



Potential Alumni Opportunities

Textbook and Supplies Grant

Why: Textbooks and supplies are expensive and are rarely covered by financial aid. According to educationdata.org, in 2021 the average cost for full-time undergraduates at a four-year school for books and supplies per year was \$1,240. Studies have shown that lack of affordable textbooks and supplies present a major roadblock for first-generation college students.

Alumni with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 are eligible to apply for a Textbook and Supplies Grant. Each semester, St HOPE will award four grants worth \$250, payable directly to the institution to be applied to the student's bookstore account.

Students would need to submit a copy of their transcript to determine eligibility along with a short essay outlining their post-graduation plans. Students are eligible to receive the grant twice during a four-year period.

Study Abroad Travel Grant

Why: Financial aid usually covers study abroad program expenses such as tuition and room/board. However, there are numerous out of pocket expenses, such as roundtrip airfare tickets, and passport/visa fees, that can deter first-generation and/or BIPOC students from taking advantage of this opportunity. Studyabroad.gov reported that for the 2016-17 academic year, only 29.2% of students who studied abroad identified as a racial and/or ethnic minority.

Alumni who have been officially accepted into a study abroad program are eligible to receive a Study Abroad Travel Grant. This travel grant would be paid in the form of a reimbursement to the student up to \$500 for their roundtrip airfare expenses from the US to their host country.

Students would need to submit documentation from their institution confirming enrollment in their study abroad program, as well as a receipt showing the purchase of an airline ticket, passport, and/or visa fees. Students are eligible to receive this grant once.

Academic Excellence Award

Why: Our scholarship recipients are statistically "beating the odds" by being on track to graduate college within six years, and one of our scholarship recipients completed an undergraduate program in three years. Out of our 8 scholarship recipients who are current sophomores or juniors, 5 of them have cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

The Academic Excellence Award is a grant worth \$1,000. This one-time award, payable directly to the student's institution, would be bestowed upon St HOPE HARLEM and HARLEM Journey Scholarship recipients who complete an academic year with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

St HOPE HARLEM and HARLEM Journey recipients are already required to submit their transcripts at the end of the academic year in order to receive their scholarship payment for their upcoming Fall semester. Based on the information in the transcript, students would be notified of their Academic Excellence Award eligibility.

St HOPE MetroCard Assistance Grant



Why: Many students who attend CUNY schools are unaware of how expensive a monthly MetroCard can be, since NYC public school students receive them for free. The alum who inspired the HARLEM Journey Scholarship has spoken candidly about having to choose between paying for a MetroCard to get to school and buying food. A [report](#) from The Center For an Urban Future found that many CUNY students drop out of school due to their inability to pay for expenses beyond the cost of tuition, despite 58% of full-time CUNY students attending tuition-free. A monthly MetroCard for an academic year would cost \$1,143.

Alums who are attending a CUNY school full time are eligible to receive the St HOPE MetroCard Assistance Grant. This grant, paid in the form of a reimbursement, is worth \$127, the price of one monthly unlimited MetroCard.

Students would need to submit a copy of their class schedule to confirm full-time enrollment and a receipt showing the purchase of a monthly MetroCard. Students are eligible to receive the grant up to three times per academic year for a maximum of two academic years.