



2022-2023

# Education Fund Scholarships

The PLATO Education Fund currently provides scholarship assistance to four University of Wisconsin-Madison returning adult students, financial support for the Odyssey Project, and educational opportunities for young people through four community organizations. This is all made possible by the generosity of PLATO members who value lifelong learning and see value in providing much-needed financial support to people who might otherwise be unable to take advantage of educational opportunities due to financial need.

## Returning Adult Student Program

Administered through the UW-Madison Division of Continuing Studies, these scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and targeted toward single-parent students and other nontraditional adult returnees.

Financial need and academic potential are critical components in determining the awards.

The PLATO Education Fund awarded four \$3,500 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year.

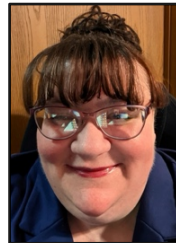
**Emily Atkins** is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work program with a focus on mental health. After she graduates and earns her license as a clinical social worker,



**Nolan Frank** is studying human development and family studies within the School of Human Ecology. Nolan is excited by the way values-based judgement and decision making inform his personal and social practices of innovative and creative problem solving. He is currently learning various methods of qualitative research.

Emily plans to go into private practice, seeking to serve a wider population as a Spanish-speaking therapist with accessible and affordable services for all.

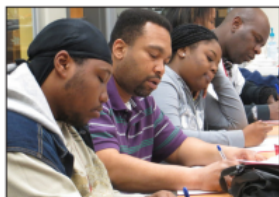
**Kristi Kimote** is a Master of Social Work program student. She loves working in the school environment and advocating for students who may be struggling emotionally, behaviorally, and/or academically. Through this part-time program, Kristi has gained practical knowledge such as how to research



**Mary Pulchinski** is working toward a Doctorate in Population Health Nursing. She has spent the entirety of her nursing career in public health and fiercely advocates for it. She has a vision for how public health can play a vital role in improving the lives of all people. She believes that healthcare is a human right, and that health is influenced by

evidence-based practices as well as developing values such as honoring student and parent voices and experiences.

a complex network of factors that we are only beginning to explore. She hopes to be a force for change in public health.



**Odyssey Project**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



For the fiscal year of July 2022 – June 2023, the PLATO Education Fund awarded \$6,000 in support of the **Odyssey Project**. Since 2003, the Odyssey Project ([odyssey.wisc.edu](http://odyssey.wisc.edu)) has empowered more than 500 adults living near the poverty level to find their voices and get a jump-start on college degrees they never thought possible. Their children participate in **Odyssey Junior**, allowing whole families to learn and grow to work toward a better future. **Onward Odyssey** connects program alumni with other UW-Madison courses, including Special Education Paraprofessional training, Food Systems, and African American Studies.

## PLATO Education Fund Supports Community Organizations

The PLATO Education Fund is supporting four community agencies that offer a broad range of educational opportunities for low income, marginalized adults, and youth. Each organization is receiving a \$5,000 grant.

**CLIMB USA:** Funding supports expanding the participation of Madison Area Students in The CLIMB Youth Leadership and Summer Stock Market Experience Programs. ([climbusa.org](http://climbusa.org))

**Lussier Community Education Center:** Funding supports educational programming for elementary and middle school students to help prepare them for success. ([lcecmadison.org](http://lcecmadison.org))

**Madison Literacy Network:** Funding supports the program resources budget that includes textbooks for English language learning (ELL) and digital/online resources to enhance the ELL experience. ([litnetwork.org](http://litnetwork.org))

**Maydm:** Funding is provided to continue hosting immersive after school programs and workshops designed to enhance the STEM skills of middle and high school students in Madison. ([www.maydm.org](http://www.maydm.org))



## Donate to the PLATO Education Fund

### The Gift of Education – Helping PLATO Help Others

*Your education has helped you in life, and now you can help others by donating to the PLATO Education Fund. This fund was established through the UW Foundation to provide financial assistance for low-income, marginalized adult students pursuing a college education, and to support educational opportunities for learners of all ages through local community organizations. Your tax-deductible donation to the PLATO Education Fund helps to provide scholarships and funding to assist local education initiatives.*

**Make checks payable to: UW Foundation PLATO Fund (132907458)**

#### Mail to:

UW Foundation PLATO Fund  
UW Bank Lockbox  
P.O. Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Or donate online via credit card at  
[platomadison.org/donate](http://platomadison.org/donate)

### PLATO Program | With Support from Oakwood Village

6209 Mineral Point Road, #203 | Madison, WI 53705 | 608-572-6869 | [platomadison.org](http://platomadison.org) | [info@platomadison.org](mailto:info@platomadison.org)

*PLATO IS A COMMUNITY OF INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS ADULTS, TYPICALLY 50 AND OVER, WHICH EXPLORES SUBJECTS OF INTEREST THROUGH MEMBER-LED DISCUSSION GROUPS, LECTURES, TRAVEL, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES*