Scholarship Guidelines

Progress Mary Székely Scholarship

ABOUT

Progress is the trusted provider of AI-powered digital experiences and infrastructure software that empowers organizations to achieve transformational success in the face of disruptive change. Our software enables our customers to develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and personalized digital experiences with agility and ease. We work hard every day to positively impact our *people*, our *global community* and our *planet*. These three pillars form the foundation of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, *Progress for Tomorrow*.

We created the Progress Mary Székely Scholarship to commemorate Mary Székely (pronounced: "See-kay"), who served as the company's co-founder and lead technologist for more than 30 years. Mary was instrumental in Progress becoming known as the trusted provider of infrastructure software products—which we continue to this day. Mary passed away in 2019 and left an indelible mark on those who had the opportunity to work with her.

AWARD

$10,000 annual scholarship to cover tuition, fees and educational expenses. The scholarships is renewable for up to four years while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

ELIGIBILITY

Requirements

The recipient of the Progress Mary Székely Scholarship must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a resident of Massachusetts and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident eligible for federal financial aid

- Plan to major in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

- Have a financial need

- Be a high school senior OR high school graduate who plans to enroll OR is currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school

  - Preference will be given to students staying in-state for college, but it is not a requirement

- Have a cumulative high school unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)

- Have a desire to make meaningful contributions in the fields of computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

Exclusions

- Progress employees, board members and their families are not eligible
- Students in graduate school are not eligible

For the purpose of this scholarship, STEM is defined as **computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems**

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Progress partners with Kaleidoscope for the management of the scholarship and ensures it complies with IRS rules for awarding scholarships. To apply for the scholarship, you must create an account with Kaleidoscope.

The scholarship recipient will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities, such as a strong work ethic, high personal integrity, and a passion for learning. Each recipient must have the desire to become what Mary Székely was: a leader, mentor and innovator.
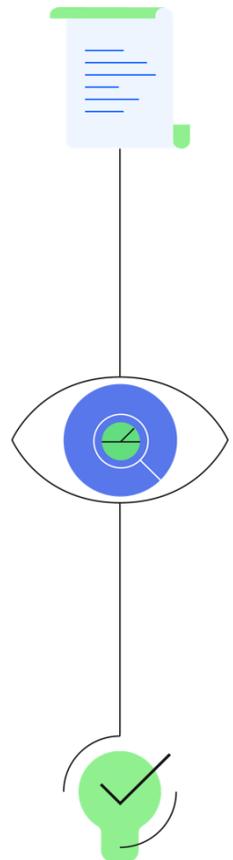
APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete applications are due on **Monday, April 13, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. ET** Please follow instructions carefully.

To access the application, click here: [Progress Mary Székely Scholarship](#)

1. Create your Kaleidoscope account and log in
2. Review the Kaleidoscope [Privacy Policy](#)
3. Review the eligibility requirements and compile your documents
4. Complete and submit the online application
5. Make sure you give the person writing your letter of recommendation ample time to complete their responsibility prior to the deadline. Instructions are included in the application.
6. If you have questions, please email help@mykaleidoscope.com

A note on Data Privacy: As part of the application process, you will need to provide information related to your financial status for the purpose of assessing financial needs. Please be advised that all personal data will be collected, processed and owned by Kaleidoscope Scholarship Fund, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation. Kaleidoscope Scholarship Fund will act as an independent data controller and you can [review their Privacy Policy](#) for more information on your rights as well as how to exercise them.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following materials are required. Only fully completed applications will be considered.

1. **Resume**
2. **High School Transcript**
3. **Letter of Recommendation** from teacher or mentor attesting to the student's passion and commitment to achieving their goals
4. **FAFSA Submission Summary**
5. **Essay (500-1000 Words)**

   Prompt: Mary Székely was a founding engineer and long-time technical leader at Progress. She believed great technologists put the welfare of users first, take responsibility for the impact of their work, do no harm through careful testing, learn the systems they affect and embrace change with humility and curiosity.

   What does "taking responsibility for your impact on others" mean to you, and how will you apply Mary's values in your education and future STEM career? Share a concrete example (from your past or a problem you want to tackle) and explain how you'll test, listen and iterate to ensure people are genuinely better off because of your work.

A note on AI use: While AI tools can help with editing, streamlining and ideating, the thoughtful core of your essay and the words should be your own. If asked further questions about your essay and background, you should be able to elaborate without assistance.

TIMELINE

- Complete applications are due by **Monday, April 13, 2026**
- Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in late May - June
- Applicants will be notified of results in late June
- Scholarship recipient will be publicly announced by Progress in September

RENEWING THE SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship recipients are eligible to renew their scholarship up to three times in a five-year period while pursuing an undergraduate degree, provided the following requirements are met:

- Remain enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school

- Maintain a major in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

- Submit year-end transcripts

REVISIONS

Progress reserves the right to review the eligibility and terms of this scholarship and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Please contact help@mykaleidoscope.com