

About the Endowment

Over \$76 Million for Student Scholarships

California has always been a place of opportunity—and no institution embodies this promise more than the California Community Colleges. California’s Community Colleges, the largest higher education system in the nation, were created to provide affordable and accessible educational opportunities for all Californians. Today, the system serves nearly 3 million students each year, supplies the majority of the state’s workforce training, and provides a stepping stone for students on the pathway to four-year and graduate degrees.

The goal of the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment is to support student success and opportunity by creating a permanent fund for scholarships, offering long-term relief to the rising costs that keep many students from completing their education.

With its historic commitment to the California Community Colleges in 2008, The Bernard Osher Foundation inspired a new trend in community college philanthropy, helping raise awareness of the need to increase scholarship support to California’s community college students.

The Osher Foundation’s lead gift of \$25 million established the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment, and their commitment of another \$25 million in match dollars launched a three-year fundraising campaign to create the largest scholarship endowment for a community college system in the nation.

The California Community Colleges and the Foundation for California Community Colleges raised an additional \$28.5 million, spurring \$14.2 million in match dollars from The Osher Foundation. The result is a \$76 million permanent scholarship fund that will provide financial support to over 3,300 students in need every year, forever.

Committed to Students

For Community College students across California, the possibility of a better life begins with higher education. Yet each year more students are struggling to make ends meet and stay in school as affordability continues to become a growing barrier to student success. Today, approximately half of all Community College students still have unmet financial need after all financial aid is considered.

Scholarships from the Endowment, which were first distributed to students throughout the state in Fall 2009 and will continue to be dispersed every year in perpetuity, address this growing need.

- Scholarships of \$1,100 per academic year help financially strained students offset educational costs, making it possible for them to stay in school. The scholarships can be applied to textbooks, lab equipment, uniforms, lab fees and other instructional supplies.
- These scholarships are intended to support those students with the most financial need who have demonstrated success and commitment in their coursework. To qualify, students must have completed 24 units of degree-applicable study, be enrolled in at least six units for the ensuing semester, and qualify for a Board of Governor's fee waiver.

Increase Your Impact

Even though the match campaign is over, you can still make a lasting impact on California Community College students by contributing to the Endowment. **100 percent of every donation directly funds scholarships**, ensuring the greatest possible support for our students.

[Learn more](#) about contributing to the Endowment today!

Matching Campaign

Just 17 months after its formation, the Endowment began benefiting students throughout the state. For the 2009-10 academic year, at least 1,250 students were awarded with Osher Scholarships through this Endowment. For many, the possibility of completing their education was an unattainable dream until these scholarships were awarded.