

PLATO 2018-2019 Education Fund Scholarships

In 2018, PLATO is providing scholarship assistance to four University of Wisconsin-Madison returning adult students, financial support for the Odyssey Project, and educational opportunities for young people through five community agencies. This is all made possible by the generosity of PLATO members who value lifelong learning and provide needed financial support on behalf of students who would be left out 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. For 2018, the PLATO Education Fund is supporting four \$3,500 scholarships.

Jennifer Johnson is a master's degree candidate with UW's LaFollette School of Public Affairs. Jennifer worked at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Elections Commission before beginning her public affairs studies. Johnson aims to effect positive change in her community.



Brittany Neal is a part-time graduate student at UW-Madison's School of Social Work and works full-time for the Community Development Authority as a service coordinator. In addition to being a student and full-time worker, she is also the mother of two children, so much of her time and energy are devoted to family.



Chee Thao completed his undergraduate work at UW-Madison in 2016 with a major in soil science and a certificate in environmental studies. He was accepted into the biological systems engineering master's program in 2017 and credits his accomplishments to the sacrifices of his family.



Erin Warner is inspired by her travels and nontraditional move through adult life. She is guided by a desire to leave a positive impact on the world through a passion for sustainability and horticultural practices. Her goals have not been hindered by the challenges of being a low income, first-generation college student.



Odyssey Project
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



In 2018, the PLATO Education Fund is donating \$6,000 in support of the **Odyssey Project**. Since 2003, the Odyssey Project (www.odyssey.wisc.edu) has empowered more than 400 adults near the poverty level 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 hope about the future. **Onward Odyssey** connects program alumni with other UW-Madison courses, including Special Education Paraprofessional training, Food Systems, and African American Studies.

Community Organizations

In 2018, the PLATO Education Fund is supporting five community agencies that provide educational opportunities for low income youth. Each program is receiving a \$3,000 grant.

One City Early Learning Center: Scholarships are provided to low income families for this innovative pre-school which prepares youth to become school ready. (www.onecityschools.org)

DANENet: Funds support staffing for low-income youth learning computer programming, engineering, and art by participation in small group projects. (www.danenet.org)

Kidlinks World: Funds provide staffing to support two high-risk adolescents learning all aspects of gardening--from growing to selling, and the possibilities of agricultural careers. (www.kidlinksworld.org)

Maydm: Funds provide scholarships for four low-income elementary school girls and students of color through an intensive program teaching technology and computing skills. (www.maydm.org)

Luissier Community Education Center: Funds support educational programming for elementary and middle school students to help prepare them for success. (www.lcecmadison.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 students pursuing a college education, and to support educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth through local community organizations. Your tax-deductible donation to the PLATO Education Fund helps to provide scholarships and funding to assist local community 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/donations

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.

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