



PennState
University Development

RENAISSANCE FUND

Supporting the best and brightest students with the greatest financial need

In 1969, five Penn Staters decided that more could and should be done to keep the University's opportunities within reach for those academically talented undergraduates who must overcome economic challenges to earn their degrees. Together, the group established the Renaissance Fund—a scholarship program that recognizes and encourages achievement both among Penn State students and in communities across the Commonwealth.




Over the last five decades, more than \$18 million has been raised through the Renaissance Fund to support students with records of academic achievement and proven financial need. Donors can make gifts to the general Renaissance Fund, create separate scholarships in their own names or in honor of others, or add to one of the endowments recognizing the annual Renaissance Fund honorees, extraordinary individuals whose leadership and service have had a profound impact on their communities. Income from all Renaissance Fund endowments is directed to scholarship support for talented students who might not otherwise be able to choose Penn State and who help to make the University a stronger and more diverse institution.

From the first five contributors to the Renaissance Fund, support for the program has grown dramatically—and so has the need of Penn State students. More than ever before, scholarships are making the difference in the educational choices of high-achieving undergraduates. Through support for the Fund, alumni and friends can help us to ensure that the University continues to represent the opportunity of a lifetime for future generations.

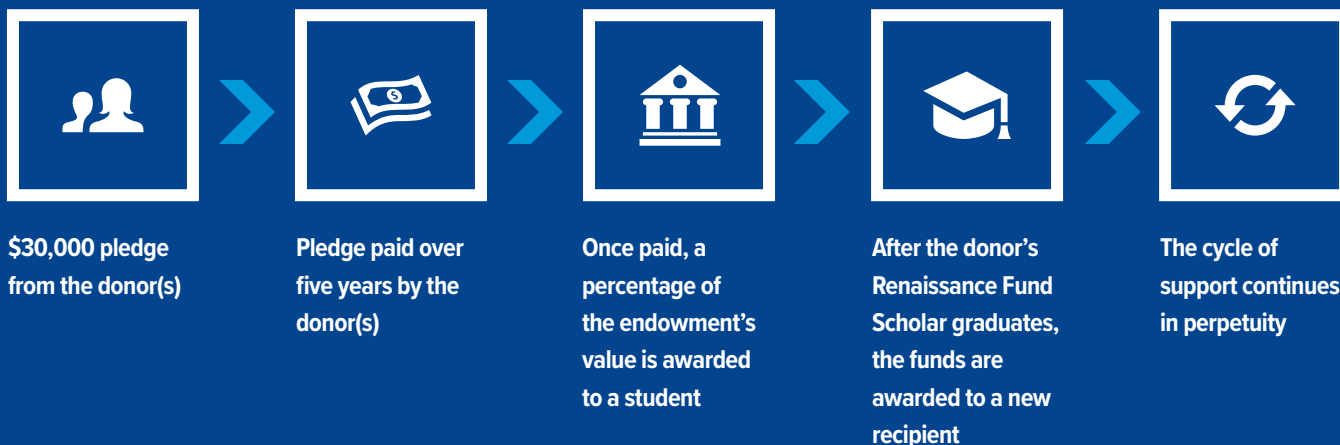
The Renaissance Fund offers Penn State's alumni and friends the most affordable means of establishing a scholarship at the University. A Renaissance Fund Scholarship may be created with a gift of \$30,000, payable over up to five years. Currently, an endowment at this level will allow the Renaissance Fund to award approximately \$2,000 per year to one recipient, and this support will be renewed each year throughout the recipient's Penn State education up to a total of \$8,000 in support over eight semesters, as long as the recipient maintains a minimum GPA of 3.0 and continues to demonstrate financial need.

Office of Annual Giving

2583 Gateway Dr., Suite 200 | State College, PA 16801

1-888-800-9163 | annualgiving@psu.edu | raise.psu.edu | @RaisePennState   

HOW THE RENAISSANCE FUND WORKS



Renaissance Fund Scholarships may be designated as University-wide or targeted to a particular non-University Park campus, but no other criteria (college, academic major, geographic origin, etc.) may be specified, to ensure that support is being directed to the most talented students with the greatest financial need. The group of students who receive Renaissance Scholarships reflects the diversity of Penn State as a whole.

Donors who wish to make gifts to the Renaissance Fund below the \$30,000 level may:

- Contribute to the general Renaissance Fund endowment, which pools gifts from alumni and friends and awards scholarships to undergraduates across the University.
- Support an existing named Renaissance Fund Scholarship, including those recognizing past Renaissance Fund honorees.

The Students Who Benefit

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Renaissance Fund Scholarships helped 838 undergraduates to overcome financial challenges and excel at Penn State. Among the students who benefitted from the Renaissance Fund during this time:

- 48 percent are the first generation in their family to attend college.
- 45 percent come from low-income households.
- 47 percent come from single-parent homes.

In every undergraduate college and at every undergraduate campus, Renaissance Fund Scholars are setting the standard for their peers, earning a median grade-point average of 3.67 and serving as leaders inside and outside the classroom. Past support for the Renaissance Fund has had a profound impact on these students' lives, and through gifts to establish new endowments and increase existing funds, Penn State alumni and friends can make a difference for future undergraduates with exceptional ability and need.

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