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Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, **ACPS Superintendent** Jasmine Milone, SFA Executive Director, '85



Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Impact Repor

"WATCHING MY SONS MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH ACPS has been amazing... seeing them each find their own way, the teachers or administrators they click with, the activities that pique their interest and the diverse friend groups they build. These relationships have helped create their history and built them into the young men they are. Now, with the SFA, I love to see students so similar to my kids, whose paths I cross daily. One of my favorite parts of being involved with the SFA is the awards ceremony. I marvel over their personal histories and how they have woven their way through their days at ACPS with the choices they have made, and the paths they are about to embark on-knowing they can continue to rely on the support of this city-wide community."—Kevin Jahns

"MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO THE US when I was in the 6th grade, and I became a new thread in this incredibly rich, vibrant tapestry that is Alexandria City Public Schools. Since that time, I've had the privilege of witnessing my three children journey through ACPS. Whether a student is a first-generation American or a fourth-generation Alexandrian, there is something inherently unique about our schools. The variety of fibers is what makes us so beautiful and resilient. Every day I feel lucky to be part of a community that values the concept of our tapestry and is committed to its growth."—Jasmine Milone

This past year has been filled with proud moments. Our students never cease to inspire us, and we're humbled by the sheer number of Alexandrians who care about these remarkable young people. Finally, combine the stories we hear from those supporters and the reasons they want to be involved, and the fire in our bellies is stoked, moving us to do even better.

With vast gratitude,

Kevin Jahns, Chair, SFA Board of Trustees

Sarah Zapolsky

lasmine Milone, SFA Executive Director, TCW '85

Jasmine Millon

Director of College

Deputy



First SFA Executive Director Kitty Porterfield with three of the 207 award recipients at the May 2023 Award Ceremony.

Intertwined, we become stronger as each student's life expands with a growing array of choices. Enriched with greater possibilities, the result is a unique and beautiful tapestry. Faculty, administration and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria staff get to witness this each school year and every day leading up to graduation—from college!

"As an African American woman, I want to provide inspiration to women and people of color to follow their interests. I want to help people by stopping medical discrimination of all kinds. I visited my college, GMU, where I got to see the technology nursing students had access to. There were VR systems and robots to simulate real-life patients. All this and more is what I will experience because of your great gift. As a firstgeneration student, I am extraordinarily grateful for the aid in fulfilling my passion...by giving me this scholarship, you are saying you believe in me, and I promise that I won't let you down."

-Rosemond Johnson, SFA Award Recipient

"As a first-generation student, I am extraordinarily grateful for the aid in fulfilling my passion...by giving me this scholarship you are saying you believe in me.<sup>9</sup>

—Rosemond Johnson. SFA Award Recipient



MY NAME IS RANGENA DOTAKI and I am a proud graduate of Alexandria City High School, award recipient and donor. My family arrived in the United Stated from Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1983 and had the good fortune of moving to Alexandria, VA in 1988. There were altogether 12 households in the Landmark area-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins-with all of us children enrolled in Alexandria City Public Schools. I went through William Ramsay, Francis C. Hammond and Alexandria City High School, graduating in 1996.

Our journey to achieving the American dream was not easy. My parents worked in hotels, washing dishing and cleaning rooms. On the weekends, they cleaned people's homes, never making more than \$30,000 per year with a household of six. We were never hungry, thankfully, and had family and community support.

My options for college were limited and while I worked very hard, navigating the system as the first of my 63 first cousins to apply to college was no easy feat. I enrolled in the University of Virginia on August 25, 1996.

I graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Spanish, with minors in

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aunch of First-Generation College Readiness Group

Gala Design and Planning Begins **ACHS College Fair** 

Virginia College Application Week

National Scholarship Providers Association Annual Conference SFA All Titan Alumni Happy Hour

Get to Know College Advising/Classroom Presentations Questbridge Scholarship Support

An appreciation Breakfast of SFA Champions

Clash of the Titans Campaign Begins

Peer-Forward/AVID Outreach



SFA AWARD RECIPIENT PORTRAITS: Taki Sidley Photography

MOST OF US GO TO A NEW SCHOOL when we enter high school. What about a school in a new country learning in a different language? How would you proceed—how would you succeed? Quite a number of 2023 SFA award recipients are born outside of the US and some do not speak English as their first language.

"Thanks to this help that I received, I will be able to fulfill my dream of being a bilingual social worker so that I can help children who come to this country and feel alone and misunderstood. Thanks to my personal experience and how my social worker helped me when I arrived in this country, I knew I wanted to do something similar or the same with my life. I would very much like to achieve a high level of studies in this career so that I can help not only school children but also children from the whole city and if I could from the whole country."

-Alexandra Bustillos Najera, SFA Award Recipient

"I will be able to fulfill my dream of being a bilingual social worker so I can help children who...feel alone and misunderstood." —Alexandra Bustillos Najera, SFA Award Recipient Chemistry and Religious Studies. I joined the dotcom era boom in information technology consulting—the earned income enabling my family to purchase a home together in Fairfax, VA. Over the next six years, I ensured that my three siblings would graduate from college and obtain gainful employment, and take over the household expenses. This was then my opportunity to enroll in Harvard Business School in 2006, graduating with a Masters in Business Administration in 2008. I started my own federal contracting business in 2021 and currently live with my husband, Larry and our two children, Samira and Rafig in Vienna, VA.

Two critical factors spurred my academic and career success. The first is my father who fought deep-seated cultural programming to simply allow me to attend college! Thanks to my father's initial encouragement, most of my first cousins living in the US also graduated from college.

The second factor is the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. As a student, I understood what was expected of me, but I had no knowledge of the college admissions process—from SATs to FAFSA, it was all unknown territory. At that point in our journey, most adult members of my family

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could not read English, and I was generally responsible for reading mail, writing bills, filling out forms and applications, even doing our annual taxes. I literally could be found every single day in the SFA offices, getting help on which colleges to apply to and most importantly, how to pay for it all. One of the SFA reps in the office encouraged me to apply to UVA, which I believed was

Clash of the Titans Winning Class Announcement SFA Scholarship Application Opens

Virginia College Access Network Annual Conference Weekly "Appy Hour" for Students' College Planning SFA FAFSA Workshop



Alexandria Scottish Walk Parade

SFA Women's Seasonal Soiré-e

Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting, SFA FAFSA Completion Workshop

Weekly "Appy Hour"

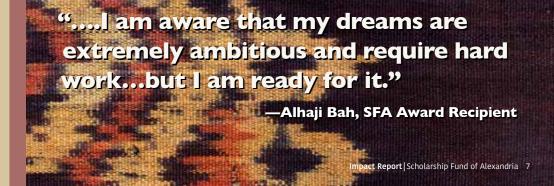
SFA Guys' Night Event (Men's Beer Bourbon & BBQ)

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT. How can you match your dream with the reality of the cost of tuition, room, and board? 207 SFA award recipients entered over 60 different colleges this school year as freshman through their ingenuity, hard work and the Alexandria community's recognition that not being able to further your education makes too many dreams

stop short.

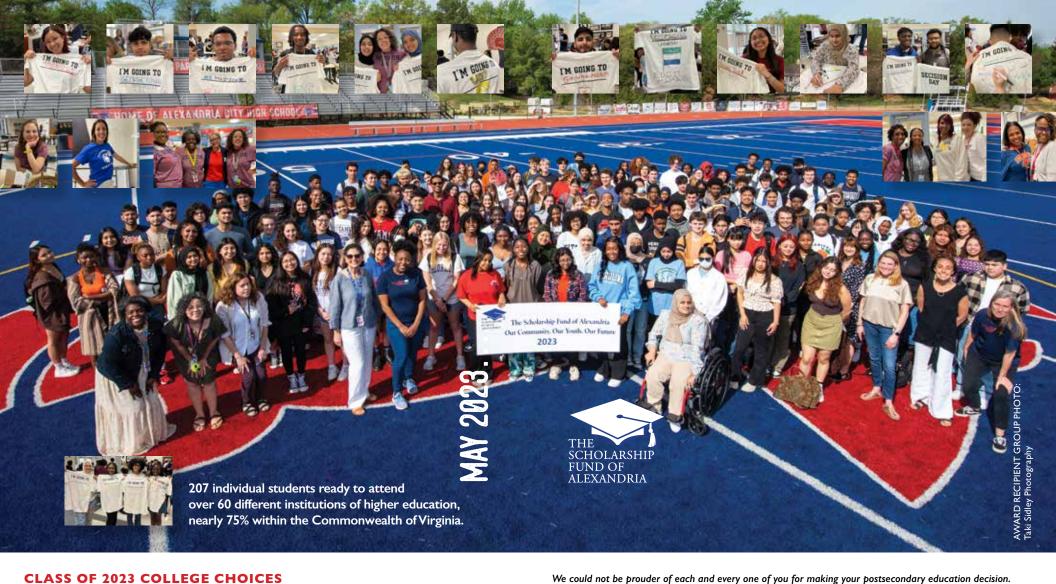
"After my undergraduate years, I plan on taking my MCAT exam and applying to a medical school... and becoming a surgeon. I am aware that my dreams are extremely ambitious and require hard work, perseverance, and patience but I am ready. I am in it for the long haul. This scholarship puts me one step closer to achieving these goals and it is pointless to try and put how thankful I am into words. I am really appreciative of this opportunity that I have been given and I will not waste it."

-Alhaji Bah, SFA Award Recipient



**SFA Executive** Director **lasmine Milone** with 2022 Women's Soirée guest speaker Rangena Hotaki.





#### **CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE CHOICES**

American University American University of Paris Anglo-American University Averett University Brigham Young University Bryn Mawr College Carnegie Mellon University Christopher Newport University Concordia University

**Drexel University** 

Eastern University

Elon University **Emory University** George Mason University George Washington University Georgetown University Georgia Institute of Technology Hampton University Hollins University **Hood College** James Madison University Longwood University Marymount University

Middle Tennessee State University Montgomery County College Morgan State University New York University Norfolk State University Northern Virginia Community College Old Dominion University Pennsylvania State University Radford University Radford University, Carillion

Santa Barbara

Savannah College of Art and Design Spelman College St. John's College Temple University The College of William & Mary The New School **Tufts University UNC Chapel Hill** University of California, Los Angeles University of California,

University of Colorado Boulder University of Leeds University of Mary Washington University of Maryland, College Park University of Miami University of Mississippi University of the District of Columbia University of Utah

University of Vermont University of Virginia University of Virginia at Wise University of Wisconsin, Madison US Air Force Academy Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Military Institute Virginia State University Virginia Tech Xavier University of Louisiana

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**Featured** guest speaker Rangena Hotaki at the 2022 women's soirée.





Rangena with the first award recipient of the Rahmatullah Hotaki Memorial Scholarship.



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I would have never applied had she not encouraged me.

The SFA awarded me with the Larry Trice loans. This was a phenomenal help to me!

Now I give back in different ways—with cash donations, as a Portrait of Success.

participating in SFA ceremonies, and also by attending the annual SFA gala and auction. Most recently, I established a scholarship in honor of my late father. Rahmatullah Hotaki.

who lifted me up against all odds.

I do not believe that my story is unique for ACPS families. The population served is so diverse and rich in culture, language and ethnicities with an array of countries represented. Most importantly, there is a variety of socioeconomic groups represented including the underprivileged and under-served. I do believe SFA is a rare gem in the state of Virginia and, more broadly, in the U.S. During my time at UVA and HBS, no matter how many people I

asked. I never encountered another student who received any sort of financial aid from their public high school. As you can see, the mission and efforts of the SFA had an enduring impact on my family, both nuclear and extended, well beyond the four years of scholarship funding that I received.

a big reach for me. However, I was accepted.

PTSA/SCA Scholarship totaling \$10,000 over four years resulting in me finishing college with only \$2,500 total in student



SFA,

Been Admitted....Now What?

Titans 4 Scholars Campaign Continues

SFA Annual Gala & Auction Planning

nterpreting Financial Aid Award Application Review Training

Academic Advising Night

Titans 4 Scholars Campaign Begins

Scholarship Application Closes

"My best advice would be: Ask. Ask ask ASK! Closed mouths don't get fed."

Undesignated •••• Corporate Partner 5% • Fall Fund Drive 3% Honor a Teacher 1% ACPS Payroll Deduction 1% Workplace Donation & Matching 1% Recurring Gifts 1%

-Adib Sarkar. SFA 2022 student award recibient addressing donors, supporters, and friends at a recent fundraising event.



























Career and college advising combined with fundraising events are year-round.









WAYS TO HELP

# GIVING IS THE THREAD THAT BINDS THE STORIES

## VOLUNTEER

Spending your time with us is invaluable to the mission of the SFA. We try to use resources wisely whether they are man hours or money.

# START A SCHOLARSHIP

In 2023, 20 new scholarships were awarded for the first time. In 2024, there are 11 new scholarships either fully funded or in the works.

# ESTABLISH PLANNED GIVING

Leaving a gift to the SFA in your will, by beneficiary designation, or by retirement plan distribution can be a good offset to future taxes and will change a student's life.

# ATTEND AN EVENT

We know your calendar and our calendar are full! By attending any number of events, you will learn more about what your donation will do.

## SPREAD THE GOOD WORDS

When you can point friends and colleagues to our website and social media, future Titans will benefit. Please share our mission.

# SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Share your talent and knowledge with our just starting. Contact us today to help.

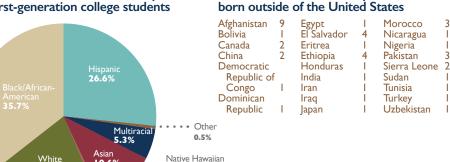
65%

Financial Aid Award Letters

Interpreting

134 of 207 2023 SFA Award Recipients are first-generation college students

10.6%



or Pacific Islander

"As parents of Alexandria public school children for the past 20 years, we've seen the immediate impact the SFA makes on

the lives of young adults and their families. ACPS is part of our community and the SFA is an ideal way to support it. A college education can change the trajectory of a young person's life. Supporting the SFA doesn't just help a student in the next one to four years. The ripple effect of an SFA scholarship benefits a student for decades into the future. Few things are as inspiring as a student excited about their college education and the opportunity to pursue their dreams."

22%

45 of 207 SFA Award Recipients were

-Karen and Chris Hill, Donors

students. What you know is invaluable to those

SFA Application Decisions Announced Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting, **Building a College List Presentations** SFA Annual Gala & Auction

**Titans 4 Scholars Campaign Concludes** 

SFA Annual Gala & Auction Planning

SFA Award Recipients Group Photo

SFA Annual Gala & Auction

Admitted to College...Now What?

Interpreting Financial Aid Award Letters **Junior College Planning** 

#### WHAT WE WANT TO DO BETTER...

Optimize tracking students' progress within their individual plans, allowing us to serve them better.

#### HOW WE ARE DOING IT...

With Board advocacy and through ACPS funding, SFA is implementing CoPilot (part of Salesforce), gaining insight into each student's intentions and pathway.





"As an award recipient (TCW '90), I have and will continue to be an avid supporter of the SFA! Thanks to the award from the SFA, in concert with grants from the state, I

was able to graduate from Virginia Tech with only a small loan used to cover my living expenses as a student teacher. It was a blessing to know that I did not have the burden of paying back thousands of dollars in school loans years after graduating.

As an ACPS employee of nearly 29 years, I always mention my experience and the incredible opportunity that awaits ACHS students who are eligible to apply for a life changing award. I have one former student who told me that her award literally saved her life. After her freshman year of college, she wasn't sure if she would be able to return due to the cost of tuition that she knowingly would not have for her sophomore year. After a request for additional money was granted, that student ultimately graduated and is a very successful government contractor.

I will give my time and money to the SFA because it greatly impacts students' quality of life. I strongly encourage the Alexandria community to support this local treasure that has produced international Titans of change."

> -Michael Diggins, SFA Award Recipient, Donor, and **ACPS Executive Director of Student Services**













SFA Award Ceremony

Service Academy Recognition Ceremony

Scholarship Parties

Summer for College Transition

Support and Scholarship Award Processing

Open ALL

Summer is

SFA :

Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting,

Class of 2023 Graduation

Learning Post Secondary Summer • ◆ Renewal Checks in the Mail ◆ College Transition Support Planning Support ◆ Initial College Application Meetings for F Squeust æ

# SCHOLDRSHIPS AS OF MAY 2023

Beyond the hundreds of named scholarships listed are dozens more made possible through individual donations.

1971 Original Titans Scholarship 21st Century University Scholarship A.A. Beiro Family Foundation Scholarship ACHS Band Boosters Jazz Scholarship ACHS Band Boosters Scholarship ACHS Culinary Arts Scholarship ACHS English Department Scholarship ACHS Lacrosse Boosters Scholarship ACHS Orchestra Boosters Scholarship ACHS Rugby Boosters-Cindi Scheiber Girls' Rugby Scholarship/Mathew Morey Boys Rugby Scholarship Ada's Rising STEM Star Scholarship Al Carter Scholarship Albert Hazen Smith Memorial Scholarship Alexandria Business Connection Scholarship Alexandria City Public Schools Employees Scholarship Alexandria Crew Boosters Memorial Scholarship Alexandria Crew Boosters Scholarship Alexandria Gazette Packet Service Scholarship

-Iohn Steve Carbonell Catilo Corporate Partner Scholarship Alexandria Jaycees Community

Alexandria Lacrosse Club/The Katherine "KK" Harris McCart Memorial Scholarship Alexandria Lacrosse Club/ The Robert "Bob" K. Moir

Memorial Scholarship Alexandria PTA Council Scholarship

Alexandria Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Alexandria Toyota, Inc. Corporate

Partner Scholarship Aly Khan Johnson/Cross Country, Track and Field Scholarship Amazon Corporate Partner

Scholarship Amy McCracken TCW '87 Memorial Scholarship Anthony L. Austin Memorial

Scholarship ATHENA Community Impact Scholarship

Augusta "Dusty" Barbato Memorial Scholarship

Barbara McBane Harper TCW '86 Memorial Scholarship Beth Lovain Scholarship\*

Bill Nichols Memorial Arts Scholarship BMW of Alexandria Scholarship Bonterra Scholarship Bradlee Merchants Association Scholarship Brandon D. Edwards Memorial Scholarship Brian and Michael Vaughan Memorial Scholarship Caudron, Megary, & Blackburn Wealth Mgmt. Group Co Scholarship

Charles and Joel Carron Charles B. Ramsey Memorial Scholarship

Charles Barrett PTA Scholarship Chris Marshall Wrestling Scholarship Clash of the Titans

Class of 1965/Irving Lindsey Memorial Scholarship Class of 1983/Patrick Welsh Scholarship

Class of 1989 Scholarship CloudAl Solutions Scholarship CNA Corporation Scholarship Collis Warner Family Scholarship CommonWealth One FCU

Academy of Finance Scholarship

CommonWealth One FCU ACHS Scholarship

Courtney Smith Memorial Scholarship COVANTA Environmental

Scholarship Dameron Family Scholarship\*

Dana Lawhorné Scholarship\* David I. Collison Memorial Scholarship

Dee Campbell Memorial Scholarship

Del Ray Artisans/John Hiller Memorial Art Scholarship

Del Ray Business Association Scholarship

Del Ray Citizens Association Scholarship

Del Ray Dads Scholarship in Memory of Don Aplin\*

Departmental Progressive Club, Inc./James E. Henson Memorial Scholarship

Donohoe Companies Corporate Partner Scholarship

Dr. Alvin Crawley Memorial Scholarship\*

Dr. Erwin Bondareff Scholarship for **Health Sciences** 

Dr. John Liebermann Jr. Scholarship Dr. Lois Berlin Scholarship

Dr. Manu and Shashi Patel Physics Scholarship

Dr. Morton Sherman Scholarship Dr. Patricia Zissios Scholarship Dr. Robert W. Peebles Scholarship

Dr. Teh-Chang Shih Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Rea Mandato Scholarship Fannon Scholarship

Former School Board Chairs Scholarship Foulger-Pratt Corporate Partner

Scholarship Friendship Veterans Fire Engine

Association Scholarship Gallifrey Scholarship for Social Enterprise

Galo S. Salvador-Vinueza TCW '04 Memorial Scholarship Gila S. Harris Scholarship Goodhart Group Scholarship

Gwen C. Mullen Scholarship Helen Denny Memorial Scholarship Henry Knox Field Masonic Lodge Scholarship

Hill Family Scholarship\* Historic Álexandria Foundation

Scholarship Hon. Robert L. Calhoun Scholarship

Howell Brett Medley Scholarship Inova Alexandria Hospital Healthcare Career

Irving and Shirley Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship

Irving Lindsey Mathematics Trust Scholarship J. Pondolfino/ Academy of Finance

Scholarship Jack Esformes Scholarship

lack Taylor Scholarship\* lane Temoshok Memorial

Scholarship Janes and Elizabeth Scholarship Janet Yeich Memorial Scholarship\* lean A. Beiro Memorial Scholarship Jean B. Reid Memorial Scholarship Jennifer B. Modlin TCW '74

Memorial Scholarship Jerry "Sarge" Murray Scholarship\* Jim Moran Scholarship\* John Alexander Chapter NSDAR

Scholarship John C. Albohm Memorial Trust

Scholarship John Porter Scholarship

Jon C. Burr Memorial Scholarship Juana Zambrana Memorial Scholarship

Kara Mehrman Scholarship\* KBR Foundation, Inc. Corporate Partner Scholarship

\*New scholarship as of 2023.

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#### SCHOLDRISHIPS AS OF (MAY 2023 (CONTINUED)

Kenneth A. Barnett Memorial Baseball Scholarship and Kenneth A. Barnett Memorial Girls Athletic Scholarship Kenneth L. Moll Ir. Memorial

Kenneth L. Moll Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Kerry Donley Memorial Scholarship\*

Kitty Porterfield Scholarship Larry Trice PTSA/SCA Scholarship Lawrence H. (Larry) Watson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Loti Dunn Memorial Scholarship Lou Cook Scholarship Louis Kokonis Teaching Legend

Scholarship Lynhaven/Rosa Byrd Scholarship M. Loretta Kuhn Scholarship Madelyn Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Maginniss + del Ninno Architects Scholarship

Marcia L. Egge Memorial Scholarship

Marco Henriquez TCW '00 Memorial Scholarship Marcus Family Scholarship Margaret Bennett Scholarship Marlin J. Coleman Memorial

Scholarship Mary Hatwood Futrell/Education Association of Alexandria Scholarship

Michael D.Waller TCW '86 & Claudia C.Waller Memorial Scholarship Michael S. Dixon Memorial Scholarship

Mindy's Catering Corporate Partner Scholarship\*

Modern Campus Signal Vine

Corporate Partner Scholarship Mount Vernon Community School PTA/Magda Leon Scholarship Nancy Howard Scholarship for the

Humanities

New Target, Inc. Internet

Corporate Partner Scholarship Nigusu Tefera Scholars Fund North Ridge Citizens' Association

Scholarship

Orzel Zahn "ÖZ" Scholarship Paul Joy Memorial Scholarship Peter Balas Scholarship

Philip J. Yeich Memorial Scholarship Philip & Anne & Ilsa Wheeler Trust Scholarship

POD Squad Scholarship\* Rahmatullah Hotaki Memorial

Scholarship\*
Richard E. Merritt Community
Service Scholarship

Ring Family Public Service Scholarship\*

Robert Eavenson Field Hockey Scholarship

Robert S. Rixse Memorial Nursing Scholarship Rosen/Levine Scholarship

Rosen/Levine Scholarship Rotary Club of Alexandria Scholarship

Roy E. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Ruby Tucker Memorial Scholarship Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School Scholarship

Samuel W. Tucker ES Scholarship Honoring Rene Paschal\*

Selene C. Carter Memorial Scholarship

Sheriff Jim and Nancy Dunning Memorial Scholarship

Simpson Development Co., Inc. Scholarship Soul Speak Press Scholarship\*

Staci C. L. Bradley Memorial Scholarship

Stan Jones and Rosemary Hayes Jones STEM Scholarship\* Stephen J. Kenealy Memorial

Scholarship

Stephen S. Rosenfeld Memorial Scholarship

Susan Yowell Scholarship Technomics Growth Scholarship Technomics Innovation Scholarship Technomics Nancy Hylton Merit Scholarship

Timothy Schuyler Elliott Memorial. Scholarship

Titans 4 Scholars Scholarship\*
Titans in Tech Scholarship
Walter Scott Downs Memorial

Scholarship Whitestone & Franklin Scholarship Yasmin Groehn Memorial Scholarship\*

\*New scholarship as of 2023.

#### **OUR APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR PARTNERS**

who support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria throughout the year

























