

External Influences	The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
<p>1840s—German Jews immigrated to the United States to escape persecution, restrictive laws, and economic hardship.</p>	
<p>1880s to 1900s—Large numbers of eastern European Jews immigrated and settled in the poorer sections of major cities including St. Louis. They worked in factories, mines, fields, and tenement sweat shops.</p>	
<p>1914-1918—World War I triggered an outbreak of nativism and xenophobia that targeted German immigrants and Americans of German descent.</p>	
<p>1917—The St. Louis Section of the National Council of Jewish Women was reestablished in St. Louis.</p>	
<p>1919—World War I veterans gathered in St. Louis. This was the first domestic assembly of the American Legion. The group’s claim for “100 percent Americanism” helped launch a period of anti-immigrant politics in the United States.</p>	<p>1920—Meta Bettman organized a committee of the St. Louis section of the National Council of Jewish Women to address the needs of immigrant families who came to the region without marketable skills. These women donated to an interest-free loan fund to assist those without economic means to attend college. The first loan for \$15 was made to a young woman to attend business college.</p>
<p>1924—The Immigration Act of 1924 limited the number of immigrants allowed into the United States by lowering the national origins quotas. These quotas were intended to severely limit immigration from eastern and southern Europe and entirely exclude immigration from Asia.</p>	
<p>1920s-1930s— Widespread Anti-Semitism contributed to quotas at many universities and influenced US immigration policies, preventing the immigration of European Jews to the United States, which would have spared them from the Holocaust</p>	<p>1929—Incorporated as the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation.</p>

<p>1939-1945—World War II. In the United States, German and Italian resident aliens were detained. Both Japanese resident aliens and American-born citizens of Japanese descent were detained, relocated, and incarcerated in internment camps, often losing their property and businesses without compensation.</p>	<p>1920s-1945—Through the end of World War II, individuals fleeing central and eastern Europe without the means to resettle or earn a living were provided interest-free loans by the Foundation to cover basic family expenses and keep young people in school, as well as to provide education and training beyond high school.</p>
<p>1948—The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 offered 200,000 Europeans entry into the United States. Millions more were left to seek refuge elsewhere.</p>	<p>1946—Meta Bettman wrote, <i>“The Scholarship Foundation has never been static. We have changed our methods as conditions warranted and have always remained progressive and open minded.”</i></p>
<p>1952—The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 continued the origin-based quota system created in 1924. The act included provisions for Asian immigrants based upon skills and family reunification.</p>	<p>1940s-1960—Through the decades that followed, the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation continued to provide educational opportunities and assistance to students. Mrs. Bettman wrote, <i>“Education is in the general interest of the nation...The student who is willing to work for an education should be given the fullest opportunity and the Foundation is giving that opportunity.”</i> That assistance included interest-free loans and occasionally grants, but also assessment and counseling through affiliated Jewish social welfare organizations.</p>
<p>1955-1975—Vietnam War</p>	<p>1960—In an era of social change and the advancement of civil rights, the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation changed its name to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and became an independent, nonsectarian organization. The board of directors was integrated, racially and religiously.</p>
<p>1965—The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 ended the national origins quota system enacted in the 1920s. The new system reunited immigrant families and attracted skilled labor from all continents.</p>	

<p>1980—The Refugee Act of 1980 standardized the process of admitting refugees to the United States and raised the numbers for admittance. Many came from eastern European countries after wars ravaged their homelands.</p>	
<p>1990—The Immigration Act of 1990 increased the number of visas for immigrants coming for family and employment reasons. Many immigrants came from Central America, and in the mid-1990s, St. Louis experienced an influx of Bosnian refugees.</p>	<p>1980s-1990s—During this period, The Foundation responded to a growing number of applications from students of Vietnamese, Central American, and Bosnian descent.</p>
	<p>2010—The Foundation hired a program director who was herself an immigrant, with experience in financial aid, support of low-income students, and extensive work with Latinx immigrant and refugee communities.</p>
<p>2011— The Alabama State Legislature requires K-12 students to provide a birth certificate proving they are citizens. Lists of students unable to provide birth certificates are periodically sent to the state legislature.</p>	
<p>2012—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), enacted through an executive order of the administration of President Barack Obama, allowed young adults ages 15-30 who entered the United States as children without documentation to apply for deportation relief, a temporary work permit, and a driver’s license.</p>	<p>2013—The Scholarship Foundation created the Education Policy Internship program to develop policy and to advocate for college access and affordability for students.</p>
	<p>2014—In response to a proposal presented by an education policy intern, The Scholarship Foundation expanded its eligibility requirement for all programs to include students approved under DACA. It added an immigrant student advisor to support undocumented and immigrant students.</p>

<p>2015—The Missouri Legislature used language in the annual education budget to effectively prohibit disbursement of funds to public institutions offering in-state tuition to undocumented or DACA students.</p>	<p>2015—The Scholarship Foundation received several grants specifically to support undocumented students and began working in Jefferson City and at the institutional level to advocate for tuition equity and adequate support for undocumented students.</p>
<p>2017—President Donald Trump announced termination of DACA. Renewal still occurred, but no new applications were accepted and no requests for Advance Parole (the ability to re-enter the US after traveling abroad) were granted.</p>	<p>2018—The Foundation took a number of steps to continue to provide support to students who are residents of the region regardless of immigration status, including advocacy, increased advising services, and creating specific scholarship programs.</p>
<p>2020—The Supreme Court ruled that the process the Trump Administration used to terminate DACA was inappropriate and that new applications and requests for Advance Parole must be accepted. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services did not immediately comply, and, in reference to the Supreme Court ruling, the Department of Homeland Security released a memo stating that new DACA applications would not be accepted, Advance Parole requests would be denied, and the length of time for work permit renewals would be reduced from two years to only one year.</p>	<p>2020—A recent letter of endorsement from Jewish Community Relations Council, Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project, and ACLU-Missouri affirms the work of the Foundation to hold true to its founding values in the face of shifting immigration policy. As was the case in 1920, The Scholarship Foundation community is committed to building and sustaining democracy through higher education access and success, including support and warm welcome for recent immigrants. That has not changed, for 100 years and counting</p>

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