

news

Important Dates

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10/15: Nomination form distributed to schools/online application available

November

Early November: Previous scholar application available

11/12: National Day of Reading

11/19: Spring 2019 payout request forms due

11/27: Giving Tuesday

December

12/5: Payout checks mailed to colleges

12/6: Pittsburgh Dinner

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January

1/9: Application deadline

1/11: Teacher recommendation deadline

1/16: Principal verification deadline

Reading Room Openings

West Side Elementary - Rossville, GA

Tiger Creek Elementary - Tunnel Hill, GA

Broadview Elementary - Manchester, TN

KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy - San Diego, CA

The Learning Choice Academy - Temecula, CA and Chula Vista, CA

Scholarship Prep Charter School - Santa Ana, CA

Endeavor College Preparatory Charter - Los Angeles, CA

The 2019 Scholarship Season is Upon Us!

As students and teachers are starting their school year, the Carson Scholars Fund is preparing for the 2019 scholarship season. Here's all of the important information you need to know to make this year's application...[Read More](#)

The Carson Scholars Fund is Hiring!

The Carson Scholars Fund is looking for a dynamic individual to join our scholarship team as the Scholarship and Communications Coordinator. View the job posting and apply online through Indeed. Carson Scholar...[Read More](#)

Support Our Future Leaders

How can you make a difference in the life of a young student who has a wealth of potential? You reward them for their academic excellence and humanitarian qualities! Encouraging students through the Carson Scholars...[Read More](#)

Become a Part of the CSF Hall of Fame

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Latest News from the Ben Carson Reading Project

From our 13th National Day of Reading to reading room openings from coast to coast, the Ben Carson Reading Project has much to be excited about! [Read More](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Matthew Mu

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Find Carson Scholars Near You with CSF Connect

Learn more about CSF Connect from Carson Scholars themselves! [Read More](#)

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The 2019 Scholarship Season is Upon Us!

As students and teachers are starting their school year, the Carson Scholars Fund is preparing for the 2019 scholarship season. Here's all of the important information you need to know to make this year's application season a success:

If you are an educator...



- If you would like to nominate a student for the 2019 scholarship season and be added to our application distribution list, please submit an [application request form](#). Our scholarship program is available to students in grades 4 through 11 at accredited K-12 schools in the United States. Students must meet eligibility requirements including a minimum 3.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale and a commitment to community service.

- The nomination form/online application will be distributed to principals and school officials on Monday, October 15, 2018. Each school can only nominate one student (unless otherwise told by the scholarship director). Within 48 hours of being nominated, students will receive an email with a link to the online application. **The sooner you nominate a student, the more time he/she will have to complete the online application.**

- Schools will have until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **Friday, December 14, 2018** to nominate a student.

- After a student is nominated, he/she will need to complete the online application which includes an essay, report card, community service details and teacher recommendation*. All components of the application must be submitted by 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **Wednesday, January 9, 2019.**

***New this year! Teacher recommendations will be accepted through 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on Friday, January 11, 2019.**

- On or around January 14, 2019, principals will receive an email with a link to review and verify the student's application. Applications are not considered complete without principal verification. Principals will have until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019** to complete the verification process. *Please note that while schools can only nominate one new student to compete for the Carson Scholarship, schools may have multiple previous scholars applying for Scholar Recognition and therefore principals may receive more than one email requesting verification.*

For more information, please visit the [Educators page](#) on our website.

If you are a previous Carson Scholar...

- We will distribute the Carson Scholar Recognition application directly to previous scholars via email by early November. Please send an email to Lacey at Irishards@carsonscholars.org confirming your email address. Be sure to include your name and date of birth in the email.

- You will have until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **Wednesday, January 9, 2019** to complete your application, which includes a description of your community service activities and submission of a report card.

- On or around January 14, 2019 your principal will receive an email with a link to review and verify your application. Principals will have until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019** to complete the verification process. If your school has multiple previous scholars, or a new student applying to be a scholar, your principal will receive multiple emails – one for each applicant.

As a reminder, there is no monetary award associated with receiving scholar recognition.

Scholars who graduate this year (2019) and who are six or more time scholars will be awarded an additional \$1,000 upon graduation thanks to funding from the Richard Lumsden Foundation.

For more information, please visit the [Current Scholars page](#) on our website.



If you believe the online application is not right for you/your school/your nominated student, hard copy applications are available by request only (first come, first served). To request a hard copy new or recognized application, please email Irishards@carsonscholars.org by December 1, 2018. Hard copy applications will not be mailed after December 7, 2018.

Don't forget! The deadline for submitting both new and recognized applications will be **Wednesday, January 9, 2019**. We've extended the application deadline to 8:00 p.m. (instead of 5:00 p.m.) Eastern Standard Time, but it's still important to plan ahead – our deadlines are final and no exceptions will be made because of weather, illness or any other reasons.

Please check our website often during the scholarship season for updates. We will be posting videos showing how to complete the online application and addressing frequently asked questions. If, at any time, during the scholarship process you have questions, please feel free to contact our scholarship team.

Lacey Richards, Scholarship Director – Irishards@carsonscholars.org

Marcos Rodriguez, California Expansion Coordinator – mrodriguez@carsonscholars.org

Kelsey Landroche, Development and Program Expansion Coordinator – kelsey@carsonscholars.org

The Carson Scholars Fund is Hiring!

The Carson Scholars Fund is looking for a dynamic individual to join our scholarship team as the Scholarship and Communications Coordinator. [View the job posting and apply online through Indeed.](#) **Carson Scholar alumni are encouraged to apply.**



Click to review us and help us become a 2018 Top-Rated Nonprofit!

Support Our Future Leaders

How can you make a difference in the life of a young student who has a wealth of potential? You reward them for their academic excellence and humanitarian qualities! Encouraging students through the Carson Scholars Fund, as early as 4th grade, has shown to have a significant impact on students' success later in life. This is all because caring individuals are sponsoring Carson Scholarships.

2017 Carson Scholar Neha Seshadri recently reflected on the impact of the Carson Scholarship:



"I am incredibly humbled and honored to be a Carson Scholar. Being a Carson Scholar has **helped me realize that hard work and dedication truly do pay off**. As a Carson Scholar, I have been introduced to a group of kind, passionate students and a community deeply committed to helping students achieve their goals. I feel very fortunate to be able to pursue my dream of receiving a great education as well as learning valuable lessons about giving back to the community. As a Carson Scholar, I want to thank all of the donors for making this scholarship possible. **With the Carson Scholars Fund's support, I will be attending Harvard University** in the fall where I hope to join a MD/PhD program and give back to the communities that supported me. Carson Scholar sponsors are immeasurably important: winning the Carson Scholarship bolstered my confidence and increased my desire to take academic risks; a quality that I am sure will aid me in the future. Your support is appreciated and I know that **I would not be the person I am today** without the support of the Carson Scholars Fund and its generous sponsors."

Your support will help more students like Neha pursue higher education and go on to become leaders in their career fields. There are countless students across the country who have the potential to succeed, but need encouragement from you to set and reach their goals. Please [visit our website](#) to make your \$1,500 contribution and sponsor a Carson Scholarship for the 2018-2019 year. You may sponsor a scholar at the school of your choice or award your scholarship to the best applicant in the U.S. A donation of \$30,000 (at once or in installments) ensures a Carson Scholar at a school of your choice in perpetuity.

Spring 2019 Scholarship Payout Information



The Carson Scholars Fund is proud to announce that, to date, we have paid out more than \$6.3 million to over 700 colleges on behalf of our scholars! Over 4,500 Carson Scholars have utilized at least part of their scholarship funds!

The next time the CSF will make payouts is for the Spring 2019 semester. Eligible scholars will be mailed and emailed the Payout Request Form in early October.

Payout forms will be due back to the CSF office by Monday, **November 19, 2018**. Checks will be mailed to colleges on or around December 5, 2018 in time for the spring semester. Any

Payout Request Forms received between now and then will be held until November. Any Payout Request Forms received after November 19, 2018 will be held for payout in the Fall 2019 semester.

Please note that payouts 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.

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 mail Payout Request Forms to addresses we have. To update your information, call 410.828.1005 or send an email to lrichards@carsonscholars.org.

Become a Part of the CSF Hall of Fame



The Carson Scholars Fund Hall of Fame is comprised of individuals whose lives and careers are an integral part of our history. **This year, we are inducting five new alumni into the 2019 Hall of Fame class.**

The Hall of Fame honors outstanding Carson Scholar alumni who represent the CSF's mission – those who have demonstrated success and excellence in the work force, who have excelled academically, and who have made significant contributions in their communities.

The application is open to all of our alumni scholars under the age of thirty. **Applications will be accepted through**



8:00 p.m. EST, Friday, September 28, 2018. Please email Irichards@carsonscholars.org to access the application.

Five remarkable alumni were inducted into the 2018 Hall of Fame at various banquets this past spring, bringing new ideas, new experiences, and new goals to the already impressive group of 25 Hall of Famers. They each received a gold-gilded, painted portrait to commemorate the occasion.

Help Select the 2019 Carson Scholars!



We're looking for volunteers to help process applications, calculate GPAs, and score essays/applications for the 2019 scholarship season. Each year, we receive thousands of applications from students across the country. We would not be able to process all of the applications without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

Our greatest need for volunteers is during the application scoring process. This begins on January 21, 2019 and runs through mid-February. If you, or someone you know, are interested in volunteering with the Carson Scholars Fund, we'd love to have you as part of our volunteer family!

Most of our applications are submitted online. This means that there is the option to score applications remotely. After you have gone through a training session covering the online application system and application scoring, you will have the option to volunteer remotely. Training sessions take place in our Towson, MD office or can be done over the phone or video conference.

Contact Lacey Richards, Scholarship Director, at Irichards@carsonscholars.org or 410.828.1005 for more details.

Save the Date for #GivingTuesday 2018

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018

We have two days for getting deals - Black Friday and Cyber Monday. On #GivingTuesday, we have a day for giving back. Why is this date so important? Because it is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities across the

country and the world. #GivingTuesday reminds us of the "reason for the season."

This year, the Carson Scholars Fund's goal is to raise funding for ten Carson Scholarships on November 27, 2018, #GivingTuesday.

We are proud to be a #GivingTuesday partner again this year. Please mark your calendar and share our commitment to #GivingTuesday on social media so that we can spread the word about the Carson Scholars Fund!

Latest News from the Reading Room Project

13th Annual National Day of Reading

Join us on Monday, November 12 as we celebrate the CSF's 13th Annual National Day of Reading. This coast-to-coast literacy event is designed to draw attention to the importance of everyday leisure reading.

This year's book selection is *Stellaluna*, written and illustrated by Janell Cannon. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, *Stellaluna* tells the tale of a mother fruit bat and her baby, and teaches valuable lessons on friendship and being honest about your feelings and values. To commemorate the day, Ben Carson Reading Room school partners will receive a hardcover copy of this beloved book and a special video narration by CSF co-founder Mrs. Candy Carson.



In addition to the book narration, some school partners will invite community members to serve as guest readers and host special literacy activities throughout the week. For students not attending a Ben Carson Reading Room school, the book narration will be available on the CSF website during the week of November 12. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate at home by reading with their children. Let's show our students how important reading is and how undeniably special it can be!

Manchester Elementary Reading Room Opening



Summer vacation is great but going back to school isn't all that bad either – especially when you're returning to a brand new Ben Carson Reading Room. Manchester Elementary in Pinewood, South Carolina officially opened its reading room on Wednesday, May 29. While students had the opportunity to visit the reading room, their time was limited due to the impending summer break. Now that school is back in session, students have ample time to explore this new resource. Manchester Elementary's reading room is the second reading room to be sponsored by Thompson Construction Group and to be located in the Sumter School District. The room's theme was inspired by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee's children's book *Giant Steps to Change the World*, which features twelve inspiring individuals, including CSF co-founder and famed neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben

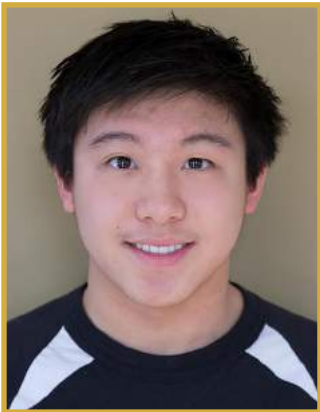
Carson, who have helped transform the world. The reading room will help students hone their reading skills and become visionaries and leaders.

The Learning Choice Academy - Scripps Ranch Reading Room Opening

Students at The Learning Choice Academy at Scripps Ranch in San Diego started the 2018-2019 school year a little differently this year thanks to donors Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon and the school staff that created their new Think Big Reading Room. The reading room officially opened on Monday, August 27 and is equipped with comfy arm chairs, bean bags, rugs, tables, and STEAM-themed wall decals that deliver a message that reading is an essential part of STEAM education. Students, families and special guests were entertained by multiple students sharing books they had written. These original stories ranged from a math superhero to a boy stuck in a video game, and were followed up by the students making connections to the importance of reading and how it sparks creativity. Mrs. Debi Gooding, founder and director of The Learning Choice Academies, welcomed guests and shared her sincere gratitude to the Carson Scholars Fund and the donors for giving their students a greater opportunity to love reading. Before the opening events could wrap up, students were already swarming the shelves and showing friends the exciting titles they had found.



Alumni Spotlight: Matthew Mu



When Matthew Mu and two of his classmates noticed an opening for a new learning opportunity at their school, they took action.

Matthew, a 2-time Carson Scholar from the Gilman School in Baltimore, is one of three founders of the Gilman Hydroponics Initiative, an afterschool club that provides an interactive classroom for future students to learn about hydroponics and agriculture. From conception to construction, they built a greenhouse in hopes of using it to successfully grow plants without soil. Using nutrient film techniques and a drip system, they were able to grow plants year-round at a low cost.



After their first greenhouse was destroyed in a storm, Matthew and the team built a new geodesic dome with 300 square feet of growing space, implementing two new growing systems and recruiting fellow students to carry on the greenhouse after they graduate. Before graduating in 2018, Matthew's dream of spreading the knowledge of alternative horticulture became a reality as other schools began working with Gilman on their hydroponics initiative. Their project was featured in an article on purpose-based learning in the spring 2018 edition of *Independent School Magazine*.

While he spends the school year perfecting hydroponics systems, Matthew's summers are spent helping others around the world. As a member of the World Leadership School, Matthew traveled to Peru to volunteer in a small indigenous village in the Amazon basin. His group constructed lights on a school soccer field so that students could practice and play at night, taught English and Spanish, and visited the homes of local families, sitting around the dinner table and learning about each other's cultures and values.



Now that the torch has been passed on to the next generation of young scientists, Matthew looks forward to his next adventure: attending Harvard College this fall, where he plans to pursue a career in law. He hopes to make an impact on America's educational system to produce educated and thoughtful future leaders.

Matthew's scholarship was sponsored by The Kahlert Foundation.

A Successful Start to Summer

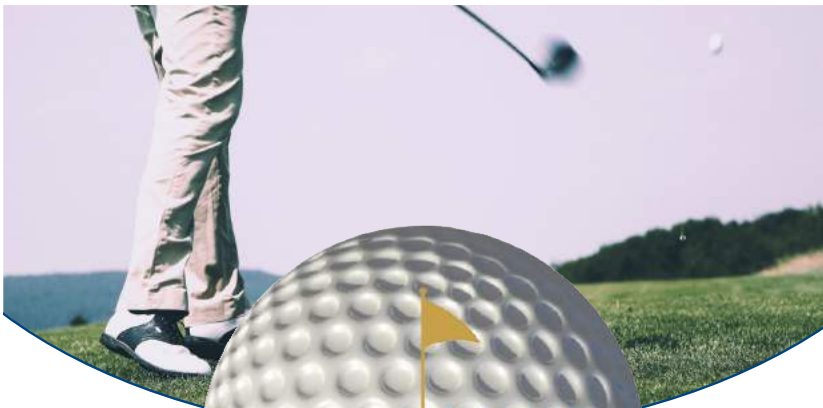
The Carson Scholars Fund kicked off the first day of summer in a big way with Summer Kickoff, hosted by board members Steve Adler, Benjamin Carson, Jr., and Kevin Hollins.

The evening of fundraising began with live music by Teachers For Sale as guests mingled and danced while enjoying food from local eateries. During the program, the Carson family and event committee shared the important mission of the CSF and introduced Darian Avery and Destiny Brown, two Carson Scholars who were in attendance. Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, PhD, represented title sponsor Kaiser Permanente and delivered inspirational remarks, sharing Kaiser Permanente's desire to impact the community in a positive way.



The evening was a fun summer night to remember and a huge success in raising funds for student educational programs in Maryland!

Golf For Education with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund



PITTSBURGH
CARSON SCHOLARS CHARITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

PITTSBURGH CARSON SCHOLARS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE CARSON SCHOLARS FUND

SPEND A DAY ON THE COURSE WITH **RICKEY JACKSON**
NFL HALL OF FAMER AND FORMER LINEBACKER FOR THE
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS & SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
LAUREL VALLEY GOLF CLUB

175 PALMER DRIVE | LIGONIER, PENNSYLVANIA
Practice Range opens at 7:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start at 9:30 a.m.

For registration and sponsorship information, please contact Jo Weisgal at jweisgal@carsonscholars.org, call 410-828-1005, or visit carsonscholars.org.



Summer is winding down and cooler weather is quickly approaching! Wrap up your golf season by joining us for the **Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, October 1, 2018** at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, PA. Enjoy a beautiful day of golf with colleagues and friends while supporting academic superstars from the Pittsburgh area.

Spend the day on the course with **Rickey Jackson**, NFL Hall of Famer, former linebacker for the New Orleans Saints and the San Francisco 49ers, and alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh!

Sponsorships and individual registration may be purchased on our website or by contacting Jo Weisgal at jweisgal@carsonscholars.org. See you on the course!

*Some sponsorships include tickets to an exclusive **Pittsburgh Chapter Dinner on Thursday, December 6**. Stay tuned for details!*

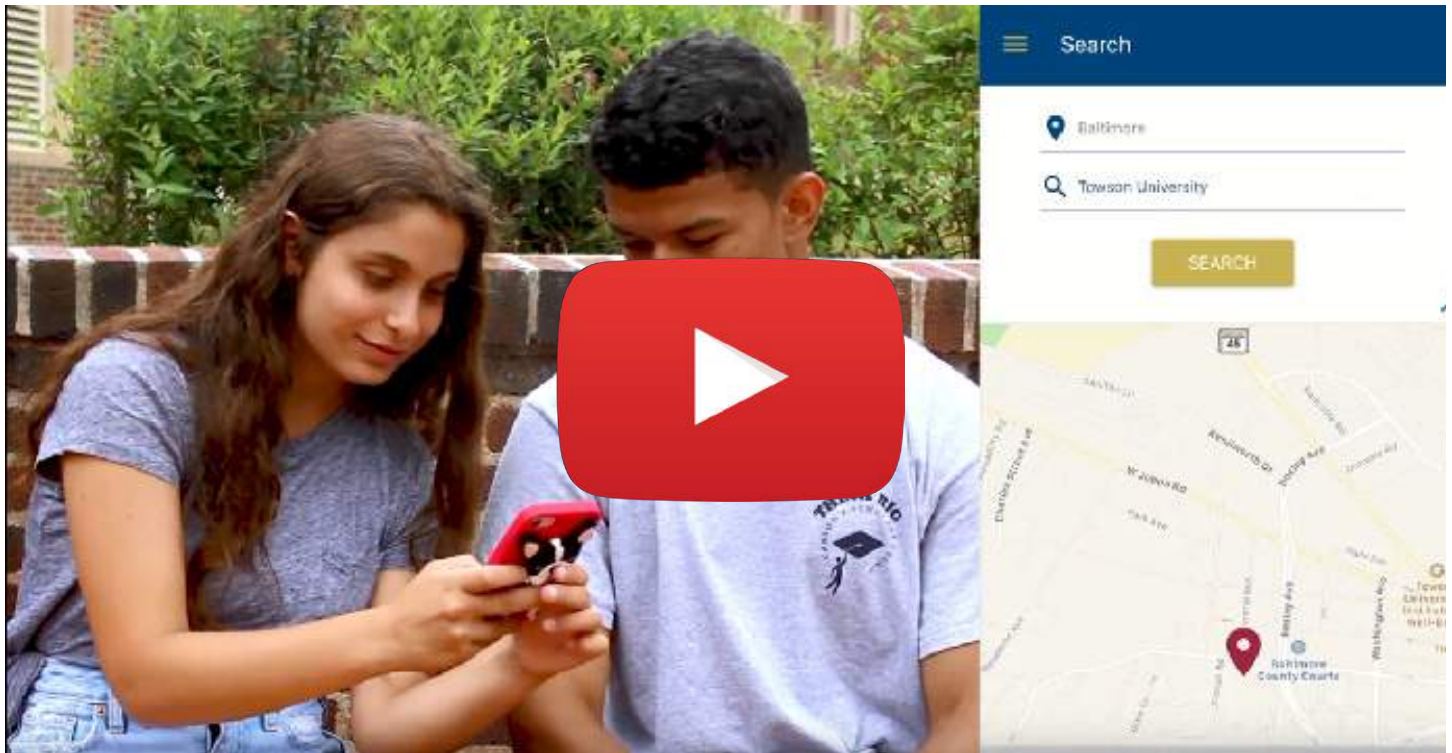
Palm Beach County Reading Room Workshop

On the evening of Wednesday, November 14, the Palm Beach County Chapter will be hosting a reading room workshop at the West Palm Beach Marriott for Florida reading room school partners. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the passionate educators to come together to connect, exchange ideas and hear inspiring words from award winning author Christina Diaz Gonzalez.

The Palm Beach County Chapter continues to expand its reach and is proud to be sponsoring the 17th Ben Carson Reading Room at the Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center. The reading room is slated to open later this year.



Find Carson Scholars Near You with CSF Connect!



Learn more about CSF Connect from Carson Scholars themselves!

Big thanks to 2-time Carson Scholar Erica Egleston and 6-time Carson Scholar Darian Avery for their on-camera skills, and to 2018 Carson Scholar Destiny Brown for her filming and editing expertise.

CSF ★ CONNECT

is your one-stop shop for connecting with CSF scholars and alumni!

CSF Scholar and Alumni Directory with advanced search functions

Search for Carson Scholars and alumni by name, school, hobby, graduation year and more

Create your own profile and view other Carson Scholar and alumni profiles to get connected

“Users Nearby” map

View drop pins of CSF Connect users all across the country

Direct access to the CSF news and events

Important CSF updates and notifications

Available on the [App Store](#)® and [Google Play](#) today!