med club, and volunteering at Mayo Clinic. Thank you!



Tierra Jorgensen ▲

2016-2020

Major: Elementary Education

I cannot express how honored I am to have been chosen by the Annexstad Family Foundation. My son's academic struggles initially inspired me to return to college and pursue a career in education. As I began studying, I became passionate about disproving racial stereotypes. The classroom experiences I have had also made me aware of why women of color are a necessity for future students to see as their teachers.

Hannah Van Dalen ◀

2016-2020

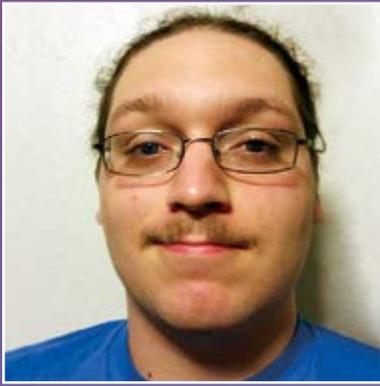
Major: Biomedical Sciences

I am focused on becoming an Orthopedic Surgeon in sports medicine. I am currently a Biomedical Sciences major and am also member of the Swim and Dive team. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is so important to me because it takes a lot of stress out of my life. My father hasn't had a job for a while, so I have to pay for my school. With my education, I hope to help people and my family in as many ways as I can, just as I was raised.



SCHOLARSHIPS

North Dakota State University



Vincent Chicaderis ◀
2016-2020
Major: Nursing

My plans for the future are to become a Registered Nurse and specialize in Oncology. Inspired by my father's death, I know focusing on Oncology will help equip me and guide families undergoing similar situations to my own. Thank you for The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Without your help, it would be very difficult for me to attend college and pursue my dream.



Mel Johnson ▶
2016-2022
Major: Pharmacy

I plan on applying to the Pharmacy program my sophomore year with hopes to graduate in 2022. I am so blessed to be given the opportunity to go to college and I cannot thank the Annexstad family enough. Without your Scholarship, I have no idea how I would have been able to fulfill my future and graduate from college.

Northern Michigan University



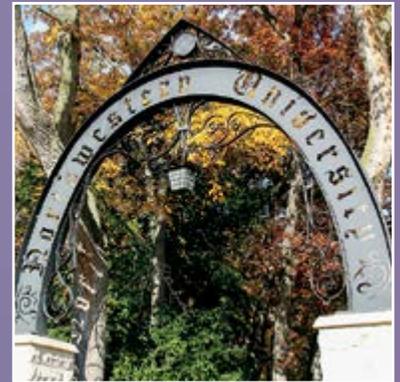
Kelsey Martin ▲
2016-2020
Major: Sociology

My hope for the future is to graduate and receive a job right out of college. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is a way to for me to continue my education to the next level. Without this Scholarship, I would not have been able to attend a university. With my education, I hope to get a job helping people.

Northwestern University

Brandon Crite ▶
2016-2020
Major: Biology

I am pursuing a degree in Biology on a Pre-Med track. I hope to further research on cancer in order to devise better treatments. Battling cancer twice myself, before the age of 18, I realize that we all need to do our part. So, in a sense, my disease is what has guided my future. I'm involved in many philanthropies and organizations that are focused on fundraising for cancer research. I just want to help others, and this Scholarship means that I am one step closer to doing it!



Yousef Issa ◀
2016-2020
Major: Computer Science

In the future, I hope to play an influential role in a startup and watch it grow along with my career. I am currently involved in two campus startups as well as NSBE, EPIC, IM Soccer, and more! My parents moved our family with six kids from a war-torn area, and we are grateful to be in the States. This Scholarship means a lot to me and family because funding an education is extremely expensive to do. With my education, I eventually hope to increase STEM programs in urban schools. Lily Tomlin said it best, "The road to success is always under construction."



SCHOLARS

Pomona College

Zemia Edmonson ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Public Policy and Environmental Analysis

Your generosity is allowing me to pursue an education that gives me access to our world. I am able to receive an education without a financial burden in a community of fantastic thinkers who motivate me. Your Scholarship means that I can pursue what I want to do – not just what gives me the greatest financial means. The financial support The Annexstad Family Foundation affords me reaches beyond the academic year so I'm able to pursue non-paid internship opportunities. You have given me the privilege to discover my passion and create myself.



St. John's University

Ayebra Tha ◀

2016-2020

Major: Communication

I am motivated to become better in my field, improve academically and personally, and try new activities. My second language is English and communication is the perfect field for me to improve myself and gain important knowledge. In truth, I speak about five languages: Pa'o-Karen, Karen, Burmese, Thai, and English. I was born in Thailand and moved to the U.S. when I was eleven. I am planning to go to graduate school to gain a master's degree in Management or Criminology to work with the community and law enforcement. Then, I want to get my Ph.D. to prove that I can achieve anything as long as I put my mind in it.



Spelman College

Cheyane Mitchell ▼

2016-2020

Major: Psychology

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means a lot to me in regards to being a clear example of people having faith in my abilities and that I believe I am a beacon of change.



April Lewis ▶

2016-2020

Major: Pre-Medicine

My focus is to graduate Magna Cum Laude and get accepted into Meharry Medical College or Howard University College of Medicine. I want to become an Obstetrician-Gynecologist and eventually a Reproductive Endocrinologist! I am passionate about community service, which is why I hope to serve underserved populations through my future career. Being a first-generation college student from a single-parent household has not been easy, but I will stay determined. Thank you for your dedication to my college career and my future goals!



Jordan Nash ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Digital Media and Entrepreneurship

My goal is to launch my own consulting firm that focuses on expanding and improving small business marketing through the use of digital media. My motivator is the sacrifice people have made for me. I was gifted with this journey and will continue to work endlessly to reach my highest potential. Without your Scholarship, Spelman would be just a dream: with it, my consulting firm and amazing education are reality.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Stanford University



Nikita Demir ◀

2016-2020

Majors: Computer Science and Engineering

Growing up struggling financially has taught me the value of working hard to capitalize on any opportunity. I possess a dynamic drive to give a 100% and take every day as it comes. The generosity that The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me is the chance to apply my focus at Stanford and to learn at the highest levels – an opportunity I will look back and be grateful for throughout the rest of my life. I will pursue my passions in Computer Science and Engineering, learning as much as I can and giving it my all. Hopefully one day, I can pay it forward.



Eric Mason ▶

2016-2020

Major: Chemical Engineering

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship serves as a foundation for my academic existence. Knowing that there are people behind me rooting for me gives me more of a drive to push forward and continue to thrive. I also know that I finally have a net that I can fall back on. With this being said, I finally feel like I am on an equal playing field with my peers.

Texas Christian University

Charity Mason ▶

2016-2020

Major: B.A. Social Work

Your Scholarship is an opportunity to accomplish my dreams and goals. There are others in the world who have faced challenges similar to mine and want to make a difference to support students like me. With my education, I will help redevelop the C.P.S. system and bring a better world for children who are in torn homes and help them make their decision for their wellbeing. A place where they are truly loved and can be the people they are created to be.



University of Alabama

Javier Figueroa ▶

2016-2020

Major: Undecided

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has made college possible for me. For the majority of my life, my five siblings and I were dependent on a single mother. College was not an easy option for my older siblings. Thanks to this Scholarship, I am able to pursue an education without placing a financial burden on my family. Even though I am undecided right now, I have hopes of working somewhere in the medical field.



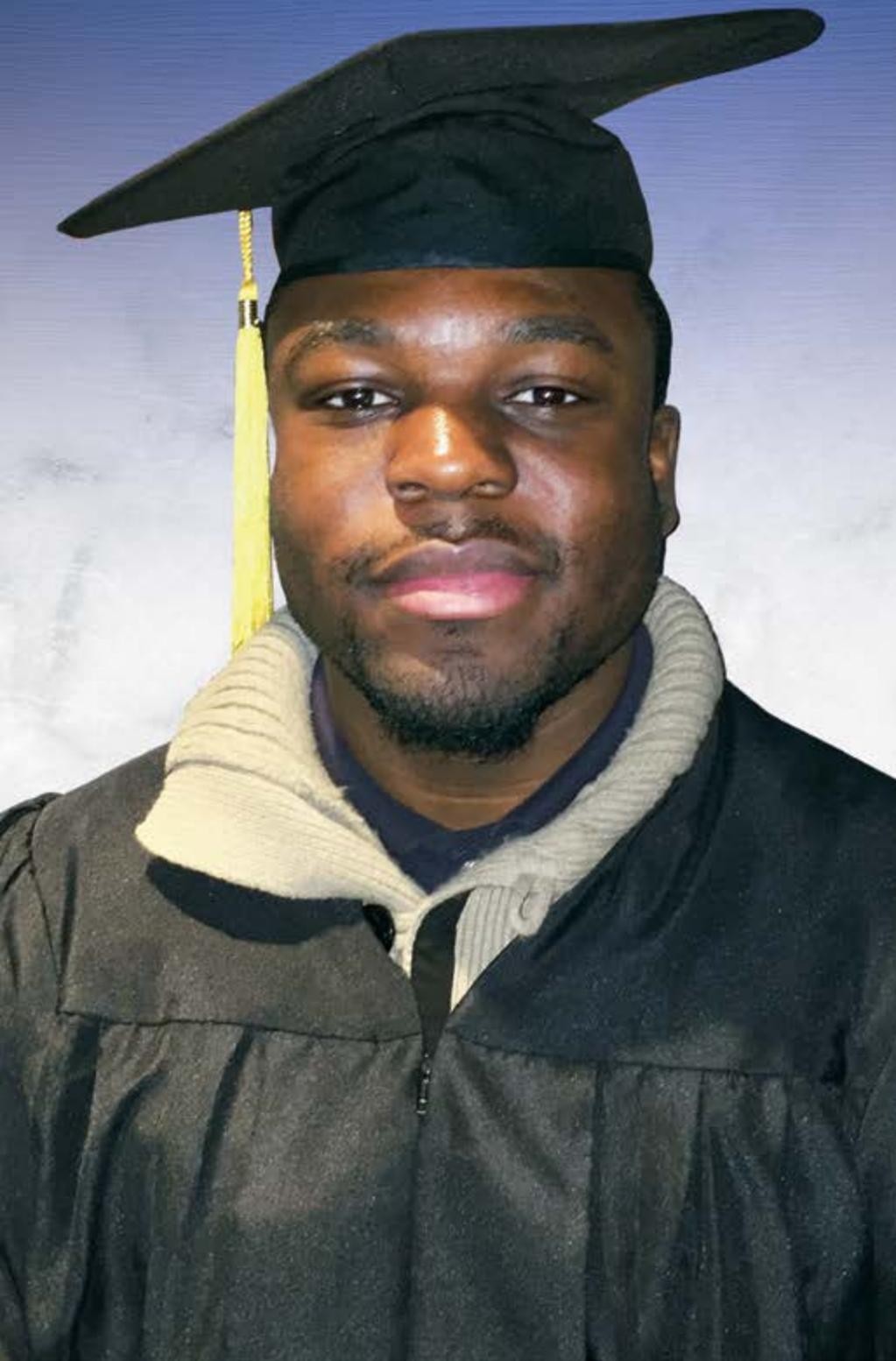
Rosemary Hartline ◀

2016-2020

Major: Chemistry

This Scholarship means the world to me. It gave me the ability to go to college, because without it, I wouldn't have been able to afford it. It also means that I can apply to medical school without any student loans – which is HUGE! I hope to use my education to work with Doctors Without Borders, as this is very close to my heart. The U.S. and other developed countries, are ages ahead of less developed countries and people are dying all over the world from things very easily cured or even vaccinated against.

Scholarship Superstar



Andre Brooks

Being the first of my family to go to college, there was not much advice about paying for higher education that was available in my household. Considering my family's lack of knowledge and just how few people in my community attended college, I found myself lucky to have both a scholarship to cover my expenses and a new community to surround myself with. Coming from a place like Detroit where the entire city itself has gone bankrupt, college isn't often an option.

Coming from those dark places has made me truly appreciate The Annexstad Family Foundation. It has been a blessing. However close Detroit may be on a map to Ann Arbor, the cities themselves are two different worlds.

I am happy that The Annexstad Family Foundation stood by me since my first year at University of Michigan as well as for the rest of my life. I plan to be a mechanical engineer to develop new and cutting edge technology that is affordable for people of all backgrounds. Hopefully, when I do make it in this world I can give back to the people around me like this scholarship has done for me.

My time at the University of Michigan was far from easy, but it was a challenge that allowed me to find myself as a person and gain the skills necessary to pursue biomimetics. The Annexstad Family Foundation has allowed me to call Michigan my alma mater and I could not be more grateful. Thank you.

Congratulations to Andre Brooks, a 2017 Graduate of University of Michigan receiving his B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering.

Scholarship Superstar

Nicholas Murray

"The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has not only given me the opportunity to attend the University of Georgia, it has given me the chance to succeed in life," proudly states Nicholas Murray. "I have a future because of your generosity."

"After graduation, I hope to work for a private equity firm specifically in a department that helps other businesses succeed. After establishing myself in the company, I want to start a charity supporting breast cancer patients. I do this to honor my mom who passed away from breast cancer. I saw challenges that she faced trying to fight cancer and raise kids, which makes me thankful for every second of my life."

"Her gift was showing me how important my education was to my future. It is the generations behind us that we need to focus on because they are the ones that will keep our values and culture alive. I owe my future to the generosity of the Annexstad family who is changing lives across America!"

Nicholas Murray is a junior Scholar studying Finance. We wish him continued success!

Kailey Lones >

2016-2020

Major: Psychology

As a first-generation college student, attending the University of Alabama is my greatest accomplishment. Without this Scholarship, I wouldn't be able to set an example for my younger siblings when it comes to chasing your dreams — even if they seem so unattainable and out of reach. You have made it possible for me to attend college and overcome all of the odds that were against me.



University of California, Berkeley

Michael Papias >

2016-2020

Major: Ethnic Studies

I would not be able to go to college if it weren't for my aunt. She has been a mother to me and I love her. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has given me the opportunity to show my family the importance of higher education. With a degree in Ethnic Studies, I hope to work for a non-profit and help those who cannot help themselves. I believe that it is important to give back to your neighborhood, and this Scholarship is helping me achieve this goal. Thank you!



Vincent Ong ▲

2016-2020

Majors: Economics and Business Administration

My family does not have enough money to put me through college, so without The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, I would have been destined to community college or to take massive student loans. My goal is to work in investment banking or asset management.

University of Chicago

Kelly Collins <

2016-2020

Majors: Psychology and Comparative Human Development

I want to get my Ph.D. in Psychology and either teach and research at a university or practice as a Clinical Psychologist. I'm a Research Assistant in a Psychology and Neuroscience lab and am involved in two poetry groups on campus. I come from a challenging background of poverty, family mental illness, and substance abuse, which motivates me to build a better future for myself. Your Scholarship helps me live independently and attend my dream school!



Kuba Sokolowski >

2016-2020

Major: English Language and Literature

The Annexstad Family Foundation helps me pursue an education after coming from a low-income, immigrant household. I am majoring in English Language and Literature and am also interested in exploring Linguistics, Psychology, and Sociology during my time in college. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in the fields of Publishing or Education. I am currently involved in a student-run newspaper on campus, am interning at a literary scouting agency, and am excited to gain further experience in the field I love.



University of Georgia



Lorretta Chappell ◀

2016-2020

Major: Animal Science

My motivation for completing my college education has to be my family who makes me happy every day. I want to make them proud. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has given me the opportunity to accomplish my dreams and career goals. I hope to one day become a veterinarian and own a Veterinary hospital. I would like to help not only the people around me but also our companion animals that bring us so much joy.

Tyler Murray ▼

2016-2020

Major: Computer Systems Engineering

Your Scholarship means more to me than words do justice. By relieving financial obligations, it has allowed me to take the role of the UGA OSFA Mentorship Leader. The opportunity to attend the UGA is the best opportunity I have ever had in my life. I am happy every night going to bed knowing I am studying what I love at a place that I love even more! Go Dawgs!



Gabrion Johnson ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Finance and International Business

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship was my deciding factor in me going to college. UGA has been my dream school since I was a child, and because of this Scholarship I can attend and graduate debt-free. With my degree, I hope to become a Financial Analyst. I also want to expose the youth in my community to the opportunities available and encourage them to achieve anything. Growing up in deep poverty and a small town of 800 people, I have been truly blessed with this opportunity to focus solely on my education. No words can express my gratitude for your Scholarship.

University of Michigan



Emma Ashford ◀

2016-2020

Major: Musical Theatre

I love creating meaningful, dynamic theatre pieces which can incite positive growth in our society. I plan to do so both in school and after graduation! As a Musical Theatre major, I am cultivating skills as a Singer, Actress, Dancer, Musician, and Writer. Born with cancer of the eye, I immediately learned to fight for my life and my vision; consequently, I don't take either for granted. Receiving your Scholarship made attending college possible. Thank you for enabling me to have the best education, the tools to bring my best self, and for giving me the platform to enact positive social change.



Davon Shackelford ◀

2016-2020

Major: Social Conflict and War Studies

My dream is to work for a lobbying firm in Lansing, Michigan. I want to be successful and one day have a family. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means opportunity for me because it helped me achieve the goal of going to college.

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Sofiya Ahmed ▶
2016-2020
Major: **Biology**

As a Somali-Muslim, first generation student, I have different opportunities than my parents. I want to use resources to make something of myself and live up to the sacrifices they made. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is really important to me. Coming from a low-income household, paying for college is all up to me, and having this Scholarship allows me to pursue my dreams. With my education, I want to become a Pediatrician and help those in my community to better access to medicine.



Alicia Durkee ▶
2016-2020
Major: **Undecided**

I am very honored to accept this Scholarship. The generosity and support from Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad provide my future with incredible opportunities, and I couldn't be more thankful.



University of Mississippi



David Pfaehler ◀
2016-2020
Major: **International Studies**

Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I can focus on school without having to balance school, a job, and without facing mountains of debt. Your Scholarship is liberating, and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. I hope to change lives with my education and empower others to do the same. Knowledge is power – this is a phrase that I have replayed in my head for many years, and I intend to make sure that there are no obstacles standing in my way as I aim to achieve my highest goals.



Rotavious Taper ▶
2016-2020
Major: **Biochemistry**

I hope to graduate and go to Medical School, specializing in Cardiology or Neurosurgery. I would love to have my own clinic. When I am a doctor and am financially secure, I hope to be able to fund a Scholarship so that someone can have the opportunities that I have been afforded. It has been my honor to be a recipient of The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. It has lightened financial burdens and allowed me to begin my career without loans. You have given me a tremendous gift.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Davis Kirby ▶
2016-2020
Major: **Sports Administration**

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship gives me an opportunity to graduate. Being a first-generation student is one of the biggest motivators that you can have because you're on a quest to do something that no one else has done. This fuels me because I know that my success has an impact on my entire family and I can show them that anything is possible.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Tarik Woods ◀
2016-2020
Majors: Philosophy and English

My parents were teen parents, so I have been very dedicated to helping students in situations similar to mine overcome their background to beat statistics. Your Scholarship was the first assurance that I had help outside of my family with college. With my education, I hope to change how people view the world of socioeconomic status and the general welfare.

University of Notre Dame

Janaya Brown ▶
2016-2020
Major: Aerospace Engineering

I plan on majoring in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Energy Studying. I am the fourth of nine children, so I feel a tremendous pressure to give my younger siblings a world in which they can flourish. I hope that I can do this by combining my love of space and cosmic events with my passion for the environment. This Scholarship means that I have more freedom to focus on my goals and make my loved ones proud.



Brandon Davis ▶
2016-2020
Major: Architecture

I want to do research on climate change migration and design practices for affordable, environmentally-friendly housing for those immigrating from environmental disasters. Notre Dame offers me activities including: Project Fresh – a hip-hop performance group, Student Government’s Gender Relations department, serving as the Commissioner of Campaigns, and on the Orientation Steering Committee. As a first-generation, low-income student, Welcome Weekend was critical for me to truly know Notre Dame is where I belonged. I am so grateful that I can move forward with the rest of my life without loans and interest weighing me down. Your generosity will have an impact on my life extending much further than just my undergraduate career.



John Jerry Hobgood ▲
2016-2020
Major: Liberal Studies

Being part of The Annexstad Family Foundation has been an absolute privilege. I have served as Vice President of my freshman class and served in my dorm’s weekly masses. Next year, I have the honor to serve as Director of Academic Affairs. I know I will be well-prepared for my future endeavors because of the assistance I have received. As I plan to attend law school or obtain a Ph.D. in Political Philosophy, I know these experiences will help me tremendously.



Ashby Martin ◀
2016-2020
Major: Neuroscience Behaviors

Hard work is the fuel of the future, and I hope to be able to navigate personal ideas, research, learn, and help others. I make time to volunteer for Matriculate – an organization dedicated to helping high-achieving, low-income high school students navigate the college application process. My family neighborhood is wrought with despair, but when I see kind, thoughtful, and impacting people like the Annexstads, I am driven to show them just how far an individual can go when people believe in him.

University of Alabama

Stuart R. Bell President

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The Annexstad Family Foundation's commitment to helping students achieve their dreams is extraordinary. We are honored to partner with them to ensure these promising students succeed both during and after college. Through the Annexstads' generous support, these students are inspired to make a real difference in the world and to help others succeed as well.

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Minnesota State University, Mankato

Richard Davenport President



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The culture of Minnesota State University, Mankato, aligns with the values and mission of the Annexstad Family Foundation. We take pride in having recognized Al and Cathy as honorary doctorate degree recipients because they epitomize our University's goal to nurture the passion within students and to push them beyond possibility on the way to realizing their dreams. This is particularly true with the Annexstad Scholars, who are challenged with remarkable hardships and realize amazing success. These same students understand and embrace our culture of big ideas and real-world thinking.

”

Tommy Nguyen ▶
2016-2020
Major: Undecided

I am appreciative of your support of me. I look forward to fulfilling my ambitions at University of Notre Dame. Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation!



John O'Brien ▲
2016-2020
Major: Finance

I am attending Notre Dame with a Finance major. I hope to one day start up my own company and be in a position to give back to my community. I am motivated to give back to the organizations that have helped me get to where I am today. Your Scholarship has meant so much to me, allowing me to focus on school rather than finances. I hope that my education will help me launch a successful career so I can give back just like the Annexstad family was able to give to me.

Erin Rausch ▶
2016-2020
Major: Political Science

After graduation, I plan to attend Law School and eventually begin a career as an Attorney in the Nashville area. I am from a small town in Tennessee, and growing up in a Catholic family with a dad and grandfathers who were all Fighting Irish fans, attending Notre Dame has always been a dream. I am honored to receive this Scholarship because it has helped give me the opportunity of realizing my dream and has provided me with a community of people who are rooting for my success.



Avian Robinson ◀
2016-2020
Major: Marketing

I am focused on becoming an ethical leader in the business world. Your Scholarship allows me to focus on pursuing my dream of attending Business School without having to worry about finances. I plan to take advantage of my fiscal flexibility by pursuing graduate school following graduation. Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, there are no limits to what I can achieve with my education.



Varsha Valapatia ◀
2016-2020
Major: Business

I want to become a successful individual who can give back to my community. There were challenges I had to overcome while growing up, and the fact that I am attending Notre Dame is a testament to how hard work truly does pay off. I am majoring in Business, specifically in Finance or Business Analytics. As a result, I joined the Undergraduate Women in Business club. I have made great friends and formed incredible memories that I would not have had otherwise. I thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for all that they have done in helping me to achieve my dreams.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Taylor Vucinich >

2016-2020

Major: Business

As a Business Major I hope to work in the sports world since it has been a passion of mine. Here at Notre Dame, I look forward to three more years of being an integral part of the Bengal Bouts program and Fighting Irish Media. Ever since I was young, I have felt like I have had a chip on my shoulder and that I have to prove people wrong. The Annexstad Family Foundation's Scholarship has given me the self-confidence that I can do whatever I accomplish in life. Whether it's in sports or not, it's good to know that my efforts are being noticed.



University of Pennsylvania



Sylvia Davis <

2016-2020

Major: Undecided

I come from a working-class family and a single-parent household, so money has always been an obstacle that has kept me from opportunities in the past. I felt limited to where I could go and what I could accomplish. Getting accepted to Penn and being selected to be an Annexstad Scholar has boosted my confidence and effectively reassured me that I deserve a quality education and the opportunity to build my career.

Yareqzy Munoz >

2016-2020

Majors: Urban Studies, Sustainability and Environmental Management, and Latin American Studies

I want to become an accomplished Lawyer who uses my degree to form public policy. I hope to propel the voices of the marginalized and work hand in hand with my community, fighting for the rights of immigrants, like my parents. I will work hard to make sure they have the avenues to become naturalized. The Annexstad Family Foundation is the gravitational force that grounds me in the work I do. It has developed my motivation and mentorship in order to further my aspirations. Without the Annexstad family, it would have been difficult to find the courage to pursue my education.



University of Redlands

Kimberly Rios-Hernandez >

2016-2020

Major: Biology

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship brings me hope, because it motivates me to pursue my goals. Your incredible gift is reassurance that I can achieve my dreams. If people who don't know me are willing to invest in my future because they see potential, then I should be able to as well. After my undergraduate education, I plan to become a Pediatrician. Your Scholarship is such a blessing, thank you for opening the doors to my future.



Leslie Vargas <

2016-2020

Majors: Spanish and Psychology

Economic problems almost kept me away from attending college, so I am grateful that I can continue to study and work hard in order to provide for my family. Thanks to The Annexstad Family Foundation, I am proudly able to attend the University of Redlands full-time.



University of St. Thomas

Hazel Erickson ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Political Science, Communication and Journalism, and Justice and Peace Studies

I have always harbored a deep desire to help people and improve the world. I believe I can do this best through government and politics. Currently I am working as freshman legislative intern for Minnesota Public Interest Research Group in the State Capitol. I am also a member of Ignite College Council, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that trains and empowers young women to be more engaged and ultimately run for office. Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allows me to follow my passion and create my ultimate career path. I cannot thank you enough.



Janelle Garner ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Catholic Studies and Justice, and Peace Studies

I hope to make the most of it all, absorbing as much as I can in the next 3 ½ years and passing that information onto others. I believe that we as a society grow both individually and together when we share ideas and build on them. I want to be able to have intellectual conversations and use my knowledge to help solve problems, big and small, that are challenging us today.



Vanderbilt University



Sara-Catherine Conway ▲

2016-2020

Major: Medicine, Health and Society

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is a tool to accomplish my future goals. Your Scholarship serves as a reminder that there are people willing to help students in challenging situations and that a person's financial situation is not a barrier to that person's success. I am forever grateful.



Steele Speelman ◀

2016-2020

Majors: Computer Science and Economics

Being able to attend a university like Vanderbilt has made it possible to try to turn my dreams into a reality. Because of my challenging upbringing, I have learned how to decipher positive traits over negative ones to help me get to where I am at now. Receiving your Scholarship means more than just receiving money. I want to make a difference in the world, and if I can achieve greatness in the process, even better!



Amaia Cook ◀

2016-2020

Major: Philosophy

Receiving The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship has been incredibly beneficial to my college education. Not only am I relieved of the burden of university tuition, but I am also offered a compassionate support system. As a low-income student, I would not be able to attend college without the abundant generosity of others. With my education, I hope to get into law school so that I may be able to represent and help others in disadvantageous situations. Thank you Annexstad family for your kindness.

Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOLARSHIPS

Western Carolina University

William Towery ▶

2016-2020

Majors: Spanish and Criminal Justice

I would like to thank The Annexstad Family Foundation for the amazing opportunity to go through college debt-free. Coming from a family of eight children where my parents couldn't work was stressful. Now I am now able to attend school and major in both Spanish and Criminal Justice, and minor in Emergency and Disaster Management and Pre-Law. After college, I plan to attend Law School, become a trilingual Attorney, and work with the Hispanic and deaf communities. This Scholarship has given me the hope and courage to chase my dreams.



Winona State University

Jessica Harvey Rigby ◀

2016-2020

Major: Nursing

My hopes for the future all revolve around my major. I hope to be a NICU or Oncology Nurse and eventually a Nurse Practitioner. By the time I was 17, I had lost a sister, both of my parents, and several other people that were very close to me. Devastatingly enough, I am a firm believer that my background led me to where I am today. This Scholarship to me is like having support from a family that I don't have. It means the world to my education and to my future.



Haley Ward ▶

2016-2020

Major: Legal Studies

I am focused on becoming a DEA or Lawyer due to my challenging upbringing. Luckily I was adopted my sophomore year of high school and have received this generous Scholarship for college. Without your help, I would be one step behind, worrying about my financial situation. Thank you to The Annexstad Family Foundation for helping me further my education so I can learn more about the law.

Yale University

Oscar Lopez Aguirre ▶

2016-2020

Major: English

To me, The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship means a new community and support system. Your Scholarship is more than someone paying a portion of my education; it represents a group of people who believe in me and my power to make substantial change. It's a chance to meet people with similar experiences to mine and become a better citizen.



Madison Mahoney ◀

2016-2020

Major: History of Science

I come from a small town in Central Florida where I could have never dreamed of the opportunities I've had at Yale. I'm constantly motivated by my drive to absorb as much as I can while I'm here. The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship allows me to attend university and experience various interests. With my time spent at Yale, I hope to receive a well-rounded education that allows me to unite my love of global affairs with a career in medicine.

University of Notre Dame

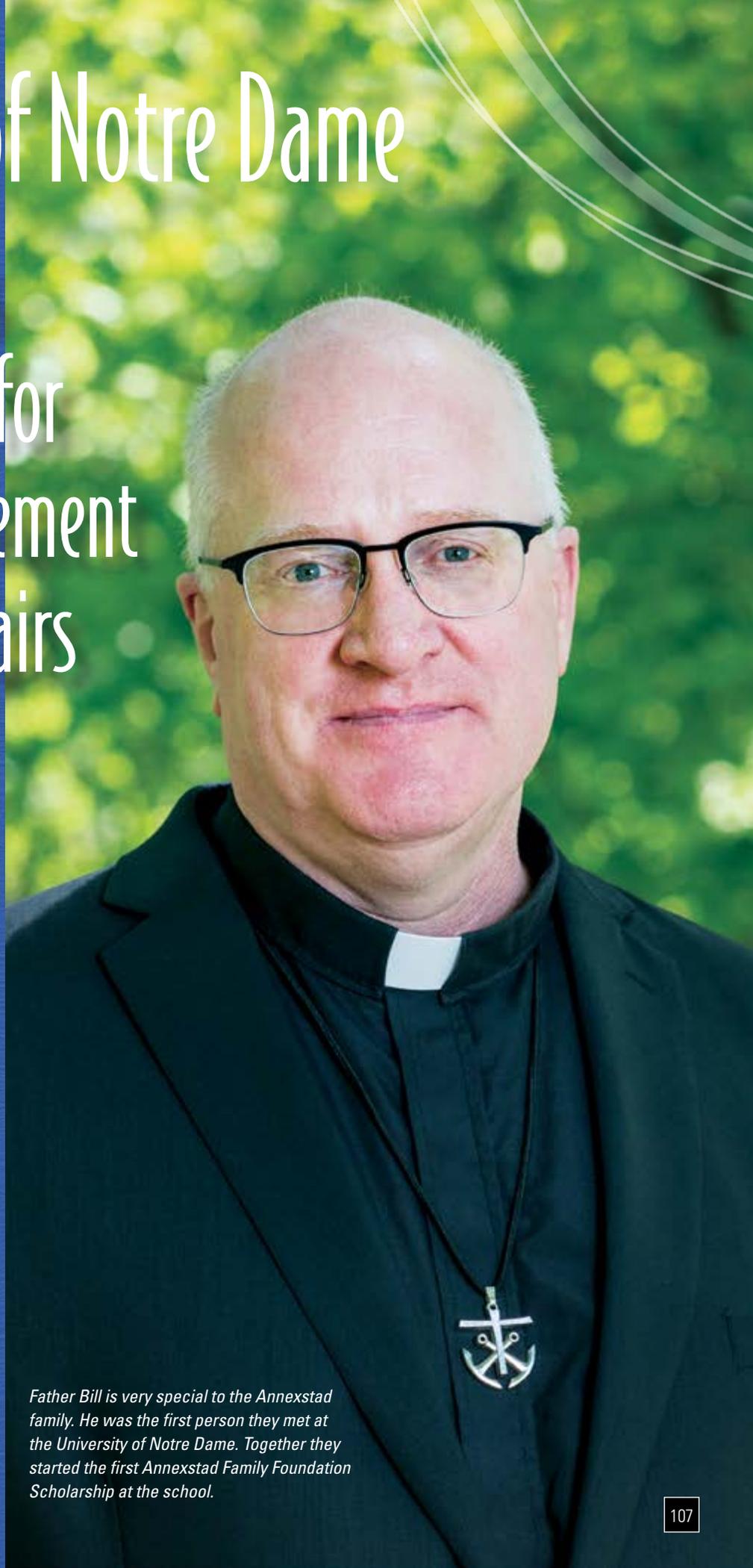
Father Bill Lies Vice President for Mission Engagement and Church Affairs

“

Al and Cathy Annexstad embody the hope, love, and confidence that they give to others. Their own stories speak of overcoming the odds. Not only do they know what it means to make the most of what they've been given, but they have chosen to give back by generously supporting young people who are trying to do the very same thing.

Annexstad Scholars everywhere are flooding this country with their talent and their hope... a hope that the Annexstad family has helped to nurture. We look forward to continuing to work with them in forming talented leaders for our country and our world.

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Father Bill is very special to the Annexstad family. He was the first person they met at the University of Notre Dame. Together they started the first Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship at the school.

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
17 Years of Changing Lives

