



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

“The mission of Sandhills Community College is to provide educational opportunity of the highest quality to all the people of the Sandhills.”

Educational opportunity . . . and the chance for a better life. This is the purpose of the scholarship programs at Sandhills. While the Sandhills region is generally considered fairly affluent, most students coming to Sandhills are not. In fact, over 75% of all students at Sandhills receive some form of financial aid. Private support, provided through the scholarship programs at Sandhills are an essential part of the financial aid story. Privately-supported scholarships help well over 700 students at Sandhills each year. Many come from working families where a couple’s combined income of \$19,000 a year would disqualify them from any federal aid for education. Without a scholarship, these students would “fall through the cracks” unable to pursue their educational goals and provide a better life for themselves and their families.

Scholarships, last year amounting to over \$1,200,000, make the difference between a dream realized and a dream forever lost.

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AT SANDHILLS

When a scholarship is created, there are two elements of your Scholarship that we particularly like your input on and approval of: the name of your scholarship, and any selection criteria that you would like to guide our selection of your student.

Donors have latitude for designating criteria for scholarship recipients. There are many options for scholarship criteria.

Scholarship criteria may include:

- merit (determined by GPA & faculty recommendations),
- civic engagement/volunteerism,
- the student’s program of study

In compliance with state and federal law, for scholarship awards it is the SCC Foundation’s policy not to discriminate among students on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, national origin, religion, age, or disability.

The minimum amount required for the creation of a named scholarship is an annual commitment of \$1,000 formally pledged for at least three (3) years.

Sandhills Community College Foundation, Inc.
Scholarship & Award Programs
3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 695-3712 dailj@sandhills.edu



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After completion of the pledge period, scholarships may be continued as long as annual gifts are made to the fund or as long as there are funds remaining in the restricted account. Funding is requested in writing from the SCC Foundation Office in early spring for the upcoming school year. It is requested that annual scholarships be funded in full before May 1 prior to the beginning of the school year in which they are to be awarded.

To endow a full scholarship at Sandhills, based on our latest tuition and fees (approx. \$2,500.00 in 2019), the SCC Foundation currently requests an endowment gift of \$50,000.

The minimum amount required to endow a regular named scholarship is \$20,000. There are many options for pledging a commitment over a period of years. An endowment pledge and annual pledge payments may be set up in any way that is most convenient for the donor. We prefer that this commitment be completed within five years.

Since endowments may only spend the interest earned by the fund (up to 5% of the total endowment value based on current SCC Foundation spending policy), during the years that donors are contributing to the corpus of the endowment, donors may consider making additional annual gifts to begin awarding the new scholarship right away. For example, a donor may pledge \$12,000 per year for the next five years (a \$60,000 commitment) and allow the SCC Foundation to spend \$2,000 each of those years to begin awarding the new scholarship while the endowment corpus is still building. The SCC Foundation cannot draw upon a donor's endowment principle to make scholarship awards, so designating some funds for the initial scholarship awards while still building a new endowment is an important consideration for a pledged commitment.

The SCC Foundation Office staff are always happy to work with donors to develop a pledge schedule that will both allow donors to build a new endowment and give them the opportunity to begin helping students at the earliest possible time.

Other important information about scholarships at Sandhills:

- Scholarships are applied for online through the college's Financial Aid Office.
- The SCC Foundation Office's Scholarship Director and Student Services' Scholarship Program Coordinator – with input and recommendations from members of the college's faculty – select scholarship recipients. **To avoid bias and protect both donors and students, scholarship donors may not participate in the selection process.**

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- Final selections are made throughout the spring semester, and scholarships are awarded in early summer. If a selected student does not attend or a good candidate initially could not be identified, a scholarship may be re-awarded to another qualified student any time throughout the school year.
- At one of our annual Scholarship Dinners held in the fall, scholarship recipients have the opportunity to meet with the donor that made his or her scholarship possible.
- Gifts to the scholarship program under \$1,000 are accepted, however, are added to the Student Success Scholarship Fund and awarded to deserving students on an "as needed" basis. **Donors may not designate criteria for scholarship contributions under \$1,000.**
- Rather than inclusion at the annual Scholarship Dinner, donors contributing less than \$1,000 to an annual scholarship receive a thank you note and annual report about a current student recipient of the Student Success Scholarship Fund.
- The policies above addressing scholarships under \$1,000 also apply to scholarship endowments created below the \$20,000 minimum.
- Scholarship support to students take the form of vouchers for tuition, fees, books, etc., which are credited against the student's account at the college.
- Students awarded financial aid in excess of tuition, fees, books, and supplies may be issued a financial aid refund. Many students find these funds extremely important in supplementing their living expenses while completing their education.

Creating a scholarship is a rewarding option for giving. Establishing a scholarship requires meeting with the SCC Foundation Office's Scholarship Director.

Thank you for your interest in the Sandhills Community College Scholarship Programs.

Are you ready to change a life?

Contact:

Ms. Jennifer Dail
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Scholarship Program Coordinator
(910) 695-3712 / dailj@sandhills.edu

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