



Fulfilling Our Community's Promise

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A Scholarship Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Scholar Spotlight



My name is Jawad. I am an undergraduate student at George Mason University (GMU), studying Public Policy.

When I first decided to pursue higher education, it was not easy overcoming the throes of college applications, especially for someone like me who came from a non-conventional academic background. Moreover, I applied for admission amidst many challenges that were brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and my own personal circumstances at that time. It was during this chaotic period that I applied to CSP, and the scholarship that I subsequently received finally provided me with a degree of certainty about my education.

Initially, GMU offered me the lowest amount of financial support amongst the universities that I applied to. However, knowing well about GMU's resources for students interested in public service, I was determined to become a Mason patriot. CSP provided me with exactly the right amount of funding that I needed to raise before accepting GMU's offer. What happened next turned out to be the best decision of my life!

At GMU, I found an amazing community of peers, faculty, and staff, who created a wonderful experience for the incoming students. I never felt lonely being away from home, as my campus became my second home.

Education for me goes beyond the classroom. Sideline conversations, events, and seminars complement my regular weekly lectures. Moreover, being close to the nation's capital and half a dozen other universities nearby, I realized that I am studying in the perfect environment for inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional exchange. I would not have been able to benefit from those additional opportunities if I had concerns about my cost of attendance.

Fast Facts



With CSP's scholarship helping me to address some of those concerns, I managed to attend many conferences and even get invited as a panelist to one. For the upcoming academic year, I also plan to undertake my own research, which is another reason why I chose GMU, because of its comprehensive support for undergraduate students who want to do so.

None of the above would have been possible without the flexibility of CSP's staff, my Navigator, George, who is always available to offer guidance, and finally the generous support of CSP's donors. I encourage you to continue your support for this amazing program that is investing in the future of Charlottesville and our community.

Scholarships can change lives!

Thank you, Sponsors!



CRUTCHFIELD



Navigator Spotlight

Name: George Michie

Hobbies: I enjoy tutoring kids and adults, but when I'm not engaged in useful service I enjoy whitewater canoeing, hiking, and tennis.

Favorite book: I mostly read non-fiction these days, and in that category I've found Black Reconstruction by W.E.B. Du Bois, and Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford particularly eye opening. Among works of fiction, I think everyone should read both The Outsider and Native Son by Richard Wright.

Favorite movie: Just so I don't come across as a total grind, I'll pick "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" as my favorite movie.



Why did you become a Navigator? Most kids don't have those advantages I did of college expectations and the ability to pick any school. Becoming a Navigator was an opportunity to give back in a meaningful way.

How do you support your scholar? To me, the Navigator role is equal parts: cheerleader, outlet, resource and nudge. I make a point of checking in with the young men and women periodically, share a meal or a cup of tea when they're in town and take interest in what they're doing. Most of these young folks don't have an extensive parental "network" to tie into, so I try to help there with ideas, contacts and introductions.

How has being a Navigator affected you? As we get older it is easy to fall into the dismissive "Kids these days!?" mindset and believe the worst about young adults now compared to "our day." Getting to know these AMAZING young people is an antidote to that nonsense. These young folks are a potent reminder of the wealth of talent we have awaiting opportunities to shine.

More Fast Facts

- In 2022, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program will award over \$113,000 in total scholarships.
- CSP awards may be renewed annually to support the student through his or her technical certification or undergraduate degree program.
- Scholarships typically begin at \$2,500 and increase annually by \$500 with successful academic progress.
- CSP awards are not just for high school seniors! Adults seeking to improve their lives through education can also apply for scholarships to 2-year or 4-year undergraduate institutions or technical certification programs.
- Most CSP scholars are the first in their family to attend college.

About the Charlottesville Scholarship Program

Established in 2001 with a \$250,000 gift from Charlottesville City Council, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to low- and moderate-income Charlottesville High School graduates living in the City, and to City municipal and City school system employees. We support students through the completion of their technical certification program or undergraduate course of study, and encourage both CHS seniors and eligible adults to apply. Scholarships increase each year to encourage students to complete school and to lessen overall student debt. To date, CSP has helped 177 students pursue higher education.

Show your Support for Education

Please contact scholars@cillescholarship.com or visit www.cillescholarship.com to learn more about scholarship naming opportunities for your family or business.