

Growth Through Partnership

As we celebrate another year of scholars graduating from college and new awardees joining the Phillips Scholar community, we are pleased to recognize how the addition of donor partners to our community has grown our impact in recent years. In this current school year, we have six scholarship programs funded by private individuals and foundations. These programs are supporting almost ninety additional awardees, both new and returning, which amounts to 17% of our current scholars.

Given how large a part of our work these programs have become over the last several years, we are dedicating much of this newsletter to highlighting these partnerships. You can find additional information on these programs, as well as features on other elements of our work, in our recently released brochure and on our website.

How We Got Here: A Timeline

We are gratified that our long history of investment in New England students has earned us a strong reputation in the region and beyond. In 2015, an anonymous donor who knew and trusted our process began donating to Phillips to fund hardship grants for students needing a first-time award or award increase due to a recent setback. This experience helped us create a successful model for partnering with donors to administer additional, named scholarship programs.

2018

The Western Massachusetts Scholarship was established by the Janey Fund Charitable Trust.

2019

The H&H Scholarship was funded by Henrietta Gates and Heaton Robertson.

2020

The Efrosini Demoulas Scholarship and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation's **Bright Minds Scholarship** were both launched.

Fotene Demoulas, the Efrosini Demoulas Scholarship's Founder, "had long envisioned setting up a scholarship program in memory of her Yiayia (Greek for grandmother), who was an important figure in her upbringing and pursuit of higher education." She explained, "We chose to partner with Phillips to bring our vision to life because we recognized the immense value of the Phillips team's decades of experience and wisdom. Our partnership with Phillips has reinforced and supported our mission to remove barriers to success for talented and hardworking students to help them achieve their academic potential in college and prepare for rewarding careers and longterm success."

The Salem Five Charitable Foundation Manager Meghan Needham shared, "Salem Five is committed to making a positive impact in the communities we serve while ensuring vibrant and viable futures for those who live in those communities. When we were introduced to the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, we felt there was symmetry between the two organizations and our partnering with Phillips would be a benefit to both parties."

2021

The Fischer Family Scholarship was created by Phillips Scholar Kim Fischer and her husband Noah. Nobody knows our work better than our recipients, and that is why we are especially honored that an alumna of the scholarship is providing a scholarship through Phillips. She said of our partnership, "Education is very important for me, and it's heart wrenching that financial circumstances can prevent an exceptional high schooler from attending a college of their choice. I am extremely grateful for the Phillips Scholarship for my own academic journey and I wanted to give back to the community that helped me."

2022

The Gordon Hall Family Scholarship, funded by Gordon Hall and Taffy Knowlton Hall, is our latest addition. Gordon Hall was a self-described "Yankee to [his] core" who had deep roots in the North Shore of Massachusetts, including a family business based in Lynn. The Gordon Hall Family Scholarship program is therefore primarily serving students from Lynn, where Phillips is well-integrated into the college access landscape. It was an honor and a privilege to develop this program with Gordon - who believed deeply in uplifting others through the power of education - before his recent passing. We are proud to carry on his legacy through the Gordon Hall Family Scholarship.

Fostering Connections with the H&H Scholarship Program

Since 2019, Henrietta Gates Robertson and Heaton Robertson have provided the H&H Scholarship through Phillips. Part of what attracted the Robertsons to work with Phillips was the sense of connection to our awardees; this past August, we were pleased to deepen that connection by hosting a meeting between the Robertsons and some of their scholarship recipients. Below are photos of Henrietta (right) and Heaton (left) with two H&H Scholars at the Phillips Scholarship Office in Salem.



Pictured left: Emy Diaz Sanchez, Worcester State University '23. Pictured right: Jasmine Gonzalez, Merrimack College '23.

Outstanding Outcomes from the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program

Takara Weir, Westfield State University '21, was one of the first recipients of the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program funded by the Janey Fund Charitable Trust. This program, launched in 2018, was the first donor-funded scholarship program administered by the Phillips Scholarship to offer renewable four-year scholarships to new awardees. Because she took summer courses to graduate from college in three years, Takara was the very first graduate of a named scholarship program in the Phillips community. Several more Western Massachusetts Scholars graduated in 2022.

During her time in college, Takara excelled academically, worked as a notetaker on campus and a camp counselor off campus, participated in the Student Education Association of Massachusetts (SEAM), and volunteered her time as a mentor and positive role model in the local community. Now, she is in her second year as a 2nd grade teacher at Brightwood Elementary School in Springfield, and is also finishing up her Reading Specialist Master's Degree at Elms College.

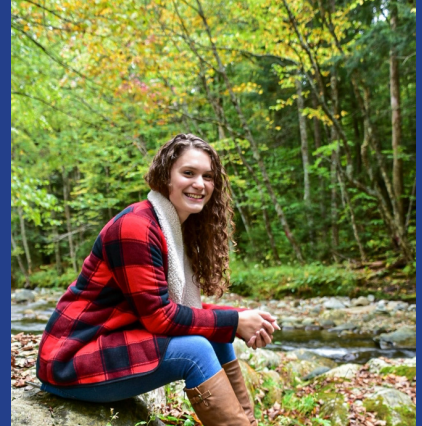
Takara told us, "My college education provided me with the foundation of what I would need for my job as a classroom teacher and the rest I learned from being hands-on in the classroom... The [Western Massachusetts] Scholarship helped me focus just on the academics and not stress about the financial aspects of college. I was able to finish within three years and by not having as much of a financial strain from undergrad, it allowed me to have a smooth transition straight into grad school."



Meet the 2022 Phillips Alumni Scholars

Since 2003, our former recipients and their families have generously supported the addition of new scholars to our community through the Alumni Scholars program. In the mold of the alumni who donate towards their awards, Alumni Scholars exemplify the characteristics of a Phillips Scholar: academic excellence, dedication to serving others, strong work ethic, and excellent character. This year, we received a record amount in contributions towards the Alumni Scholar program, allowing us to feature five Alumni Scholars for the first time.

Kellette Boynton is a graduate of Otter Valley Union High School in Vermont. She is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at the University of Maine, Farmington. Kellette was able to get a jumpstart on her career preparation through the Human Services program at her high school, which placed her in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. She expanded upon that experience as an educator for first graders at her church, and by serving as a student representative on the local school board. On top of those commitments, Kellette participated in both the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society and worked multiple retail jobs during her time in high school. She is now eager to delve into her college coursework which, "will provide me with an education and experience that [will] help me to achieve my goal of becoming an Elementary School Teacher."



Kimberly Manyanga is currently pursuing her degree in Public Health at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She plans to proceed directly to their accelerated master's in public health program after completing her bachelor's degree. She said, "I'm particularly interested in the maternal and childcare sector of healthcare equity and hope to one day become an OB/GYN serving underserved communities." Kimberly developed her interest in this professional path through experience as a Clinical Research Apprentice at Lahey Hospital and in an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification course during her time at Billerica Memorial High School. She has been active in her local Zimbabwean and church communities as well, and has worked in food service and childcare.

Joshua O'Brien, the Class of 2022's valedictorian at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, is now pursuing his bachelor's degree in Operations and Information Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During high school he was the president of his class, captain of the track and cross-country teams, a member of the Key Club and the National Honor Society, and stockboy at the local market. Joshua's high school counselor described his valued presence at school as "a lunch buddy to new students and... a successful math tutor to several of his peers... not just a fantastic student and leader but a wonderful person." In Joshua's own words, "it is an incredible feeling being able to participate in something larger than yourself," and he looks forward to being involved in community organizations at college.



Jasley De Jesus spent her time at Providence's Central High School taking full advantage of programs that taught her the skills she would need for the next phase of life. She explained, "Through programs like Youth In Action and Generation Teach, I've been strengthening my leadership, communication, and teaching skills and I also learned from peers and adult allies, which helped shape who I am today." Today, she is a student of Childhood and Special Education at New York University, preparing to be a mentor for others like the teachers who helped her succeed as a student even when faced with challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic. Jasley also played tennis throughout high school and worked last summer as an event ambassador at the zoo.

Read about our fifth Alumni Scholar on the next page.

Steven Hardy did not immediately enroll in college after graduating from high school. Instead, he worked as a firefighter and then joined the United States Coast Guard. He shared, "I love to help people, which is what drew me to join the fire department, so the Coast Guard was the perfect next step." While on active duty for the Coast Guard in Portsmouth, New Hampshire he became especially interested in protecting fisheries and upholding wildlife conservation laws. In 2021, he enrolled at the University of New Hampshire, where he is majoring in Environmental Science. He continues to serve in the Coast Guard as a reservist and is active in community gardening and sustainable agriculture organizations.



A Call for Volunteers

Are you fluent in Arabic, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, or Khmer? We are seeking assistance in translating a one-page handout describing our application process for potential applicants. If you are interested in helping, please email Amy Moran Lowe: alowe@spscholars.org.

Words of Thanks

We are very grateful for the generous alumni, parents and friends of the scholarship listed below, who made donations from November 2021 through October 2022. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
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