

ALUMNI STUDENT SURVEY

Mr. Johnson had a love for education, and a wish to create a scholarship program for students at Cook County High School, his alma matter.

In the fall of 2018 the Education Committee of the Board and the staff of the Foundation worked collaboratively to create an Alumni Student Survey. The intent was to engage students in an evaluation of the scholarship program to help guide internal improvements, as well as help assist the Foundation to better understand its impact.

In April of 2019, Foundation staff compiled a list of all known phone numbers and e-mail addresses for former students and created an anonymous online survey. Staff proceeded by calling each alumni student to explain the upcoming survey process and encourage their participation. Three separate e-mails were sent encouraging participation and reminding students of the May 1st deadline.

A total of 19 alumni completed the survey, of a possible 47 for whom we had contact information for. All questions were optional, and many provided space for more than one answer from each student.

It is important to remember that the information contained in the summary report, is a representation of scholarship students, and may be an inaccurate reflection, as those most likely to respond, were likely some of the highest achievers.

The Foundation intends to share the results with the full Board and program alumni. Results will be used to make programmatic improvements. A sincere thank you to all who participated.

In Their Words

Receiving the scholarship in high school set me on the right path in life, when I easily could have gone another, not good way.

I wasn't much of a good student ... but going to college and succeeding ... challenged me to go in a direction I never thought I would go.

58%

do not believe they would have attended college without the scholarship

The Data

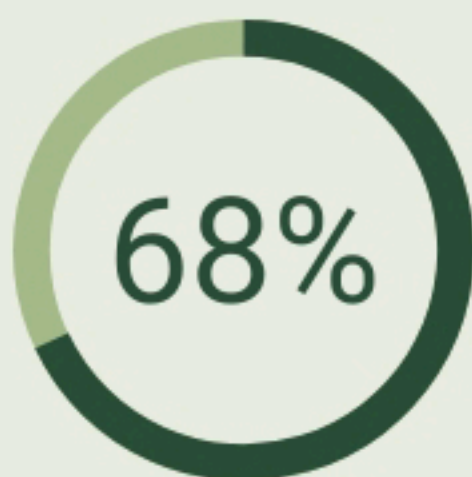
The average respondent: Received funding for 2.5 years, attended Lake Superior College, graduated with an AA degree, is employed full-time, plans to continue their education and lives along the North Shore.

40% response rate



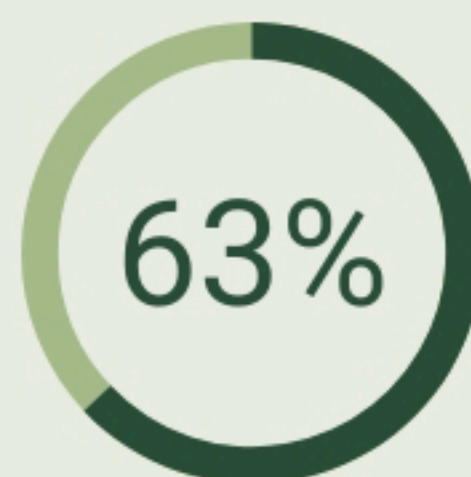
Maximum Funding

63% of respondents received the scholarship for the maximum allotted time frame: 2.5 years



Received Advising

While 100% of students utilized at least one campus resource, advising topped the list at 68%



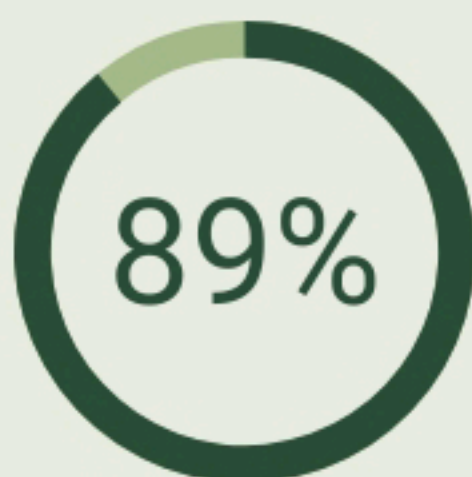
Continued Education

63% have pursued additional education; 100% of respondents plan to



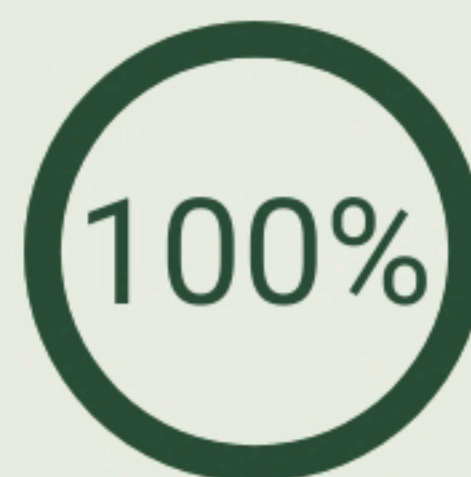
Formal Degree

58% of alumni have a formal degree, technical diploma or certificate



Advocate for Supports

89% of respondents favor additional supports like workshops and tutorials



Employed

100% of respondents are employed; 58% of jobs are related to their education

Insights & Advice



INSIGHTS

BIGGEST HELP

Scholarship Funds: Relieves daunting financial stress, allowing more time to focus on academics.

BIGGEST BARRIERS

Money & Transition: Managing bills, registration, campus schedules, credits and degree paths is overwhelming.



ADVICE

FOUNDATION STAFF

Build Relationship: Reach out, get to know your students individually, encourage them, and always be there.

COLLEGE STAFF

Take Your Time: Treat your students with patience; take the time to advise them wisely.

People & Prep



PEOPLE

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Supportive People: Consistently help define success, before, during and after a student's time in college.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Knowledgeable Staff: Dramatically improve student's experiences and ability to succeed.



PREPARATION

INTENSIVE COLLEGE PREP.

Provide Workshops: Budgeting, reading, note taking, and campus tours/resource tutorials

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide Opportunity: Connect students with internships, mentors, professional opportunities

LESSONS LEARNED

Alumni recipients shared a lot of insights.

It is clear most respondents have been impacted by the program in immeasurable ways.

There are important take-aways from this process that can enhance internal program processes and infrastructure.

Foundation staff look forward to planning next steps with the Education Committee of the Board and welcome comments and questions.

1. Enhance Foundation Support Staff's Role

Recognize the important role we can and have played in students' lives.

2. Develop Students' Networks

Assist students in developing positive social and professional networks: mentors, staff, peers.

3. Build Academic Infrastructure

Develop workshops, tours and campus resource tutorials to help set students up for success.