

Opportunity: Student Support

*FIRST GENERATION.
MULTI GENERATION.
ALL FIND A HOME AT KEENE
STATE COLLEGE*



Whether a student is the first in her family to go to college, or a multigenerational Owl, Keene State is where opportunities start.

Unique among its peers, **49% of Keene State students are first generation** college students. Included in this group are international students from more than 20 countries as well as students with refugee backgrounds.

Keene State also has a **rich tradition of family attendance**. More than one in eight Keene students and alumni have a multigenerational legacy connection, whether a mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandparent, or even great grandparent.

The opportunity for these groups to learn from one another is transformative. It is key to Keene State's commitment to preparing students to think critically and creatively, to engage in active citizenship, and to pursue meaningful work.

A Threatened Opportunity

But it is an opportunity that is becoming out of reach for many. With starkly increasing financial pressures, many qualified students are deciding to defer college entirely, and many current students are making day to day decisions about whether they can afford to stay enrolled.

These decisions are devastating to the individual student, but the ramifications are even greater. Entire families are excluded from an education that could uplift them for generations. Tomorrow's workforce will be less robust. And future civic leadership will be void of critical voices.

Your Critical Role

As New Hampshire's only public liberal arts college, Keene State is committed to providing affordable access to a high-quality education. But students need support. From small infusions of emergency funding to pay for things like rent, food, and books to keep students in school, to larger investments in scholarships to attract and retain qualified students, your investment is critical.

Students are at the center of everything Keene does, and student support is the heart of The Campaign for Keene. An investment in student support can change the lives of individual students as well as their families and our larger society.

AREAS OF URGENT NEED

KEY AREAS OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Current Use Scholarships

Current use scholarships enable students to benefit immediately from funds received, providing critical support for all students, and especially those considering whether they can afford to come to Keene State.

Current use scholarships can be leveraged quickly to recruit and retain qualified students who are in need of financial support.

A recent survey from Keene State admissions revealed that increasing a scholarship award by as little as \$750 a year would make a significant difference to a student's ability to come to and remain at the college.

Contributions to existing current use scholarship funds can be made in any amount. Creating a current use scholarship fund begins at \$1,000 per year for five years.

Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarships provide reliable, consistent support to students. Endowed scholarships play a critical role in student retention and allow students to focus on what is most important: their education.

Currently around 900 students apply for Keene State's 300 endowed scholarships every year, with awards ranging from \$250 to \$12,000. Both increasing the number of endowed scholarships and increasing the award level of existing endowed scholarships would have a significant and direct effect on students, and are particularly important for out of state students.

Endowing a scholarship begins at \$25,000.

Emergency Funds

Many of Keene State's students are working 20-30 hours a week to afford coming to school, on top of their demanding class load. When an unexpected expense comes up—a family situation, a larger than usual electric bill, an expensive text book—students have to make a decision about whether they can afford their education.

Emergency funds are hyper-flexible money that can be given to students to pay for things ranging from rent, food, or books. Emergency funds provide a critical lifeline to students so that they can stay in school and on track.

Contributions to emergency funds can be made in any amount.