

A scholarship fund is a tax-free investment account that generates a source of charitable dollars to help reduce financial barriers for people seeking to advance their post-secondary education, while typically granting you tax benefits.

At the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Foundation (PASSHE Foundation), we work with you to personalize your scholarship fund to support students based on criteria that are important to you, such as fields of study, specific schools, or demographic segments.

We leverage our knowledge of the PASSHE institutions and the competitive scholarship process to ensure your scholarship dollars are having the greatest impact.

## How Scholarship Funds Work

- **Ways to Invest in Scholarship Funds**
  - **Open the fund** with an initial gift to the PASSHE Foundation of a minimum of 2 years of the annual scholarship or more in cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, mutual funds, or real estate. Most establishing gifts are tax-deductible
    - **Name the fund and designate criteria** such as financial need, academic standing and field of study.
  - **Add to an Existing Scholarship Fund** with a gift to the PASSHE Foundation, identifying an existing scholarship, in cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, mutual funds, or real estate. Most establishing gifts are tax-deductible
- **The PASSHE Foundation publicizes the scholarship** through our relationships with high schools, our website, social media and broader outreach.
- **Students apply online** by completing a single online application, and are able to access information about your as well as dozens of other PASSHE Foundation scholarships.
- **The Fund owner or designee selects recipients.** The PASSHE staff can assist in the selection process.
- **The PASSHE Foundation verifies awardees' enrollment at approved educational institutions.**
- **The PASSHE Foundation distributes funds** directly to the schools the recipients will attend.
- **Increase your fund at any time** to take advantage of additional tax benefits while growing the amount available for scholarships for students.
- **Meet the scholar.** Donors will have an opportunity to "Meet the scholar" via zoom to hear updates and network with the recipient.
- **Reporting. Donors and funders will be apprised of how the scholarship recipients are progressing biannually.**
- Each donor will receive **"Thank you" notes** from the scholarship recipient

As the PASSHE FOUNDATION handles all administrative requirements, all funds are charged a fee based on the necessary management and oversight.

*A scholarship fund at the PASSHE Foundation is a powerful gift that will change people's lives by increasing their educational opportunities. To begin the process of establishing your Innovation fund, please contact Cynthia Pritchard, President of the PASSHE Foundation at: [cpritchard@thepafoundation.org](mailto:cpritchard@thepafoundation.org) or C: 540-221-0101.*