

South Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Spring Conference

April 5, 2023





Thank you!

- 11 universities participated
- \$5 million in scholarships in year 1
- Estimated 1,300+ scholarships awarded



Freedom Scholarship - Fall 2022 Snapshot for the 2022-2023 Academic Year (November 1, 2022)

Participating University	Allocation determined by Freedom Scholarship Board	Total amount of scholarships accepted	No. of Students who accepted scholarships	Average Award Amt /Student	Pell Grant-eligible scholarship recipients*	% of recipients Pell Grant-eligible
Augustana University	\$ 300,000	\$ 302,000	73	\$4,137.00	26	36%
Black Hills State University	\$ 470,000	\$ 429,906	87	\$4,941.00	71	82%
Dakota State University	\$ 405,000	\$ 363,000	107	\$3,000.00	60	56%
Dakota Wesleyan University	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	19	\$2,631.00	11	58%
Mount Marty University	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	19	\$2,632.00	10	53%
Northern State University	\$ 340,000	\$ 300,000	104	\$2,884.62	96	92%
Presentation College	\$ 50,000	\$ 19,500	13	\$1,500.00	13	100%
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	\$ 310,000	\$ 296,564	60	\$4,943.00	40	67%
South Dakota State University	\$1,600,000	\$1,593,875	485	\$3,199.75	363	75%
University of Sioux Falls	\$ 280,000	\$ 254,000	78	\$3,038.00	40	51%
University of South Dakota	\$1,200,000	\$1,150,000	230	\$5,000.00	178	77%
TOTAL	\$5,055,000	\$4,808,845	1275		908	

*Note: Pell-eligible is a measure of the lowest-income students



Fall 2022 recipients by grade level:

Participating University	<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Augustana University	24	22	16	11
Black Hills State University	37	12	19	19
Dakota State University	56	29	19	3
Dakota Wesleyan University	7	6	3	3
Mount Marty University	10	2	3	4
Northern State University	35	23	25	21
Presentation College	0	3	3	7
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	37	6	9	8
South Dakota State University	196	103	117	69
University of Sioux Falls	36	16	13	13
University of South Dakota	131	40	30	29
TOTAL	569	262	257	187





South Dakota Freedom Scholarship

Operated by the South Dakota Community Foundation
at the direction of the Freedom Scholarship Board

Public/private need-based scholarship to increase
college graduation and keep more South Dakotans in
the workforce in our state.





SD Freedom Scholarship Board

- Five-member board appointed by Governor Noem in October 2021





SD Freedom Scholarship Staff

- Elli Haerter, Freedom Scholarship Coordinator
- Brandy Drew, Scholarship Program Specialist





University Advisory Council

- Tresse Evenson, Augustana University
- Amy Crissinger, Dakota State University
- Fredel Thomas, Dakota Wesleyan University
- Michaela Willis, South Dakota State University





Eligibility Requirements:

- Maintain South Dakota residency for at least one year prior to scholarship application.
- Attend an eligible institution.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 while enrolled at the eligible institution.
- Be pursuing a baccalaureate degree.
- Graduate in five years or less.
- Commit in writing to live and work in South Dakota for three years after graduation.
- Acknowledge that any failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion from a scholarship to an interest-bearing loan.
- *Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution – Awarded Financial Aid = Student Need.





Updates – Freedom Scholar Student Processes

- Freedom Scholarship Board considers exceptions, deferments (process)
- Year 2 Scholarship paperwork – goes live soon
- Info sharing between Freedom and Financial Aid offices
- Post-graduation employment process is underway!





Update – External Communications

- Freedom Scholarship Board partners with Lawrence and Schiller
 1. Website has been updated!
 2. Social media posts will be created and in use starting 2023 to help enhance the general understanding
 3. Facebook/Instagram (page +ads) and SnapChat (ads only)
 4. Brief animated video about the student process
 5. Updated FAQs – we need your feedback – google doc





Update – University Partner Communications

- Future Communications Hub – needs input from universities
- Connecting to other parts of your institutions for:
 1. Media/marketing
 2. Post graduation student employment
- Drawing or writing activity →

Who should we be in touch with and what's their role? what else might they need from Freedom Scholarship for your institution? how do we reach those you reference?

Email or text your submission!





Other scholarships housed at the SD Community Foundation

- Build Dakota Scholarships – Deni Martin
- SD Education Access Foundation Scholarships– Kelly Nelson
- 300+ Endowed scholarships across South Dakota – Kelly Nelson

Contact them for more information:

knelson@sdcommunityfoundation.org

deni@builddakotascholarships.com



Questions?



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