

Student comments about the First Independent Scholarship and career success*

- My family could not help me in any way. The scholarship gave me the start I needed.
- Gave me hope and the ability to get started.
- Allowed me to get started right.
- Relieved a great deal of stress.
- “My husband passed away recently. The help from this scholarship years ago helped me get an education and care for my family and help my kids get ready for college.”
- "I would never have even started college without getting this boost."

** These comments came from multiple respondents and were consistent regardless of the year the scholarship was received*

Advice for Current Students**

- Don't take out more student loans than absolutely necessary.
- Consider community colleges like Clark—they are great and cost effective.
- Start early and apply for as many scholarships as possible.
- Don't give up on finding a scholarship.
- Finish school as quickly as you can and don't let a job interfere with studies any more than necessary.
- Study what you love, follow your passion and keep your grades up.
- “Don't get discouraged if things aren't going well, keep your head down and keep working, it's worth it.”

***The first five comments were made multiple times.*

Advice for Businesses Giving Scholarships

- Several respondents suggested First Independent provide applicants with basic information on financial management, adding that they were not prepared to manage their money when they left for college.
- “Please keep giving, the need is great.”
- “Help other businesses understand the value community colleges offer.”
- “Do even more to publicize the availability of scholarships.”