Organizational Profile

Founded in 1995 by a group of recent college graduates, Education First is a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships to low-income youth. The founders of Education First believe that higher education can assist in breaking generational poverty. To promote our mission, we provide both financial and mentoring support to students. Education First targets students who have overcome significant life challenges and are seldom recognized for their achievements.

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2014–2015 Participating High Schools

Seattle
Chief Sealth
Incredible Rainier Beach

San Diego
New City for 2014/2015

Denver
Jefferson North
West

San Francisco
Balboa
Mission

Austin
Eastside Memorial Reagan Travis

Los Angeles
Garfield
Jefferson
Manual Arts

Education First is dedicated to providing need-based college scholarships to exceptional seniors attending high schools with historically low percentages of college applicants.

By rewarding students with strength of character, a commitment to learning, and a vision for their future, our aim is to invest in individuals who will positively affect their communities.
Our 2013 Scholarship Recipients ($5,000)

Denver

Maria Martinez
West High School
University of Colorado, Denver

Struggling through several moves during her childhood years, Maria found it difficult to focus on school. She took the responsibility of caring for her siblings and father while her mother worked. Maria has always had a desire to pursue nursing to help her family and those in her community. Her responsible nature and diligent attitude has allowed her to excel and will help her pursue her degree in nursing.

Brenda Nikola
Douglas High School
Oregon Institute of Technology

Brendan struggled with domestic conflict through many of his childhood years. Using his struggles as fuel, he started a journey through education to strengthen himself and gain independence. He turned that anger into a passion for Chemistry, wanting to create products and materials to help others make a better world. Brendan graduated as the valedictorian for his class.

San Francisco

Demondre Harrison
Balboa High School
California State University, Sacramento

Demondre had a troubled childhood and sought release through school activities and sports. His mother at an early age and only saw his father sporadically. Despite growing up in an unsafe neighborhood, Demondre devoted his time to tutoring local students through the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program. He has a bright future and will set a great example as the first person in his family to attend college.

Los Angeles

Higinio Gonzalez
Garfield High School
University of California, Santa Barbara

Upon moving to the US from Mexico, Higinio felt isolated and lonely because he could not speak English. With support from teachers, his parents and long hours of work, he persevered and was soon able to speak English, helping him to assimilate into American culture. Through this, Higinio has become a strong, independent, able to speak English, helping him to assimilate into American culture. His future and will set a great example as the first person in his family to attend college.

Seattle

Danny Hoang
Chief Sealth International High School

Being alone in a foreign country at a young age provided Danny with a unique sense of determination and drive, an appreciation of hard work and will be a very successful young man.

Fidel Campuzano
Reigan High School
University of Texas, Austin

Fidel is a young man who came to the US when he was nine years old with no knowledge of the English language. After learning English, he developed a strong passion for finance. After a summer at an accounting camp at UI Austin, he decided to become a Certified Public Accountant. He has an incredibly drive, an appreciation of hard work and will be a very successful young man.

Our 2013 Donors

Sponsors ($1,000 and above)
Barrett Solutions Inc.
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Honorable Mention Award Scholars ($3,000)

Seattle

Katie Bui
Cleveland High School

Austin

Fidel Camuscano
Reagan High School
University of Texas, Austin

Past Scholars — Where are they now?

“I started off at a Junior College, but I am happy to report that I will be beginning my senior year at the University of California, Dorn this fall. I will be majoring in Managerial Economics and hope to minor in Computer Science. At school I have been busy volunteering with School-to-college, where I helped raise money for first generation college students, like myself, I have also been working part-time since graduation. My favorite part of college is the knowledge! Taking college classes is not only enriching my life, but also changing my family’s in the process. I have taken a wide range of courses, and the more I explore the more I love it.” — Allan Gomez, 2011 Scholarship Recipient, San Francisco