



Fostering Community Engagement & Democracy

| External Influences | The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis |
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| <p>1895-1898—The St. Louis Section of the National Council of Jewish Women was organized.</p> | |
| <p>1919—Missouri ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which extended suffrage to women.</p> | |
| <p>1920—After the necessary 36 states ratified the amendment, the U.S. Constitution was amended, and national suffrage was extended to women.</p> | <p>1920—Meta Bettman organized a group of community-minded women as 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 United States without marketable skills. These forward-thinking women encouraged their friends to donate to an interest-free loan fund to assist Jewish students without economic means to attend college. The first loan for \$15 was made to a young Jewish immigrant woman to attend business college.</p> |
| | <p>1926—Meta Bettman wrote, <i>“To provide scholarships for worthy girls and boys for the purpose of cultivating their ideals, developing their characters and their intelligence is a social strategy of the first order. ... Education is our common cause, however people may differ in religion or party politics. It is the means of organizing permanent forces of American life.”</i> An educated society is still the Foundation’s mission today.</p> |
| | <p>1926—A total of 18 students had received loans or scholarships from the committee. From its founding, the Foundation was built on the concept of personal responsibility, providing interest-free loans to students with significant financial need. Careful student selection and compassionate management characterized the program then and now. For 100 years, loans have been repaid and recycled to new students.</p> |



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| <p>1929-1930s—Great Depression</p> | <p>1929—Incorporated as the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation.</p> <p>1930s—During the Depression, the Foundation supported students whose families, for the first time, faced hardship. Meta Bettman wrote, <i>“In these days of continued unemployment, the future seems empty and dark to the boys and girls who have not the privileges our own children have. It is with great satisfaction that the Foundation is able to offer hope to some of them...that these bright students may be able to take their places as responsible members in the community.”</i></p> <p>1936-1937—The first annual report of the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation was published thanking subscribers and friends for their support, and reporting that from 1920-1936, the Foundation had awarded interest-free loans to 95 students.</p> |
| <p>1941-1945—U.S. involvement in World War II</p> | <p>1941-1945—During the war years, the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation served fewer students, but continued to renew interest-free loans. Prior to the GI Bill, the Foundation was one of few organizations providing assistance based on need to postsecondary students. After World War II, the Foundation prioritized medical and social service occupations, fields sorely needed in the St. Louis community.</p> |
| <p>1944—The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (known as the GI Bill) provided benefits for returning World War II veterans including educational stipends and low-interest mortgages.</p> | |
| | <p>1948—As early as 1948, the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation began awarding loans to African American nursing students attending school at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, St. Mary's Infirmary, and Jewish Hospital.</p> |



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| <p>1955—Nationwide, interest was growing in providing scholarships for students without economic means. The Foundation began receiving letters of inquiry from organizations in other cities about “the Foundation’s set-up and functioning.” Foundation volunteers shared their expertise to help other organizations succeed.</p> | |
| <p>1950s-1960s—Civil Rights Movement</p> | <p>1960—In the era of social change and civil rights, the St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation changed its name to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and became an independent, nonsectarian organization. In addition, the board of directors was integrated. While still significantly supported by the Jewish community, the Foundation now reached out to the broader community to provide assistance and generate funds.</p> <p>1960—The brainchild of Evelyn E. Newman, ScholarShop opened its doors on Forsyth Boulevard, increasing both fundraising opportunities and visibility in the community. Through a committed volunteer work force and high-quality donated goods, proceeds from ScholarShop were a major source of funds loaned to students for 57 years.</p> |
| <p>1965—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) provided financial assistance for students pursuing postsecondary education. HEA was reauthorized with adjustments in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, 1998, and 2008. No Congress since 2008 has been able to successfully adjust and reauthorize HEA.</p> | |
| <p>1972—Title IX of the Higher Education Act prohibited schools from discriminating on the basis of sex.</p> | |



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| <p>1974—The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protected student privacy rights, including prohibiting postsecondary educational institutions from disclosing educational records without the student’s permission.</p> | |
| | <p>1978—The Scholarship Foundation opened its first office. For nearly 60 years, functions were performed in the homes of the president or other board members. The first part-time secretary was hired.</p> |
| <p>1979—The Department of Education Organization Act formed the stand-alone, cabinet-level Department of Education.</p> | |
| <p>1981-1982—Economic recession.</p> | <p>1981—During a time of recession and economic uncertainty, the Foundation tightened its requirements regarding financial need, so that the students assisted truly represented those with the least ability to finance their own education.</p> |
| | <p>1981—The Designated Scholar Loan program was founded by Nancy Kalishman, president, to increase funding for interest-free loans.</p> |
| | <p>1982— The Deedee Becker Loan program was created to aid nursing students.</p> |
| | <p>1986—ScholarShop moved from Hoover Avenue to its new location at 8211-8215 Clayton Road. The Foundation offices and the Shop were located together for the first time.</p> |
| | <p>1987—ScholarShop computerized records, including donor statements for tax purposes.</p> |
| | <p>1987—Ranken Technical College and Civic Progress collaborated with The Scholarship Foundation to expand opportunities for minority students and women to pursue postsecondary technical education.</p> |



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| | <p>1988—Newman’s Own Foundation began supporting the Foundation because A. E. Hotchner, business partner of the late Paul Newman, was a Foundation loan recipient in the late 1930s and remained committed to the interest-free loan program throughout his lifetime.</p> |
| | <p>1989—Faith Sandler was hired as the first executive director. She marked her 30th anniversary with the Foundation in 2019. Until 1989, Foundation operations were managed almost exclusively by volunteers.</p> |
| | <p>1991-1992—The Scholarship Foundation assisted the newly established East St. Louis Community Fund (now Greater East St. Louis Community Fund) in its development of an interest-free loan fund for students in East St. Louis.</p> |
| | <p>1994—The Foundation created a Student Advocate program which provided enhanced support for students navigating the college application and financial aid process. Students and alumni served as advocates. Through the Student Advocate program, the Foundation expanded the implementation of its mission of advising students on college choice and financial aid, in addition to providing funding.</p> |
| <p>1995—National College Access Network (NCAN) (now National College Attainment Network) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. The nine founding member organizations had the goal of sharing best practices for college access nationwide. The Scholarship Foundation was an early member.</p> | <p>1995—The Emergency Student Loan program was created using proceeds from the Foundation’s 75th anniversary celebration.</p> |
| | <p>1998-2000—The Foundation conducted a capital campaign raising \$3.2 million to purchase adjacent property, expand ScholarShop retail space, and renovate the Foundation offices. The new space and Shop were completed in 2000.</p> |



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| | <p>2001— The Scholarship Foundation expanded its service area to include the entire St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).</p> |
| | <p>2001—Bravo Grants were established for students who had succeeded in the face of dramatic adversity and were invested in their own future but for whom the interest-free loan was insufficient. These grants were in addition to loans and helped students “fill the gap” without excessive indebtedness.</p> |
| | <p>2001—ScholarShop annual sales increased to \$1.5 million with approximately 75% of the proceeds available to fund the loan program, due to an extensive, dedicated volunteer workforce.</p> |
| | <p>2004—The Foundation opened a second ScholarShop location in Webster Groves.</p> |
| <p>2005—Hurricane Katrina claimed more than 1,800 lives and the devastation revealed institutional racism and neglect of impoverished communities.</p> | <p>2005—The Foundation made emergency loans to four students affected by the storm to continue their education in St. Louis and donated ScholarShop gift cards totaling \$17,000 to families who relocated in the aftermath of Katrina.</p> |
| | <p>2008-2009—Faith Sandler, executive director of The Scholarship Foundation, and Jane Donahue, then vice-president of Deaconess Foundation, co-founded St. Louis Regional College Access Pipeline (CAP) as a collaborative. The goal was to make the postsecondary education system more equitable and increase degree attainment by low-income students and students of color. In 2011, CAP changed its name to St. Louis Graduates.</p> |



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| <p>2009—The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act tied increases in Pell Grant maximum awards to annual increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1%. College tuition costs increase at a much faster rate than the CPI, both before and since the passage of this act.</p> | <p>2009—Expanded partnerships including the TG Public Benefit Grant Program (now Trellis Foundation) and the Missouri Department of Higher Education.</p> |
| | <p>2010—The Housing Authority of St. Louis County worked with the Foundation to establish the Neil Molloy Memorial Scholarship for low-income students ages 17-19 and living in public or subsidized housing in the county. The scholarship is named in honor of Neil Molloy, longtime executive director of the housing authority.</p> |
| | <p>2011—Focus areas for the Foundation included direct financial support, information to students and families to facilitate sound educational choices, leadership of a collaborative network of community and educational partners, and advocacy to promote enlightened public policy.</p> |
| <p>2012—St. Louis Graduates focus areas included providing professional development for high school counselors, an online scholarship common application database, and advocacy.</p> | <p>2012—Paid community internship opportunities for students were created at local nonprofits with support from Equifax Corporate Foundation and Incarnate Word Foundation.</p> |
| <p>2012—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) 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 engage former and current Foundation students to advocate for college access and affordability for low-income students. Initial funding came from Deaconess Foundation and Incarnate Word Foundation.</p> |
| | <p>2013—Executive Director Faith Sandler received the National College Access Network’s Executive Award for Leadership Excellence.</p> |



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| | <p>2013—Foundation leadership sought out by media and national colleagues as subject matter experts on student financial aid advising, student debt, and student-led advocacy and policy issues.</p> |
| <p>2014-15—The police killing of Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, MO, and the subsequent acquittal of the white officer, sparked widespread civil unrest. A subsequent report by the Ferguson Commission recommended sweeping systemic changes for St. Louis institutions and communities.</p> | <p>2014—The Scholarship Foundation expanded its eligibility requirements for interest-free loans and grants to include DACA students. It added an immigrant student advisor to support undocumented and immigrant students. Initial funding support for DACA students was provided by Educators for Fair Consideration (now Immigrants Rising), Chip Wolkowitz Designated Scholar Loan, and The Mysun Charitable Foundation.</p> |
| | <p>2015—The Foundation launched Miki’s Closet by ScholarShop, a boutique-on-wheels with support from the Morrie Zimring family in memory of Miki Zimring.</p> |
| | <p>2015—The Active Advocacy Coalition (now the League of Student Advocates) was launched as a state-wide network of college students led by Foundation policy interns advocating for improved college access and affordability for low-income students, immigrant students, and students of color.</p> |



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| | <p>2015—Key Foundation partnerships were expanded to include organizations providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct financial support (e.g., Deaconess Foundation and the St. Louis American); • Guidance to students and families (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, Wyman Teen Leadership’s Persistence Power, St. Louis Graduates Professional Development Institute, and local high school sites); • Advanced degree attainment (e.g., Educators for Fair Consideration, National College Attainment Network, White House Reach Higher Summit, and St. Louis Graduates). |
| <p>2015-2016—Speak Up Productions, founded by former Foundation student Dan Parris, chronicled the work of seven Foundation Education Policy interns as they contended with racial tensions and disparities in access to higher education in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr. This collaboration resulted in the award-winning documentary <i>Show Me Democracy</i>.</p> | <p>2015-2016—The Scholarship Foundation created the Future Forward College Savings program by seeding college savings accounts for middle school students at Marian Middle School, De La Salle Middle School (now La Salle Middle School), and Wyman Teen Leadership Program (now Wyman Leaders); offering annual deposits for students meeting college preparatory benchmarks; and matching family savings up to \$500.</p> |
| | <p>2016—BJC HealthCare, in response to the Ferguson Commission recommendations to increase college access and affordability, created the BJC Scholars Fund in conjunction with The Scholarship Foundation.</p> |



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| | <p>2016-18—Centennial Collaboration Scholarship program for low-income students was developed through a partnership among The Scholarship Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, and an anonymous donor. In 2018, it expanded to include 100 students who were active participants in programs at collaborating youth development organizations, including College Bound, and Wyman Leaders.</p> |
| <p>2017—DACA program terminated by Executive Order. Renewal continued but no new applications were accepted.</p> | <p>2017—The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis partnered with Equifax and Prosperity Connection to develop <i>Financing Your Future</i>, an integrated financial aid literacy/capability curriculum aimed at supporting low-income, college-bound adolescents and adults, designed by and for young adults.</p> <p>2017—ScholarShop locations were closed. The Foundation sold its Clayton property and moved to the city of St. Louis at 6825 Clayton Avenue.</p> |
| | <p>2018—Equifax Finance Fellows program created, which included funding for scholarship grants and paid internships.</p> |
| | <p>2019—The Foundation received a bequest of \$3.8 million from the estate of Morton Deutch, a long-time contributor who was deeply committed to the Foundation’s mission. This gift is the largest single donation in the history of The Scholarship Foundation.</p> |
| | <p>2020— After a year-long study by an ad hoc committee, the Foundation’s board created the standing Advocacy Committee to better serve the mission of equitable educational access.</p> |



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| <p>2020—COVID-19 pandemic</p> | <p>2020—The Foundation responded to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by extending application deadlines for new and renewing students, supporting borrowers by providing automatic loan repayment amnesty, and awarding emergency microgrants for students’ urgent basic needs. The Foundation tracked and analyzed the financial solvency and COVID-19 response of each college or university attended by Foundation students in order to advise and support students during the fall 2020 semester and beyond. Student advisors guided each student in creating back-up plans to address challenges they might experience during to the COVID-19 pandemic, arming them with the tools they need to fulfil their educational goals.</p> |
| | <p>2020—The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis celebrates its centennial anniversary of providing access to postsecondary education to members of our community who otherwise would not have the financial means to fulfill their educational goals. 100 years and counting...</p> |

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