

# THE OPEN DOORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

available for one year only!

*A 2:1 permanent match for endowed gifts to specific pilot programs that will help students with financial need to thrive at Penn State*

**Minimum gift:** \$30,000, which becomes an endowment of \$90,000 with Penn State's match

**Program timeline:** July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, or until available matching funds are expended

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**Penn State has a long history and a proud tradition of opening the door to higher education for students from every economic background.** Our University was founded to serve the children of farmers and laborers, and as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's land-grant institution, we remain committed to access and affordability. Rising costs and declining state support for higher education have resulted in tuition increases across the nation, and the burden has been especially hard to bear for those students—undergraduates who are among the first in their families to attend college or who come from low-income households and underrepresented populations—for whom a Penn State degree represents the greatest opportunity to change their economic destiny. **Ultimately, only 50 percent of students from the poorest households graduate within six years.**



**PennState**  
University Development

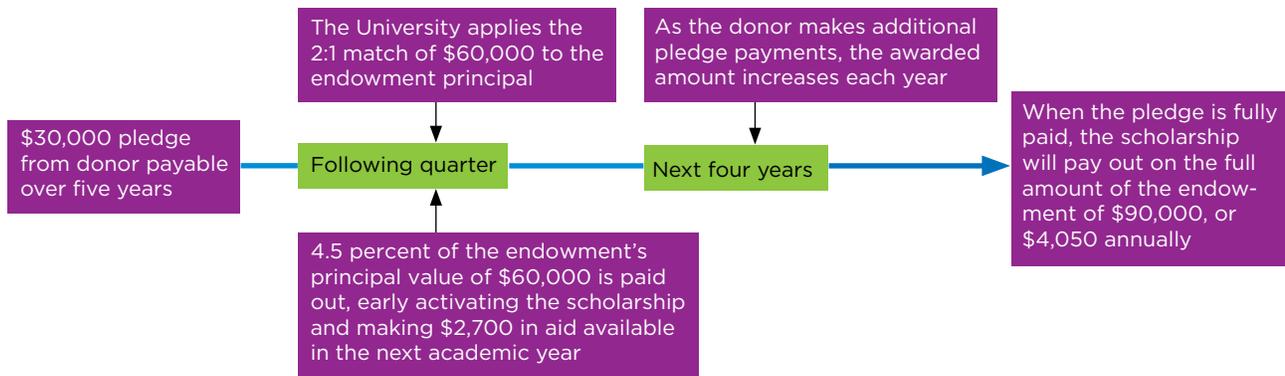
**A GREATER  
PENN STATE  
FOR 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY  
EXCELLENCE**

To address the financial, academic, and personal challenges that our undergraduates face in earning their degrees, the University has created a range of pilot programs that can help them to succeed (see next page). Alumni and friends can help to launch these programs and meet the urgent needs of students through their endowed gifts, and Penn State will **triple the impact** of this support by providing a permanent 2:1 match of donor gifts to the endowment's principal.

While donors may take up to five years to fulfill their pledges, the **Open Doors Scholarship Program** shifts funds from the University into new endowments immediately, so that students can begin benefiting from a gift in the semester after the scholarship is established, and your **commitment will help undergraduates both right away and far into the future.**

[greaterpennstate.psu.edu](http://greaterpennstate.psu.edu)

## YOUR GIFT, PENN STATE'S MATCH



### THE OPEN DOORS PILOT PROGRAMS

For many students, the greatest tuition increase of all becomes the need to extend their education over five years or more, as they balance full-time jobs with full-time course loads, struggle to make the transition to Penn State and between our campuses, and try to find their place in our academic community. The following pilot programs have been designed to keep students on track to their degrees. The Open Doors Matching Program is designed to create scholarships that support all of the pilot programs. Donors may restrict their scholarship to a specific college or campus and indicate a preference for one of the pilot programs. In awarding scholarships, the University will give priority to students with the highest level of financial need—presently defined as those whose families can cover only 25 percent or less of their educational costs.

#### **Pathway to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS):**

Launched in 2015, this program helps entering students to make the transition to a Penn State Commonwealth campus other than University Park in the summer before their first year, learning skills, establishing connections, and earning credits that will help them to graduate on time. Those who successfully complete the first session can return for a second summer.

#### **Student Transitional Experiences Program (STEP):**

Designed to help undergraduates who will be completing their degrees at University Park after spending their first two years at one of Penn State's other campuses, STEP offers a combination of scholarship support, special courses, mentoring, and other

opportunities for students to become immediately engaged in their new academic community.

**raise.me:** Students enrolled at specific Pennsylvania high schools serving low-income areas or those enrolled in the federal free lunch program, regardless of high school, can earn micro-scholarships toward their Penn State education by meeting goals that will lay a strong foundation for their future studies, such as “A” level work in their classes, perfect attendance, and participation in testing such as the PSAT.

**Complete Penn State:** Unexpected financial hardships—a parent’s job loss, a family illness—can sometimes force undergraduates to leave the University even as the finish line is in sight. This program will provide aid/assistance to students when an unpaid bill or a gap in aid might otherwise keep them from graduating.

**Smart Track:** World Campus students face many of the same challenges as traditional students in their transition to higher education, as well as experiences specific to distance learners. The Smart Track program offers scholarship support, a two-semester course on academic and life skills, mentoring from peers and faculty, and assistance in becoming an engaged member of the World Campus community.

For more information, please contact:

David J. Lieb  
Senior Associate Vice President  
Office of University Development  
814-863-0694  
djl120@psu.edu