Today, 125 years after Stanford’s opening day, a robust financial aid program stands among the university’s greatest achievements. It is possible only because of the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends.

2017–18
A Rare Promise

STANFORD IS AMONG THE FEW PRIVATE AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT PRACTICE need-blind admission, selecting U.S. undergraduates based solely on their talents, without regard for their ability to pay. Even fewer can back this commitment with generous financial aid programs that promise to meet the students’ full demonstrated need.

Benefits of Stanford’s financial aid policies include:

• **Supporting the best and brightest students.** A Stanford scholarship opens the door to innumerable opportunities for academic and personal growth. For those who are the first in their families to attend college, their achievements can inspire whole families and even communities.

• **Building a talented and diverse community.** Different backgrounds and perspectives create a richer educational environment for all Stanford students, who learn as much from each other as they do in the classroom.

• **Preparing leaders of the future.** When students are prepared for leadership roles in business, public service, research, and other fields, their influence is immeasurable. Stanford graduates have a positive impact on countless communities and lives beyond the Farm.

What It Takes

STANFORD’S COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL AID IS COSTLY. ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS MAKE all the difference in our ability to sustain this pledge. Undergraduate scholarships remain one of Stanford’s highest fundraising priorities, with endowed scholarships and annual gifts equally essential.

“…keeping open an avenue whereby the deserving and exceptional may rise through their own efforts.”

*Jane Stanford*, cofounder of Stanford University
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF STANFORD’S FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM. Dedicated to supporting students in perpetuity, they generate the bulk of our resources and help carry our commitment into the future.

Funding a Stanford scholarship is a direct way to open doors for deserving students and help them become tomorrow’s leaders. It also provides a personal connection to today’s students and a fulfilling way to give back.

THE STANFORD FUND: MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS

ANNUAL GIFTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE from endowed scholarship funds and the total need of today’s students. Because the university relies heavily on annual gifts, the broad-based support of all undergraduate alumni is essential.

In some cases, The Stanford Fund meets a student’s entire need; in others, Stanford Fund dollars are added to endowed scholarship funding to complete a student’s financial aid package.

The impact of Stanford Fund gifts on the bottom line is immediate and significant: A gift of $10,000 exceeds the annual payout on a $175,000 endowed fund.

While gifts of any size truly make a difference, donors who give at least $25,000 per year to The Stanford Fund establish scholarships that underwrite financial aid for individual student recipients. Like endowed scholarship donors, Stanford Fund Scholarship donors have an opportunity to learn about and get to know their student recipients—an especially rewarding experience.

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS: ROUNding Out the Experience

TOP-NOTCH ATHLETICS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STANFORD EXPERIENCE, COMPLEMENTING the university’s world-class academics and research. Merit-based athletic scholarships are a powerful recruiting tool and often a determining factor in enabling some of the world’s best student-athletes to choose Stanford. For these high achievers, the Farm is one of the only places where they can play alongside the best while learning with the brightest.

Just as with need-based scholarships, donors who establish endowed athletic scholarships have the chance to get to know the students they support over the years. Annual donors who give at least $25,000 per year also have the chance to meet their student-athlete beneficiaries and may enjoy benefits related to athletic programming.
Freedom from Debt

WHILE ALL STANFORD STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HELP FINANCE THEIR OWN EDUCATION, they are not required to take out loans. The expected student contribution is now low enough that most undergraduates are able to meet the obligation with summer jobs, part-time campus work, savings, and/or outside scholarships. As a result, Stanford students now incur far less debt than the national average, and the majority graduate debt-free.

These policies are reducing the financial burden of students and their families. They also allow Stanford to remain competitive with peer institutions and continue to attract the most promising students.