

John Cary Scholarships



Propelling Students to Future Success

The Special Education Foundation's mission is to assist students with disabilities in achieving success in ways not supported by tax dollars, and it aims to provide tools and opportunities they need to succeed. The Special Education Foundation (SEF) established the John Cary Scholarship in 2016, recognizing the late superintendent of the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD), for his commitment to excellence and his support of students with disabilities.

Each year SEF awards college scholarships to select students who are entering post-secondary education.

The selected students reflect the characteristics most admired by John Cary — resiliency, courage and determination. The scholarship committee looks for evidence of future success by considering academics, leadership and community volunteer activities, and success in athletics and/or the arts.

How It Works

- Each school year, students planning to attend a four-year college or university can submit an application accompanied by their school transcript, through the SEF website.
- Once a student application is received, SEF contacts the student's SSD teacher to complete the Teacher Next Steps form on the SEF website and submit a letter of recommendation.
- Financial needs and teacher recommendations are also considered in the selection process.
- Applications are reviewed and students are selected by an SEF committee including members of the Board of Directors and key staff.

Well-rounded individuals, particularly those with exceptional achievement in a specific area, are likely to be successful applicants.

With the Special Education Foundation's John Cary Scholarships, selected students whose families would otherwise be burdened with tuition fees are able to receive post-secondary education. Learn about the Special Education Foundation and more information on John Cary Scholarships.



“I want to be a lab technician. I’ve always had an interest in science, but taking biomedical science classes helped me develop that passion even more. I’ve remained courageous, determined, and resilient which is why I was a perfect candidate for the scholarship.” ~ Sara B.

