



Building Racial Equity

External Influences	The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
<p>1862 & 1890—First and second Morrill Acts passed. The acts created land-grant colleges using the proceeds of federal land sales. Initially, Black students weren't allowed to attend these new colleges, but the second act required states to show race was not an admissions criteria or to create separate land-grant institutions for people of color. Colleges' refusal to admit students of color resulted in the founding of many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).</p>	
<p>1896—<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation laws for public facilities as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality.</p>	
<p>1917—Mobs of armed whites stormed Black neighborhoods in East St. Louis, burning homes and attacking Black residents. Though called a "race riot," the violence was largely one-sided, and historians estimate that at least 100 Blacks were massacred.</p>	
	<p>1920—The Scholarship Foundation was born from an idea to create a community fund to support the education of emerging adults who had recently immigrated and become part of the St. Louis Jewish community. Founder Meta Bettman and a group of visionaries started the St. Louis community on a quest to build educational equity, cultivate leadership, and foster democracy.</p>
<p>1926—Carl Brigham creates the SAT for the College Board. Brigham was a vocal eugenicist who felt that American intelligence was declining with the increase in "racial mixture".</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>1944—The United Negro College Fund was founded to raise money for historically black colleges and universities.</p>	
<p>1944-49—The GI Bill helped more than 1 million veterans gain college education and housing; due to discriminatory practices, almost all were white.</p>	
<p>1948—President Harry Truman desegregated the armed services.</p>	<p>1948—The St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation began awarding interest-free loans to African American nursing students attending school at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, St. Mary’s Infirmary, and Jewish Hospital.</p>
<p>1954—The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS</i> outlawed public-school segregation by a unanimous vote. Implementation of this order was to progress “with all deliberate speed”, evolving over subsequent decades.</p>	<p>1954—The St. Louis Jewish Scholarship Foundation began granting at least one scholarship per year to an African American student in addition to the nursing scholarships.</p>
<p>1955—Emmett Till, age 14, was savagely beaten and killed for alleged interactions with a white woman. An all-white jury acquitted the men arrested for his murder. When Till’s body returned to Chicago, his mother directed an open casket at the funeral, and the world was now witness to the brutality of racism. That same year, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott which lasted more than a year and resulted in nationwide bus desegregation.</p>	



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<p>1960—Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a civil-rights group, was formed to give younger Blacks more of a voice in the civil rights movement.</p>	<p>1960—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 racially and religiously 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>1963—Of the 64 scholarships awarded this year eight were to African American students in diverse professions including engineering, education, and nursing.</p>
<p>1964—The Civil Rights Act of 1964 decreed the ending of segregation in public places such as lunch counters, bus depots, parks, and swimming pools. It banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). It also authorized the United States Office of Education to assist with school desegregation (decreed 10 years earlier in <i>Brown v Board of Education</i>).</p>	
	<p>1965—Virgie McNeal was the first African American to be appointed to the board of The Scholarship Foundation.</p>
	<p>1987-88—With a grant from Civic Progress, the Foundation completed the first of a two-year outreach and interest-free loan program for Black and/or female students attending Ranken Technical Institute.</p>

<p>1991-92—Rodney King survives beating by police following high speed chase in Los Angeles, CA, which was videotaped by a bystander. The following year, the officers were acquitted of excessive use of force, resulting in widespread civil unrest and rioting over years of racial and economic inequity and police use of force in Los Angeles.</p>	<p>1991-92—The East St. Louis Community Fund contracted with the Foundation “for assistance in the establishment of a revolving educational loan fund for the East St. Louis community.” The Foundation provided expertise and trained volunteers to assist 50 students.</p>
	<p>1994—The National Council of Negro Women awarded the Foundation the Distinguished Service Award for “promoting educational opportunity and access to higher education,” and for its service to the minority community.</p>
<p>2003—<i>Grutter V Bollinger</i> ruling stated that affirmative action policies in-terms of college admissions is legal but race-based quotas are unconstitutional.</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>2006—Michigan Civil Rights Initiative passed, barring public entities, including colleges and universities, from giving preferential or differential treatment to candidates based on race, sex, color, or national origin, essentially overturning <i>Grutter v. Bollinger</i>.</p>	
	<p>2012—Executive Director Faith Sandler received the St. Louis County NAACP’s “Inspiring St. Louisans” award for her “hard work and dedicated service to others within the St. Louis metro area.”</p>
	<p>2012—Deaconess Foundation, The Scholarship Foundation, and The St. Louis American Foundation partner to award nursing scholarships to low-income students in the St. Louis metropolitan area, with priority for Black students.</p>

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<p>2013—<i>Fisher v. University of Texas</i> ruling affirmed that admissions officers may continue to use race in admissions considerations (similar to <i>Grutter v. Bollinger</i>).</p>	<p>2013—The Helen E. Nash, MD Scholarship was created at the Foundation through a bequest gift, and offers renewable scholarships to low-income, African American students from the City of St. Louis. The scholarship honors Dr. Nash’s professional service, leadership, and enduring concern for the well-being of St. Louis families and youth.</p>
<p>2014-15—The killing of Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, MO, and the subsequent acquittal of the white police officer who killed him, sparked widespread civil unrest which resulted in community-wide dialogue led by the Ferguson Commission. Their report recommended sweeping systemic changes for St. Louis institutions and communities.</p>	<p>2014—The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis awarded financial aid to 37% African American students, 4% Asian American, 3% Bi-Racial/Mixed Race, 2% Hispanic, and 2% African Immigrant students. Overall, 77% of the loan recipients received Pell Grants and 36% self-identified as first generation.</p>
	<p>2016—BJC HealthCare, in response to the Ferguson Commission recommendations to address educational equity by increasing college access and affordability, created the BJC Scholars Fund in conjunction with The Scholarship Foundation.</p>
	<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 students who are active participants in programs at collaborating youth development organizations, including College Bound, and Wyman Leaders. In 2020, 70% of awarded students identified as Black and 6% identified as multiracial.</p>



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	<p>2019—42% of Scholarship Foundation students funded identified as Black. 54% of all grant dollars were awarded to Black students (more than \$1 million). 47% of Scholarship Foundation staff identified as Black, including 2 of 5 directors. 32% of the board identified as Black, including 4 of 8 executive committee members, and 3 of 5 board committees were chaired by Black women.</p>
<p>2020—The brutal police killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many other Blacks spark nationwide protests against continued police violence.</p>	<p>2020—In response to students’ experiences on their campuses, The Scholarship Foundation expands its student advocacy program, adding Campus Policy Fellows to address inequities at the institutional level.</p>

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