Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM[1]
Scholarship Guidelines

ABOUT

Dedicated to propelling business forward in a technology-driven world, Progress (Nasdaq: PRGS) helps businesses drive faster cycles of innovation, fuel momentum and accelerate their path to success faster through industry leading infrastructure software products. We strive to be a diverse, equitable and inclusive company, where every person–no matter their experience, perspective, identity or belief–has a sense of belonging.

We created the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM 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—a charge that Progress continues to this day. She had a deep love for math and science and was influential in our industry at a time when women pursuing careers in STEM were rare. Mary passed away in June 2019 but left an indelible mark on those who had the opportunity to work with her.

The scholarship is awarded to a single recipient annually.

AWARD

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

ELIGIBILITY

Requirements

The recipient of the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM must meet the following eligibility requirements. The candidate must:

- Identify as a woman
- 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
- 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

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

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS
The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), a division of The Boston Foundation, oversees the management of the scholarship and ensures it complies with IRS rules for awarding scholarships.

Scholarship recipients 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, including, but not limited to 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 International Women's Day, **Friday,March 8, 2024 by 5pm EDT**. Please follow instructions carefully.

To access the application, click here: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=tpischolarship

1. Create an account and log in. Please keep a record of your username and password.

2. Once this is done, there should be an opportunity to enter an Access Code at the top of the page. Please enter: **Mary**

3. Review the **eligibility requirements** to make sure you are eligible to submit.

4. Review the **sample application** to be sure you have all the information you will need to complete the application process. A sample application can be found here: https://www.tpi.org/Progress

5. Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application and include uploading electronic files, scanning and uploading, or using a fax-to-file feature.

6. Make sure you give the person you are asking to submit a letter of **recommendation** ample time to complete their recommendation prior to the application deadline. Instructions are included in the application.

7. If you have **questions**, please email progress@tpi.org.

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

1. **Completed and submitted** online application
2. Two **essays** are required. The essays submitted should provide the review committee an understanding of the applicant's proficiency in two of the following three areas:
   1. How they developed an interest in STEM
   2. Career aspirations in the STEM field
   3. How they exemplify Mary Székely's qualities

   ** Applicants may submit a copy of their personal statement as one of their essays, if it touches on the subjects listed above.**

   Essay Prompts (500 words).

   (a) *Share your passion for STEM, where it began and what you hope to achieve in the field, including any past or current achievements related to computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.*

  (b) *Provide insight about how you have impacted others or provided opportunities for others that may not have previously existed. Examples may include mentorship, community engagement, volunteerism and/or philanthropic efforts. Any initiatives that are also related to STEM, a plus.*

3. **High School Transcript** (must have a cumulative unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent).
4. **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher attesting to the student's passion and commitment to achieving their goals.
5. **Resume**
6. **Submission Summary from Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

TIMELINE

- Complete applications are due on International Women's Day, **Friday, March 8, 2024 by 5pm EDT.**
- Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in April.
- Scholarship recipient will be notified in late April/early May.
- Scholarship applicants not selected will be notified of decisions via email in late April/early May.
- Scholarship recipient will be publicly announced by Progress in June.

RENEWING THE SCHOLARSHIP

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

- Submit year-end transcripts
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).
- 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
- A student may take up to one academic year off from enrollment in college and remain eligible to retain their scholarship provided all four years of the scholarship are completed within five years from the date of the original award

REVISIONS

TPI and Progress reserve 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 progress@tpi.org