Capital Area Promise Scholars Endowment
Making Educational Dreams Possible
The majority of students in our region face real barriers to graduating from college.

College costs have risen far faster than wages in recent decades, and low-income families in particular are faced with college expenses that often require spending more than 50% of their annual household income to fund a full-time student attending a public, four-year university. Because the majority of low-income families in our region are non-white, students of color face the greatest barriers to attending and graduating from college.

Many area students who have what it takes to succeed in college lack the support systems required to persist through degree completion because traditional scholarship approaches are not keeping pace with economic realities.

When awarding scholarships, the standard approach has been to support high school seniors with the highest academic scores; this approach provides recognition for students who have excelled but doesn’t always consider financial need and other life barriers, leaving out those students who have good grades and want to go to college, but lack the ability to pay.

To keep pace with the needs of local employers, our region must produce more college graduates from all population groups—including those that are historically underrepresented in college.

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“The disparities we see in students’ receiving the resources they need in order to be equipped to attend college underline the necessity of this work.”

— Linda Beech Cutler, the Foundation’s chief executive, noting that data from the California Department of Education show nearly three-quarters of African-American and Hispanic/Latino male students in Sacramento County are not prepared for college when they graduate from high school.
The Solution

Sacramento Region Community Foundation established the Capital Area Promise (CAP) Scholars Endowment to support students who have the aspiration and ability to earn a degree, but who lack the financial means to make it possible.

Together, we can help more young people achieve their goals.

Building on proven practices and local research, CAP Scholars is a fresh approach that can make a world of difference for local students. The Sacramento Region Community Foundation is leading a collaboration of nonprofits to put young people at the center of our focus, and support their college access and attainment through three avenues:

- **COLLEGE PREPARATION**: Delivering comprehensive advising services to ensure that CAP Scholars and their families, especially those who lack college experience, are prepared for the demands of postsecondary education.
- **PUBLIC FINANCIAL AID**: Making sure our Scholars are aware of and apply for the state and federal aid available to them as low-income students.
- **PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**: Providing awards that complete the financial aid packages students need to cover the costs of college. These critical awards are often the keys to closing the gap in funding that could prevent students from achieving their degrees.

**Early Successes**

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation launched the Capital Area Promise Scholars program with an initial investment from College Futures Foundation, which studies the experiences and achievements of low-income California students who receive scholarship funds.

Over the past three years, more than 520 local students have received CAP Scholarships. In 2019, over 50 percent of recipients were young men of color—the students who have historically encountered the greatest barriers to college success.
Our Future

You can contribute to a stronger region and provide opportunity for more students from all segments of our community to achieve college degrees.

We believe...

• Improving college achievement is critical to our region’s future economic and civic viability.

• Every student who aspires to go to college should have the opportunity to complete a four-year degree.

• Our college-bound pipeline is filled with resilient students from population groups that are underrepresented in higher education. Investing in these young people can change the trajectory of their lives and make our community more vibrant.

Join Us!

Our goal is to build the Capital Area Promise Scholars Endowment to a level that provides financial support to hundreds of students in perpetuity.

With your help, this can be a reality. We aim to launch this endowment with a minimum of $3 million, which will grow into the future and result in scholarships that make the educational dreams of our region’s students possible.

We invite you to invest in the future of our region by contributing to the Capital Area Scholars Endowment Fund.

• Make a one-time or annual investment in the Capital Area Promise Scholars Endowment Fund. Your gift will be added to the gifts of others and will go to work immediately to support local scholars in their pursuit of a degree.

• Plan now to make a future gift to the Capital Area Promise Scholars Endowment Fund through your will or estate plan.

• Create long-term support for area students by making a gift of $100,000 or more to an endowed scholarship named in your honor.

For more information about investing in the Sacramento region’s bright future, please visit www.sacregcf.org/CAPS or contact:

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1 University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, 2016 College Affordability Diagnoses: California
2 Sacramento County, Be Healthy Sacramento, 2016
3 Public Policy Institute of California, Will California Run Out of College Graduates? 2015