

Fulfilling Our Community's Promise  
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# CHARLOTTESVILLE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*A Scholarship Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation*

## Scholar Spotlight



My name is Vanessa Granados-Martinez and I am in my third year at Piedmont Virginia Community College. Being in college is an experience that I'm very grateful to be able to say I'm doing. Although there are no dorms at Piedmont, this hasn't stopped me from having an incredible college life.

I have had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people through the three years I have been here. I've reconnected with old friends and met many new people. My professors have been nothing but supportive and encouraging to every student. They are very understanding that every student is going through many different periods of their lives so they recognize not every student will be the same. College hasn't always been easy; having to balance my personal life with my studies has been a battle. But I have a tremendous amount of support from not just my school but family and friends as well. These past years I have found myself, and even though I am always discovering new things, I can truly say these have been some of the best years of my life so far.

**The Charlottesville Scholarship Program is now actively supporting 40 scholars as they pursue their dreams of post-secondary education. This spring, we awarded scholarships to 13 new recipients, and 4 of our CSP scholars celebrated their graduation from a 4-year college. How can you support these outstanding young scholars? Please make your donation via check payable to the Charlottesville Scholarship Program and**

**mail to CSP at**

**PO Box 1221, Charlottesville, VA 22902,**

**or give online at**

**[www.cvvillescholarship.com](http://www.cvvillescholarship.com).**

In terms of my studies, I am enrolled in Piedmont's Education Program and am currently finishing up my credits to get my Associate's Degree. I plan on transferring to the University of Virginia or Virginia Commonwealth University in Fall of 2025 to major in Education. My ultimate goal is to become an elementary school teacher.

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program has helped me out tremendously and has played a key role in helping me lift the burden of money for both tuition and textbooks. My dad unexpectedly passed away in May of 2021 which caused my family to lose our sole financial provider. When I thought about my future, I always pictured myself going to college. After the passing of my dad, the thoughts of potentially not being in a good financial situation and ultimately not being able to go to college frightened me.

Receiving this scholarship has helped my family and me by lessening the financial burden. This support has allowed me to focus on my studies and achieve greatness without finances being in the back of my mind. The Charlottesville Scholarship Program has allowed my family to direct their focus on necessities rather than my educational expenses. I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to receive this scholarship throughout my school years at Piedmont. This scholarship has allowed me to continue reaching the future I had always dreamt about.

I encourage you to continue supporting the Charlottesville Scholarship Program. It is a program that has not only changed my life, but others around me. It eliminates the stress over educational expenses. This allows individuals to continue achieving their hopes and dreams. The dedication they have put into making this program and continuing to support students like myself is extraordinary. If you support this program you are helping students and potentially families like mine. Furthermore, I truly believe the Charlottesville Scholarship Program has and will continue to have a positive impact on our community.

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# About the Charlottesville Scholarship Program

Established in 2001 with a \$250,000 gift from Charlottesville City Council, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program provides post-secondary scholarships to low- and moderate-income graduates of Charlottesville City Schools and City employees. CSP supports students through the completion of their undergraduate course of study or professional certification program. Scholarships increase each year to encourage students to complete school and to lessen overall student debt. To date, CSP has helped 201 students pursue higher education, providing more than \$1.1 million total scholarship funding.

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## Navigator Spotlight



**Name:**

Filadelfia Soto

**Hobbies:**

ballet, yoga,  
swimming and  
reading

**Why did you become  
a Navigator?**

I became a navigator  
because of my  
experiences as a  
United States college  
student.

As I shared with my mentee, my college experience was happy and successful but filled with tears. Tears of frustration and sometimes anger because of all the ins and outs I did not know about the system. Succeeding in college depends not only on the student's academic abilities, motivation, and dedication. Being familiar with the logistics and administrative aspects plays a significant role in the path to graduation. Colleges and universities offer many opportunities. The tricky part is having access to all this information and being ready to meet the criteria and requirements once one has access to it.

**How do you support your scholars?**

I started my college education at a community college and then transferred to a four-year college, just as my mentee plans to do. This semester, for example, she was interested in learning about my experience as a transfer student. Therefore, we discussed several aspects of the transfer process, from ensuring one has all the credits needed to meeting due dates and writing a solid essay. Vanessa's goal is to become a schoolteacher. I shared information with Vanessa about opportunities to benefit her as she pursues her dreams. Universities offer endorsements and internships that enrich your curriculum once you have graduated and make you more desirable to potential employers. Unfortunately, not every undergrad knows or considers it.

**How has being a Navigator impacted you?**

Becoming a navigator has allowed me to repay all those great individuals who helped me throughout college. I am honored to be by my scholar's side through these unique years of their lives.

- In 2024, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program will award over \$128,000 in total scholarships.
- CSP awards may be renewed annually to support the student through his or her program of study.
- Scholarships typically begin at \$2,500 and increase by \$500 annually with successful academic progress.
- A student can receive up to \$13,000 in total CSP support toward a vocational or professional certificate or undergraduate degree.
- CSP awards are not just for high school seniors! Adults can also apply for scholarships toward 2-year or 4-year undergraduate degrees or vocational or professional certifications.
- Most CSP scholars are the first in their family to attend college.

Fast Facts