



## History and Goals

The George Washington Gale Scholars program was established in 1996 and named after the founder of Galesburg and Knox College. The program is a collaborative partnership between Knox College, Carl Sandburg College and Galesburg Public Schools District 205 and was created to encourage and support higher education aspirations and success in the target population of academically promising first-generation and income eligible youth within District 205.

Knox College graduated the first Gale Scholar in 2006, with four graduating in 2008 and another four in 2009 and three in 2010. In the fall of 2010, there will be 51 Gale Scholar students at Galesburg High School, 16 at Carl Sandburg College and 11 at Knox College. George Washington Gale Scholar Knox graduates to date are:

2006  
Stacy Stremmell

2009  
Garry Barton  
Karen Brophy  
Stephanie Frambes  
Marissa Smith

2008  
Stephanie Spahr  
Chris Carpenter  
Ashley Shane  
Nicole Chase

2010  
Alex Vaasen  
Chanda Wade  
Shalane Worden



"The Gale Scholars program is an opportunity of a lifetime that is unique only to the Galesburg community. It gave me a sense of direction with my education. It also gave me support to ensure my academic as well as personal success. The community service requirement humbled me and showed me the importance of giving back which is a reason why I am now a teacher in the community. I can confidently say I would not be the person I am today without the Gale Scholar program."

**Chris Carpenter**  
Gale Scholar Class of 2003

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# George Washington Gale Scholars Program

[www.knox.edu/galescholars](http://www.knox.edu/galescholars)

## Organizational Structure

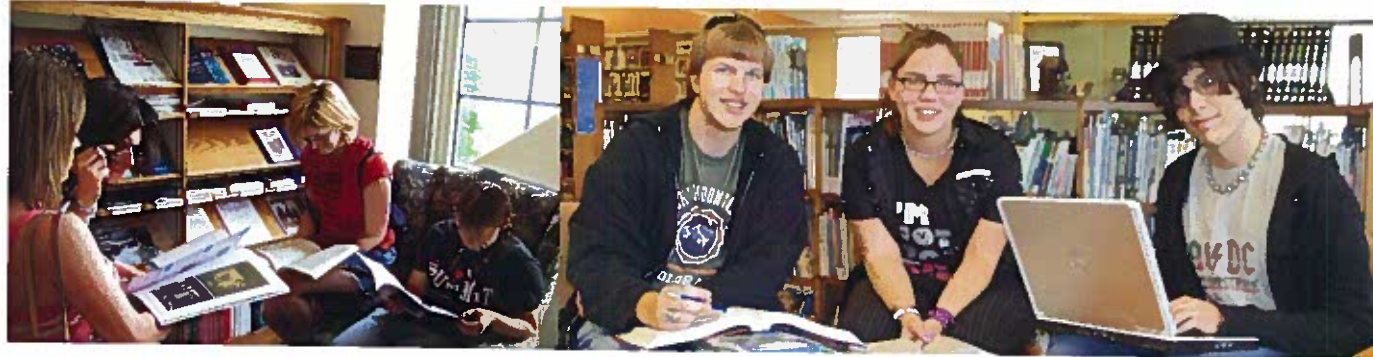
A steering committee of individuals from each of the three educational institutions sets policy and guidelines for the program. A representative from each school is appointed to serve on the working committee which develops and carries out the details of the program. Both the board and committee are organized by the GWGS Program Director. This director assists in all areas in order to ensure good communication between the schools and execution of all advisory board recommendations.

Each year up to fifteen students are selected and they join other cohorts to participate in summer enrichment and academic preparation, community service and special skill-building experiences. Students who complete the program in high school receive tuition-waiver scholarships toward the completion of associate's and bachelor's degree programs at Carl Sandburg College and Knox College respectively. Highly academically successful students at Galesburg High School may qualify for direct enrollment to Knox College.

## Direct Enrollment

Gale Scholars who maintain at least a 3.8 cumulative weighted high school grade point average may elect to enroll directly at Knox College after high school and remain participants in good standing in the Gale Scholar program. These students will receive grants and/or scholarships from federal, state and/or Knox College sources to cover the full cost of tuition at Knox College for four years. Tuition does not include the costs of books, supplies, enrollment deposit, fees, living and other expenses.

# Opportunity to Succeed



## Selection process

Eighth-grade students must meet the following criteria:

- Have a financial need based upon federal guidelines
- Be a first-generation college student (neither parent holds a baccalaureate degree)
- Demonstrate a commitment to school through a recommended 90% attendance rate
- Recommended cumulative GPA of 2.5

Qualifying students must complete the GWGS application and provide two written recommendations from supportive adults such as instructors, coaches, ministers and other community members with whom the student has a positive rapport. These applications are screened by a selection committee and finalists are interviewed.

## Academic Components

GWGS take academic courses determined by college entrance requirements:

- A minimum grade point average of 2.5 is expected.
- Participation in at least two school activities per year is required.
- Summer programs and workshops are required for academic and leadership enrichment.

## Community Service

A distinctive feature of this program is the responsibility for each Gale Scholar to give something back to the community. Each student is required to be involved in extensive community service work. Examples of community service include assisting the elderly living in nursing homes, tutoring elementary students and participating in such programs as Habitat for Humanity and Christmas in Action. Coupled with summer work experience, students gain an in-depth knowledge of the business and civic aspects of the community.