Scholarships & Bursaries: Change Lives, Advance Knowledge

Students need your help to find their calling, make discoveries and reach their potential. It all starts with supporting their education.

Gifts That Build Dreams

Kaylan Burns was 13 years old when her mom gave her the money talk. The teenager had just started babysitting but had dreams of becoming a doctor. Her mom was firm: Burns had to save half her earnings for university.

But babysitting pay only goes so far. And as a single parent, Burns’ mom could offer only limited help. About four years later, Burns tallied up the costs for tuition, fees, books and rent and knew she was in trouble. “It’s an overwhelming amount of money,” she says.

Help came from a man who also had big ambitions for higher education. Like Burns, Neil Siemens, ’66 BSc, dreamed of becoming one of the first people in his extended family to attend post-secondary school.

As a foster child in the 1940s, Siemens did not have parents to help him save or plan for university. He found the drive on his own. “Growing up, I thought I had absolutely zero academic ability. But I found I could do quite well if I applied myself. And that made me realize that I did have some potential.”

After a long and happy career, Siemens created two entrance scholarships to give UAlberta students the funding opportunities he didn’t have. In 2015, Burns was awarded one of them.

“I’m so grateful. I don’t even know how to put that into words. That donation has gone a long way for me.”

— KAYLAN BURNS, RECIPIENT OF SIEMENS SCHOLARSHIP

Siemens finds joy knowing he helps others reach their dreams: “I don’t want them to feel as if they’re accepting charity. I would like them to feel good about the fact that somebody made it a little bit easier for them to attend university.”

Watch the full story of Neil Siemens and Kaylan Burns and the moment they finally meet: uab.ca/Kaylan.

Donate online at uab.ca/GivetoStudents
Students Need Your Help Today

For students like Kaylan Burns, university is a significant investment. Some students have no choice but to take on debt, while others must juggle part-time jobs with their studies.

Financial support may be all they need to reach their potential. Your investment ensures the talents of students are not wasted but harnessed for the betterment of our communities and the world. Here are some ways you can help:

• **Start a bursary, scholarship or both:** Scholarships reward top-performing students, while bursaries help them overcome financial barriers.

• **Reach undergraduate or graduate students:** When you help an undergrad, you help them fully commit to their studies. When you support graduate students, you support their quest to produce original research or advance knowledge in their discipline. Nourish these discoveries and you don’t just enhance the minds and careers of students, you make the world better.

• **Pick the field of study important to you:** Help students in whatever faculty, program or research area you prefer.

• **Create a lasting legacy:** A minimum contribution of $1,000 a year creates one scholarship or bursary, ensuring one student is recognized for their hard work, ambition and talent. With a minimum contribution of $25,000, you can endow your gift for future generations. Your contribution will be invested, and the earnings will support students year after year. In 1921, Scottish immigrant James Aiken established a prize in English language and literature with a $2,000 gift. Almost a century later, the interest on Aiken’s investment helps someone every year with a $1,000 award. That is the power of an endowment.

“**I just feel that by continuing to give, I’m going to wind up feeling good about it myself because you’re helping somebody else. And maybe it’s the only way they can get through or continue to attend university.**”

— NEIL SIEMENS, ’66 BSC, DONOR

**Bursaries** help students based on their financial need.

**Scholarships** recognize superior academic achievement and appear on a student’s transcript.

Financial support of any amount makes a difference. You can give any amount to an existing bursary or scholarship. To create a new award, your minimum commitment is:

• **$1,000** a year for five years to create an annually funded scholarship or bursary.

• **$25,000** as a one-time gift to create an endowed scholarship or bursary, which lasts forever.

To make a gift or for more information:

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