



WHITMAN COLLEGE

First Opportunity Scholarship

► The **First Opportunity Scholarship** changes lives. Since its inception in 2008, this scholarship has provided more than \$150,000 in support to five students who were in the first generation of their families to attend college, demonstrated significant need, and would not have been able to attend Whitman without substantial aid. Four of these students have successfully graduated from Whitman; the fifth student begins his junior year in the fall of 2018.

One student graduated *cum laude* and became a teacher. Another was able to participate in faculty-student research on campus because of a

Whitman grant and now works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One student is working abroad, while another returned to her hometown to coach basketball. Each of these young people have already made enormous strides in their lives and their Whitman educations were the launching point for all of them.



► The **First Opportunity Scholarship** plays a valuable role in increasing access to and improving the affordability of a Whitman education. Currently, the cost of a top-quality residential liberal arts education is beyond the means of the vast majority of families, making scholarship aid critical to recruiting some of the most capable students to Whitman.

In recent years, the number of first generation students has been growing, with 49 members of the Class of 2021 being the first in their families to attend college. Enhanced scholarship support for these students helps honor Whitman's long-standing commitment to providing access for qualified students from all backgrounds. Scholarships attract promising students who will benefit from Whitman's academic and co-curricular programs and influence those around them. At this time, one-third of the students admitted to Whitman who choose to go elsewhere cite cost as a deciding issue; we have much work to do to meet the need.

► The **First Opportunity Scholarship**, in combination with a reasonable student loan and the opportunity to earn money with a campus job, can turn the dream of a Whitman education into reality for many students.

