

news

IMPORTANT DATES

July 6, 2015

Scholarship Payout Forms Due

July 15, 2015

Payout Checks Mailed to
Colleges/Universities

October 2015

Online Application Available

2015 Reading Room Openings

Bakerfield Elementary School –
Aberdeen, MD

Boca Raton Elementary School –
Boca Raton, FL

Fifth District Elementary School –
Upperco, MD

Grove Park Elementary School –
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Indian Pines Elementary School –
Lake Worth, FL

Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK – 5 –
Pittsburgh, PA

Westward Elementary School –
West Palm Beach

William Winchester Elementary
School –
Westminster, MD

And The Award Goes To...

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CSF Receives Large Gift!

The Carson Scholars Fund received a \$100,000 gift from TheBestSchools.org. TheBestSchools.org offers detailed and reliable information about the best schools and degree programs in all fields of study in the U.S....[continue reading](#)

Volunteer Celebration

Volunteers are vital in the success of the Carson Scholars Fund. It is because of their dedication and commitment that we are able to process and score the thousands of scholarship applications CSF receives annually. In addition, they also play an important role in the execution of our awards banquets and the Ben Carson Reading Project....[continue reading](#)



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Carson Scholars Fund **n**ews

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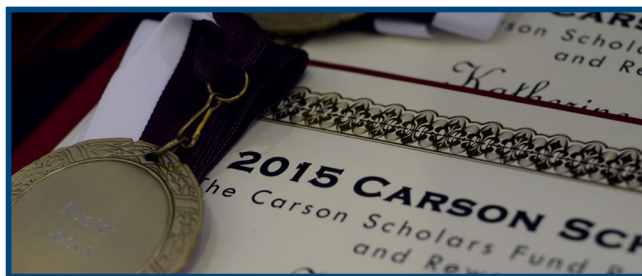
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Each year, the Carson Scholars Fund holds regional awards banquets throughout the country to honor our Carson Scholars. It has been a truly successful year with great accomplishment and praise. At seven regional awards banquets, scholars were honored for their academic achievement and humanitarian qualities that make them stand out from their peers. This season, the Carson Scholars Fund was proud

to recognize 526 new and 769 previous scholars from across the country.

The 2015 Carson Scholars represent students from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Not only did we celebrate the impressive accomplishments of our scholars at our banquets, we also recognized the work of distinguished guests for their excellence.

The banquet season kicked off Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the Laguna Cliff's Marriott in Dana Point, CA. Students and families from all over the **West Coast** gathered to celebrate high academic achievement.

Union Bank's Robbin Narike Preciado expertly led the festivities for the evening, emphasizing Union Bank's and CSF's, ongoing commitment to education. Dr. and Mrs. Carson along with our partner, Union Bank, congratulated 53 new and 39 previous scholars, while enjoying the majestic setting of plunging cliffs and crystal blue water. **Read more on the West Coast banquet.**

On Saturday, April 11, scholars, families, friends and educators gathered at the Harborside Event Center for the **Lee County/Florida** Carson Scholars Awards Ceremony. With approximately 500 guests in attendance, Brian Colleran, news anchor for NBC2, returned as emcee. Along with his warm welcome, he noted the accomplishments of the 63 new and 101 previous scholars from across the state of Florida! **Read more on the Florida/Lee County banquet in the article from our co-founder, Candy Carson.**

The following day, on Saturday, April 12, **Chattanooga** hosted its annual Carson Scholars Awards Ceremony celebrating 44 new and 52 previous scholars from Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and both the Carolinas as well! The event was held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where David Carroll of WRCB-TV





emceed for the second time. In addition, the Chancellor of UTC, Dr. Steven Angle, congratulated the scholars while emphasizing the importance of education. [Read more on the Chattanooga banquet in the article from our co-founder, Candy Carson.](#)

Sunday, April 19 featured the 19th Annual **Maryland** Awards Banquet where Emmy Award winning television news anchor at WBFF-TV, Jennifer Gilbert, kicked off the event. As Master of Ceremonies, Jennifer Gilbert welcomed and congratulated the 178 new and 348 previous scholars from Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic. [Read more on the Maryland banquet.](#)

The 19th annual banquet included recognition of this year's honorees, which included:

- **Wynton Marsalis**, *Grammy Award Winning Musician*, was awarded with the Power of Excellence Award for demonstrating excellence in his career and becoming a positive role model. He was the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards for both jazz and classical records; and he repeated the distinction again in 1984!
- **Toby Orenstein**, *Founder & Artistic Director of Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts*, was presented with the Sonya Award for demonstrating the drive, determination and commitment and perseverance of Dr. Carson's mother, Sonya. She taught, directed and produced for several years before she was asked to create a theatrical arts school. The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts (CCTA) has educated through the arts by creating theatrical experiences that inspire thought, action, creativity and change. Toby not only helped to create great actors, but also great people who give back to their community.
- **Donlin Long, M.D., Ph.D.**, *Distinguished Service Professor of Neurosurgery Emeritus, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions*, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was given to someone who has positively impacted society with innovative ideas, accomplishments and philosophies of encouraging others and giving back. Dr. Long founded the Johns Hopkins Department of Neurosurgery and Department of Clinical Neurosciences. He served as the Chair of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins for 27 years and stepped down to his current position to devote his time to research, education and patient care.
- The final honoree for the evening was **Peter Agre, M.D.**, *Bloomberg Distinguished Professor and Director, Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute*, who was awarded with the Trailblazer Award for being an individual with a pioneering spirit who has positively impacted society with his innovative ideas. He is involved in multiple global issues and has a desire to help cure third world diseases. In 2003, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovery of the aquaporins, a family of water channel proteins found throughout nature.

Here's What Scholars, Families and Educators Had To Say...

"Being a Carson Scholar has promoted positive self-esteem within her that creates a more positive relationship with others."

– Parents of Hannah Swank

"I have been able to share my story with many others and prove that anything is possible if you believe in yourself."

– Alissa Jackson

"This banquet has encouraged me to continue to work hard and never give up. There are many students out there just like me and together we can do something great."

– Zirui Guo

"It fills me with a sense of pride as a parent. It makes me realize that my child is learning by example and has inspired me to get other schools in our district involved with the Carson Scholarship."

– Parent of Ella Rhodes

"Our Carson Scholar is intelligent, caring and motivated. She makes our school a better place. She is always looking to make others around her better as well as looking to improve the school and herself."

– An educator



In addition, Alumni Carson Scholar, **Megan Rosenberger** spoke at the ceremony. Megan is a 3rd class midshipman in the U.S. Naval Academy and launched her own nonprofit, Barrels by the Bay, which brings awareness to the annual United Nations World Water Day, March 22, while educating individuals within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed about water resources. **Barrels by the Bay** has officially expanded into Baltimore! This summer, barrels are being painted by the Baltimore Zoo and Bay Buddies, an enrichment program for students in Baltimore with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. They have also teamed up with the Baltimore City Public School District where students will have the opportunity to paint barrels themselves and learn more about Barrels by the Bay initiatives. Barrels by the Bay Education Program is structured to make reading and learning about the environment fun! If you or a school is interested in this program, please contact **Megan** at: megan@barrelsbay.org, visit their website [here](#) or visit their Facebook page [here](#).



The following week, two more banquets were held! On April 24, **Battle Creek** kicked off their awards ceremony honoring 27 new and 9 previous Michigan-area scholars at Battle Creek Central High School. Emcee, Terry Burleson, was the first to congratulate not only the scholars, but their family, friends and supporters as well. The next day, on April 25, approximately 240 people attended the Annual **Chicago** Awards Ceremony at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn to honor the 53 new and 55



previous scholars. Emceeding for the third time, Dr. Sandy Goldberg, host of the series Food for Thought on local NBC affiliate News 5 in Chicago, opened the program honoring the scholars from 10 states which included Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North & South Dakota and Wisconsin. Will Gilliam, Administrator of Professional Services at Christ Advocate Medical Center, accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Carson on stage to hand out certificates and medal to the Carson Scholars. **Read more on the Battle Creek**

banquet and Chicago banquet in articles from our co-founder, Candy Carson. The 2015 banquet season concluded with the **Pittsburgh** Carson Scholars Awards Ceremony, held on Sunday, May 24th at Heinz Field. With more than 600 guests in attendance, 107 new and 165 previous scholars were celebrated for their achievements. In addition to the scholars, Honorable Thomas M. Piccione, Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County, was awarded the 2015 Spirit of Achievement Award for positively impacting society with innovative ideas, accomplishments and philosophies. In addition, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund celebrated their achievement of overcoming their goal of awarding 1,000 scholars! **Read more on the Pittsburgh banquet in the article from our co-founder, Candy Carson.**

The words of wisdom shared by our honored guests were an inspiration and made the events special for all in attendance. We are eternally grateful for the commitment to education that our distinguished guests, educators, community leaders, scholars and families have made. The 2015 awards banquets were the best ones yet and we continue to be excited to see what next year will bring!

We encourage you to check out our **Chapters page** on our website to read all of the banquet highlights. Photos from each banquet can be found on our **website** and **Facebook page**.



Scholar Checklist

As the 2015 scholarship season comes to a close and as we are preparing for scholarship payouts, we have been mailing you (and your schools) a lot of information. Please make sure that you have received all of the following if applicable to you. If you are missing something or if you have any questions about the information, please contact us at 410.828.1005 or email katie@carsonscholars.org

- All scholar packets have been mailed if you were unable to attend the banquet. Scholar packs include your certificate and medal (new scholars) or pin (previous scholars).
- All scholars who were able to attend an awards banquet should have received their group photo in the mail. Only previous scholars attending the Maryland Awards Banquet will receive a group photo.
- All scholars should have received their 2015 scholarship statement. **Moving forward scholarship statements will only be available online – this is the last year you will receive a statement in the mail. Please make sure that we have an accurate email address on file for you so that you can receive the online statements in the future.**
- All scholars eligible for the fall 2015 semester payout should have received a payout request form with their scholar statement.
- Schools have been mailed their trophy and/or nameplates.

It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact information for our scholars. If you have moved, changed email addresses, or got a new phone number, please let us know! This is especially important when it comes time for scholarship payouts.

Fall 2015 Payouts

If you are a payout-eligible scholar you have been mailed (and emailed) your scholarship statement and fall 2015 payout request form. Please keep in mind our payout policy when completing your payout form.

Scholarship monies are paid directly to the college or university and can only be made after verifying that the scholar is a full-time accepted and enrolled student at an accredited institution within the United States for the upcoming semester. Students must be enrolled in a bachelor's-degree-track (four-year) program. Scholarship monies can be used towards academic expenses including tuition, room and board, or books.

You have the option to request a full scholarship payout, partial payout, or defer your scholarship payout. We often receive partial payout requests when students decide to use their scholarship money towards books. You can also defer your scholarship payout for up to three years after graduating high school. If you are attending a community college for two years and then transferring to a four year college or university, you can defer your scholarship payout. We will continue to send you information as to how to request a payout each semester you are eligible, or until your full scholarship balance has been paid out.

The Payout Request Form must be completed and submitted back to the CSF office by July 6, 2015. Checks will be mailed to colleges on July 15, 2015 in time for the fall semester. Any Payout Request Forms received after July 6, 2015 will be held for payout in the spring 2016 semester.

You can download a copy of the fall 2015 payout request form [here](#).

Also this year, you can complete your payout request form online. All eligible scholars should have received an email with a link to the payout request form, your username and password.

If any of your contact information (mailing address, email address, or phone number) has changed since we last heard from you, please get in touch! We can only send Payout Request Forms to contact information that we have. To update your information, call 410.828.1005, or send an email to katie@carsonscholars.org.



Reading Room Openings



The Ben Carson Reading Project has been bustling with activity. The primary purpose of the Ben Carson Reading Project is to provide funding and support to schools to create a nurturing environment for children to develop a passion for reading. Over the past three months, the project has welcomed twelve new school partners and has expanded its reach on both the East and West Coasts. Another proud milestone – in April, the CSF opened the first Ben Carson Reading Room in the state of Tennessee in Murfreesboro City Schools. Ben Carson Reading Rooms are now located in seventeen states and Washington, D.C. Listed below are the Spring 2015 Ben Carson Reading Room Openings.

May 8, 2015 - Miami, FL
Morningside K-8 Academy
Sponsored by Harry F. Duncan Foundation

April 23, 2015 - Oak Lawn, IL
Kolmar School
Sward School
Sponsored by Advocate Christ Medical Center



April 22, 2015 - Carmichael, CA
Starr King K-8 School
Sponsored by the Country Club Optimist Club

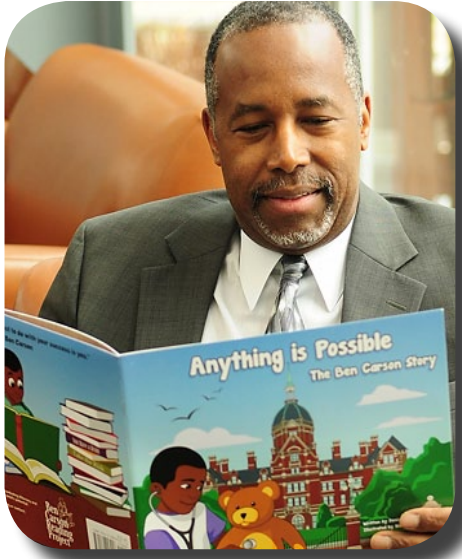
April 21, 2015 - Sacramento, CA
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
John Bidwell Elementary School
John Sloat Elementary School
John Still K-8 School
Susan B. Anthony Elementary School
Sponsored by the Richard Lumsden Foundation

April 13, 2015 - Murfreesboro, TN
Northfield Elementary School
Reeves-Rogers Elementary School
Sponsored by the Deaver Phoenix Foundation

March 25, 2015 - Pomona, CA
Allison Elementary School
Sponsored in loving memory of Dean T. Wickstrom



Anything Is Possible: The Ben Carson Story



For over 20 years, the autobiography *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* has told the extraordinary life story of world renowned retired pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson. Now preschool and elementary school students can learn about Dr. Carson's childhood, early education and career. Written for young readers, the book chronicles the inspiring true story of Dr. Ben Carson who, as a child, went from "worst to first" when he discovered a love of reading. With bright, colorful illustrations and delightful rhyming text, this book encourages children to reach for the stars, to not be held back by temporary setbacks and to read, read, and then read some more!

A portion of the book sales will help fund the Ben Carson Reading Project an educational initiative of the Carson Scholars Fund. The Ben Carson Reading Project is dedicated to combatting illiteracy and promoting reading as a key to unlocking a child's full potential.

To learn more about the Carson Scholars Fund or to purchase your copy of *Anything is Possible: The Ben Carson Story* visit www.carsonscholars.org/store/books.

Scholar Spotlight: Meagan Bethel

In 2014, Meagan Bethel was named a Carson Scholar. A graduate of Tucson Magnet High School, Meagan will be attending the University of Arizona in the fall. Meagan will be majoring in Wildlife Biology/ Wildlife Conservation. She is an exceptional scholar and has received many honors and scholarships like the Funk Cordell "Excellence in Science" Scholarship, University of Arizona Wildcat Excellence Award, ASU Presidential Scholarship, "Women of Influence" Future Leaders Scholarship, and even the AXA Community Award. Meagan also spends time volunteering as a citizen scientist for the Sky Island Alliance, where she has been committed since 2009. Meagan has spent time traveling for different projects or competitions to China, Australia, Scotland, Ireland, and even Hawaii, to name a few.



Top 20 Under Thirty - Hall of Fame

The Carson Scholars Fund will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2016! We are very excited for such a huge milestone and would like to announce that with our anniversary, CSF will unveil a Carson Scholar Hall of Fame. The Carson Scholar Hall of Fame will feature our "top 20 under thirty" Carson Scholars for 2016.

The application will be available to all of our alumni scholars under the age of thirty. Applications will be distributed and available in July. Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 31, 2015. Good luck!



“Will I Am Carson Video” featuring Carson Scholar Alumni



CSF Receives Large Gift!

The Carson Scholars Fund received a \$100,000 gift from TheBestSchools.org. TheBestSchools.org offers detailed and reliable information about the best schools and degree programs in all fields of study in the U.S. The Carson Scholars Fund co-founder, Dr. Benjamin Carson, announced, "This is an idyllic partnership. The Carson Scholars Fund identifies and rewards college bound leaders and TheBestSchools.org provides the resources for students to achieve personal and career success through education."

TheBestSchools.org donation is the largest gift ever received by the Carson Scholars Fund from a national educational organization. It will be used to help strengthen the Carson Scholars Fund's alumni network. According to TheBestSchools.org, "It's been said that we can do without most things in life, but that we can't do without schools, for they rule the world. Yet the whole purpose of schools is to serve our young people, to help students learn effectively and thus carry the torch for the next generation. That's why we, at TheBestSchools.org, love the Carson Scholars Fund! It doesn't just honor students for their academic accomplishments, but it also highlights what education can be at its best."

Thank you to TheBestSchools.org for believing in the Carson Scholars Fund's mission! To learn more about TheBestSchools.org, visit <http://www.thebestschools.org/>



Amy Warner, Executive Director of the Carson Scholars Fund; Dr. Ben Carson, Co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund; Rich Tatum, Director of Marketing at TheBestSchools.org; James Barham, President and General Editor of TheBestSchools.org

Volunteer Celebration

Volunteers are vital in the success of the Carson Scholars Fund. It is because of their dedication and commitment that we are able to process and score the thousands of scholarship applications CSF receives annually. In addition, they also play an important role in the execution of our awards banquets and the Ben Carson Reading Project.

On Wednesday, June 24, Carson Scholars Fund volunteers gathered with CSF staff and board members for a celebration at Fort McHenry. With gorgeous weather and blue skies, volunteers enjoyed a lunch complete with outdoor activities including corn hole, kan-jam and of course bubbles! After lunch, volunteers toured the historic Fort McHenry located in Baltimore, MD. **Thank you to all of our volunteers!**

If you are interested in volunteering with the Carson Scholars Fund, please contact katie@carsonscholars.org



Meet Our Interns

Dakota Huggler



Year(s) Named a Carson Scholar:
2008

College You're Attending in the Fall:
CCBC

Intended Major:
Creative writing

Favorite Book:
American Psycho

Favorite Movie:
Reservoir Dogs

Favorite Food:
Salad

Best Advice You've Received:
"Life doesn't really start until you're out of school."

A teacher that influenced you and how:
My ninth grade English teacher and twelfth grade drama teacher -- they encouraged me to pursue writing

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
Reading minds

Steven Isett



Year(s) Named a Carson Scholar:
2008, 2011-15

College You're Attending in the Fall:
Tufts University

Intended Major:
Double major in biology and biotechnology

Favorite Book:
The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig

Favorite Movie:
Pulp Fiction

Favorite Food:
Sushi

Best Advice You've Received:
"Make sure you put the cap on the centrifuge before you use it."

A teacher that influenced you and how:
Eleventh grade chemistry teacher -- prepared me for college and showed me how cool science is

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
Freeze/unfreeze time

Annie McPherson



Year(s) Named a Carson Scholar:
2007, 08, 10, 11

College You're Attending in the Fall:
North Carolina A&T State University

Intended Major:
Mechanical engineering and certificate in entrepreneurship

Favorite Book:
The Hunger Games

Favorite Movie:
Live Free or Die Hard

Favorite Food:
Pizza

Best Advice You've Received:
"Reach for the stars. That way, if you get stopped for a moment and land on the clouds, you'd still be higher than the rest."

A teacher that influenced you and how:
Mr. B -- he taught me that even when something seems hard, you should try to find any possible way that would make that problem easy to solve

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
Super speed