



Greetings from The Ellis Foundation!

For those of you who've never worked with us, we're a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity out of Fort Scott, KS—and we invest in future leaders!

The Ellis Family began providing college assistance after the death of their daughter, a teacher, and over the past 13 years, we have committed over \$12,000,000 to education. Our focus is getting students out the “back door” of college with a four-year degree or a two-year certificate. Our goals are:

- 1) **College Success,**
- 2) **Degree Completion and**
- 3) **Responsible, Self-Supporting, Contributing Lives.**

Our program is different from other “scholarships.”

- 1) We do not accept unsolicited applications. We accept applications only through pre-selected high school counselors.
- 2) Students must attend one of the Kansas, Missouri or Oklahoma colleges listed on our website: [www.TheEllisFoundation.org](http://www.TheEllisFoundation.org). (Note: MSU is no longer on the list.)
- 3) We personally interview candidates through video conferencing.
- 4) We partner with successful individuals, corporations, foundations and institutions to provide “venture capital” of up to \$1,000 a semester for up to eight consecutive semesters. Our scholarship is paid directly to the institution, not the student, for college-billed expenses only.
- 5) We monitor our students’ performance, and require students to participate in a proven mentoring program aimed at college success and degree completion.

**And it works! Ellis Scholars graduate at a rate twice the national average!**

## STUDENT PROFILES

We’re looking for students with the **Ability, Desire and Determination** to make something of themselves, but who might not be able to attend college without assistance— perhaps they come from a single parent family, have financial constraints, are first generation college students, or have overcome life challenges. We help students who want to make a difference in their lives.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Financial need, a GPA of 3.0 and an ACT score of 20.**

## OPPORTUNITIES

This year, we’re looking for several specific award categories. Students offered degree-specific awards may lose their scholarship if they change majors.

- 1) **DENTISTRY and DENTAL HYGIENE:** Kansas needs dental workers! We're looking for high school seniors who are interested in Dentistry or Dental Hygiene—and are interested in practicing in an 'underserved area' of Kansas, including anywhere in the western 2/3rds of Kansas.

For the committed Dental student, there are a series of incentives that could potentially carry them through their entire education, including internships, mentoring, Dental School, residency and placement in a practice. Kansas students attending Kansas colleges will be given preference; but, out of state students willing to work in Kansas after graduation may be considered.

#### ***START A DENTAL CLUB!***

You can also help encourage younger students to enter these lucrative career fields by establishing a Dental Club at your high school. The State Bureau of Oral Health will be glad to help you get this started. Students who participate in Dental Clubs in their local high schools will be given preference for future scholarships. Click on this link to see the KDHE Dental Club brochure ([http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/dental\\_club.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/dental_club.htm)). If you'd like more information, we encourage you to contact Ashley Streeter at [astreeter@kdheks.gov](mailto:astreeter@kdheks.gov).

- 2) **CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING:** We are looking for students interested specifically in Construction Engineering. These students will need a strong math background, and may have the opportunity of summer internships.
- 3) **COMPUTER SCIENCE and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** There may be a scholarship opportunity for an exceptional student that is at the top of their class, is exceptionally gifted, and on the cutting edge of computer science.
- 4) **ENERGY RELATED DEGREES:** We have sponsors with Electrical, Wind, and Nuclear energy generation plants looking for future employees. We may have funds for students wishing to enter these fields. Also, students whose parents work for KCP&L or who are particularly interested in earning a Welding Certificate should also apply.
- 5) **CULINARY ARTS, HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT, and FOOD SCIENCE:** With these degrees, your students can feed the world, manage world-class restaurants or resorts, or become deliciously successful blending creativity and chemistry in a pastry kitchen. Preference will be given to students attending Johnson County Community College, Kansas State University, or the University of Missouri's Hotel and Restaurant Management School. We are specifically looking for at least 2 students from the Columbia, MO area wanting to attend MU's Hotel and Restaurant Management program.
- 6) **AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL SCIENCE, and VETERINARY MEDICINE:** The Ellis Foundation works with several Sponsors with interest in these fields, so we are looking for outstanding Ag candidates. Several scholarships may require an annual 20-hour internship, and attendance at two events in the Kansas City area.
- 7) **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR SITUATIONS:** Occasionally we meet a student who has experienced unique struggles, but has the ability and desire to change their world. If you have an exceptional student who meets our academic guidelines and has overcome unusual or difficult family or personal circumstances -- but does not necessarily fall under one of the above categories, contact Matt Messer at [Matt@TheEllisFoundation.org](mailto:Matt@TheEllisFoundation.org) to discuss the details.

## PROCEDURE

- 1) Please follow our guidelines and recommend only students who meet our criteria. We only accept applications through the recommendations of high school counselors, and limit the number of student applicants per school.
- 2) Our on-line application is accessible, with a password, on our website: [www.TheEllisFoundation.org](http://www.TheEllisFoundation.org). **If you have students meeting these criteria, e-mail us and we will provide you with a password for the on-line application if you don't already have one. You can begin submitting applications immediately.** We will begin reviewing completed applications immediately.
- 3) If your student(s) is/are selected for an interview, you will be provided with access to an electronic interview packet. You should print off one interview packet for each selected applicant. Students must complete the interview packets, including signed forms, a student picture, income verification, and transcripts, and return them to you.
- 4) We will contact you directly to schedule personal Interviews once you have sent the students documents, by mail to The Ellis Foundation.
- 5) High School counselors will be notified of awards beginning in May. Please provide us with the date of your senior awards ceremony as soon as the date is set. We will try to have awards certificates delivered to you before the ceremony, if possible.

## SPONSORSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

You can help encourage scholarships for your local high school! If you know of individuals, companies, foundations or organizations that are committed to your high school or community, remind them that The Ellis Foundation can enhance their charitable investment in education—and increase the number of opportunities for your local students.

All donations to The Ellis Foundation are tax deductible, and by partnering with us, some high schools have developed memorial or alumni scholarship programs. If you are interested in this concept, give us a call or e-mail Matt Messer at [Matt@TheEllisFoundation.org](mailto:Matt@TheEllisFoundation.org).

We look forward to working with you.



Matt Messer

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