



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 School District 205 and was created to encourage and support higher education aspirations of academically promising first-generation and income eligible youth within District 205. In the fall of 2015, there will be 55 Gale Scholar students at Galesburg High School, 12 at Carl Sandburg College and 11 at Knox College.

Gale Scholar Knox graduates to date are:

- 2006:** Stacy Stremmel
- 2008:** Stephanie Spahr, Chris Carpenter, Ashley Shane, Nicole Chase
- 2009:** Garry Barton, Karen Brophy, Stephanie Frambes, Marissa Smith
- 2010:** Alex Vaasen, Chanda Wade, Shalane Worden
- 2011:** Cassandra Harrell, Kristen Niehoff, Corey Vanskike, Vanessa Weaver
- 2012:** Aaron Barton, Cody Dailey, Carissa Cole, Tabitha Masters
- 2013:** Elvith Santoyo, Jonna John, Antwon Martin, Estefania Vazquez
- 2014:** Jessica Dailey, Abbie John
- 2015:** Randi Cecil, Austin Finley, Chanda Harrell, Kylee Norville

“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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“The Gale Scholars program gives our students an opportunity to achieve their dreams and at the same time, the program will give our students a chance to contribute in a meaningful way to their community and to society. This is a tremendous educational possibility and partnership. It truly is a “one of kind” in terms of what it stands for and what it offers. We are very fortunate to have it.”

—Steve Cheesman

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George Washington Gale Scholars Program



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 steering and working committee are organized by the GWG S 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 Student 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 students 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.
- 85% of current GHS students have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher



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.