Scholarship Guidelines

Progress Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM

ABOUT

Progress is the trusted provider of AI-powered digital experiences and infrastructure software to help businesses achieve their goals. With Progress products, customers can develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and digital experiences with agility and ease. We work hard every day to positively impact our *people*, our *communities* 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 for Women in STEM to commemorate Mary Székely (pronounced: "See-kay"), who served as the company's cofounder 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. Her love for math and science was influential on our industry at a time when it was rare for women to pursue careers in STEM. Mary passed away in June 2019 and 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 Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a woman and resident of Massachusetts and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident eligible for federal financial aid
2. Plan to major in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems
3. Have a financial need
4. 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
5. Have a cumulative high school unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
6. Have a desire to make meaningful contributions in the fields of computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

Exclusions

1. Progress employees, board members and their families are not eligible
2. 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

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.
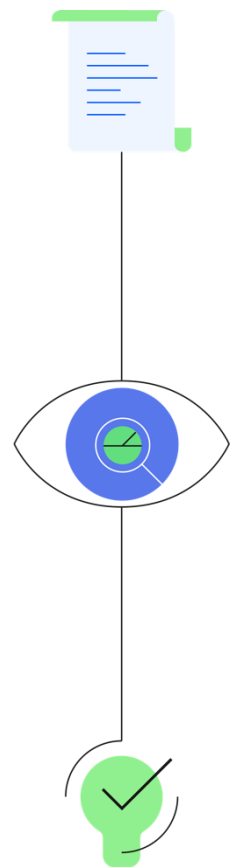
Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities, including, but not limited to, a strong 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 **Friday, April 11, 2025, by 5pm.** Please follow instructions carefully.

To access the application, click here: https://tpi.org/progress-software-mary-szekely-scholarship-for-women-in-stem/

1. Review the eligibility requirements to make sure you are eligible to submit
2. Review the sample application to be sure you have all the information you will need to complete the application process
3. Click "online application" to begin. Create your account and log in.
4. Once this is done, there should be an opportunity to enter an Access Code at the top of the page. Please enter: **Mary**
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
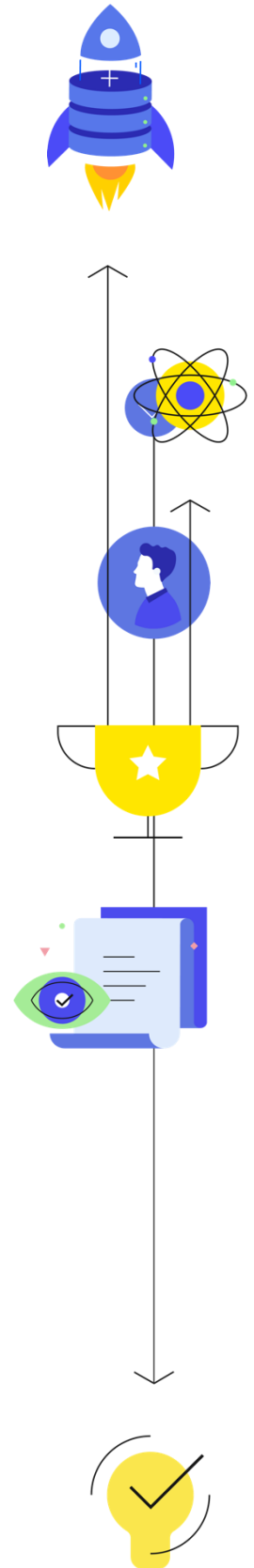7. If you have questions, please email progress@tpi.org

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

1. **Completed and submitted** online application
2. **One essay** is required.
    a. Essay Prompt (500-1000 words).
        i. We seek to award this scholarship to an individual that exemplifies the qualities of Mary Székely: a dedicated trailblazer and empathetic leader with a passion for math and science. Please share your passion for STEM, where it started, and what you hope to achieve. Additionally, please dedicate some of your essay to how you have had a positive impact on others through any volunteering, mentorship, and community engagement. Any initiatives related to STEM are 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)**
7. **Financial Aid Award Letter** from a top choice college (if available)

TIMELINE

1. Complete applications are due on **Friday, April 11, 2025, by 5pm**
2. Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in late April/early May
3. Scholarship recipient will be notified in early June
4. Scholarship applicants not selected will be notified of decisions via email in late May
5. 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:

1. Submit year-end transcripts
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
3. Remain enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school
4. Maintain a major in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems
5. 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