

Open Doors



Penn State was born out of a revolution in higher education. Its founders believed that the children of farmers and laborers deserved the opportunity to become educated leaders in their professions and their communities, and the University remains committed to a tradition of access and affordability. Because of rising costs, though, too many undergraduates are juggling full-time course loads with full-time jobs, ultimately delaying their degrees and their careers. Many graduate with extraordinary burdens of debt—and many others, daunted by their financial challenges, don't graduate at all and must find a way to pay their student loans without the benefit of a degree. Both undergraduate and graduate students of extraordinary ability who could thrive at Penn State are sometimes forced to choose other institutions because of economic realities. **Philanthropy from alumni and friends can help Penn State to lead the next revolution in higher education: keeping our doors open to students from every background and ensuring that they graduate on time and on track to success.**

OPENING DOORS AT PENN STATE ABINGTON

Penn State Abington is distinguished by our vibrant student body, whose diversity and ambition embody the future of our nation. During their years on campus, our students—50 percent of whom identify as students of color and 38 percent of whom are eligible for federal Pell grants—position themselves for successful and rewarding lives after graduation. But our commitment to our students and their bright futures is meaningless if we are unable to keep our degrees accessible to all aspiring scholars in our community. With an average student loan debt of nearly \$35,000 and half our students the first in their family to attend college, many are carrying financial burdens and obligations that can

compromise their education. Scholarships are the best way to provide significant support and ensure Penn State Abington remains an educational leader in our community.



**A GREATER
PENN STATE
FOR 21ST
CENTURY
EXCELLENCE**



PennState
Abington

OUR CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

The Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program:

To address the financial, academic, and personal challenges that our undergraduates face in earning their degrees, the University has created a range of pilot programs that can help them to succeed. Between now and June 30, 2018, Penn State will triple the impact of support for these programs by providing a permanent 2:1 match of donor gifts (at the \$30,000 level and higher) to the endowment's principal. Pilot programs available to Penn State Abington students include:

RaiseMe: Students enrolled at specific Pennsylvania high schools serving low-income areas or those enrolled in the federal free lunch program can earn micro-scholarships toward their Penn State Abington education by meeting certain goals that lay a strong foundation for their future studies.

Pathway to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS): To assist with the college transition, Penn State Abington provides incoming students with the opportunity to take courses, work on campus, and receive a summer tuition scholarship for up to two summer sessions.

Complete Penn State: Unexpected financial hardships can sometimes force undergraduates to withdraw. Complete Penn State provides assistance and counseling for students within 30 credits of graduation, who might otherwise be unable to earn their degrees.

Financial aid scholarships: Of our students who receive financial aid, the average annual unmet need exceeds \$8,000. Endowed scholarships are a critical tool in keeping our students on track to graduate. When directed toward hard-working students with unmet need, financial aid awards help graduates launch successful and productive careers, while also reflecting donors' individual passions.

Summer accelerator scholarships: For many students, the greatest tuition increase of all becomes the need to extend their education over five years or more. Support for summer accelerator scholarships allows students to catch up on coursework over the summer semester and stay on track to graduate.

YOUR SUPPORT, OUR FUTURE

With the help of alumni and friends, we can achieve the important goals of *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence* and ensure all students experience the full value of a Penn State degree. Gifts to RaiseMe will inspire high school students to plan for their futures and access higher education. PaSSS and summer accelerator scholarships will help students maximize their summer semesters and better position themselves to graduate. Financial aid scholarships will increase the support available for students in good academic standing with financial need. And Complete Penn State awards will ensure that no students' dreams are compromised by economic concerns. **Your gifts can keep the door open to a brighter future for Penn State Abington students and for all of us.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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