



2021-2022

# Education Fund Scholarships

The PLATO Education Fund currently provides scholarship assistance to four University of Wisconsin-Madison returning adult students, financial support for the Odyssey Project, and educational opportunities for young people through five community organizations. This is all made possible by the generosity of PLATO members who value lifelong learning and see value in providing much-needed financial support to students who might otherwise be unable to take advantage of educational opportunities due to financial need.

## Returning Adult Student Program

Administered through the UW-Madison Division of Continuing Studies, these scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and targeted toward single-parent students and other nontraditional adult returnees.

Financial need and academic potential are critical components in determining the awards.

The PLATO Education Fund awarded four \$3,500 scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Emily Sanford** is proud to be a nontraditional adult student in the UW-Madison School of Nursing. While raising her three daughters, she engaged in many diverse pursuits focused on healthcare for children and mothers and as a CNA in a variety of settings. For a brief time, she ran a small farm share, delivering weekly bundles of vegetables, eggs, and flowers. After divorce and rebuilding her life as a single mother, she began to prioritize her aspirations and seek financial stability. In her future nursing career, she hopes to be an advocate for equality and compassionate care for every patient.

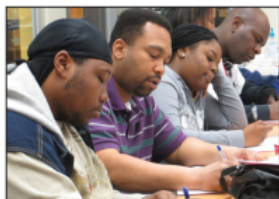


**Kasey Kohlhardt** is currently obtaining a master's degree in the Part-Time Social Work Program. She works full-time at Central Wisconsin Center as a client rights facilitator. One of her greatest passions is being a voice for those who cannot speak up for themselves. Kasey is going to use her education to become a clinical social worker in mental health. She intends to educate the public to eliminate the stigmatization that often occurs with having a mental illness. Kasey likes to find the light in the darkness and would like to be that light for many people in the future.

**Kristi Kimote** is a first-generation college graduate and is on her way to receiving a graduate degree through the Part-Time Master of Social Work Program. Her dream is to work as a school social worker, preferably in an alternative or at-risk school setting. This passion was ignited several years ago when she read "Let Justice Roll Down" by John Perkins and she moved to Pasadena to volunteer for his nonprofit organization. Kristi currently works full-time in a middle school office in the Fox Valley while raising two school-aged children with her husband. They have overcome many trials, including supporting their daughter with type 1 diabetes.



**Lianne Milton** is an American photojournalist and documentary photographer. Her work examines the impact of socioeconomic issues by focusing on nuanced relationships between people and their environment – from global migration to the lasting effects of poverty and violence. Lianne has received grants from the Pulitzer Center and the Yves Rocher Environment Foundation. She is also an International Women's Media Foundation fellow and has been published widely in news journals. She was based in Brazil for seven years before becoming an Interdisciplinary Artist Research Cohort fellow at UW-Madison. Her current research is on transgenerational memory and motherhood.



Odyssey Project  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



For the fiscal year of July 2021 – June 2022, the PLATO Education Fund awarded \$6,000 in support of the **Odyssey Project**. Since 2003, the Odyssey Project ([odyssey.wisc.edu](http://odyssey.wisc.edu)) has empowered more than 500 adults living near the poverty level to find their voices and get a jump-start on college degrees they never thought possible. Their children participate in **Odyssey Junior**, allowing whole families to learn and grow to work toward a better future. **Onward Odyssey** connects program alumni with other UW-Madison courses, including Special Education Paraprofessional training, Food Systems, and African American Studies.

## PLATO Education Fund Supports Community Organizations

The PLATO Education Fund is providing financial support to five community organizations that provide educational opportunities for low-income youth during the fiscal year of July 2021 – June 2022.

**One City Early Learning Center:** Scholarships are provided to low-income families for this innovative pre-school which prepares youth to become school ready. ([onecityschools.org](http://onecityschools.org))

**DANENet:** Funds support the Digital Equity Project which addresses the digital divide by helping connect low-income households with affordable internet access and computers. ([danenet.org](http://danenet.org))

**Kidlinks World:** Funds provide staffing to support two high-risk adolescents learning all aspects of gardening – from growing to selling, and the possibilities of agricultural careers. ([kidlinksworld.org](http://kidlinksworld.org))

**Maydm:** Funds provide scholarships for four low-income elementary school girls and students of color through an intensive program teaching technology and computing skills. ([maydm.org](http://maydm.org))

**Luissier Community Education Center:** Funds support educational programming for elementary and middle school students to help prepare them for success. ([lcecmadison.org](http://lcecmadison.org))



## Donate to the PLATO Education Fund

### The Gift of Education – Helping PLATO Help Others

*Your education has helped you in life, and now you can help others by donating to the PLATO Education Fund. This fund was established through the UW Foundation to provide financial assistance for low-income, marginalized adult students pursuing a college education, and to support educational opportunities for learners of all ages through local community organizations. Your tax-deductible donation to the PLATO Education Fund helps to provide scholarships and funding to assist local education initiatives.*

**Make checks payable to: UW Foundation PLATO Fund (132907458)**

#### Mail to:

UW Foundation PLATO Fund  
UW Bank Lockbox  
P.O. Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Or donate online via credit card  
at: [platomadison.org/donate](http://platomadison.org/donate).

#### PLATO Program | With Support from Oakwood Villages

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**PLATO** IS A COMMUNITY OF INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS ADULTS, TYPICALLY 50 & OVER, WHICH EXPLORES SUBJECTS OF INTEREST THROUGH MEMBER-LED DISCUSSION GROUPS, LECTURES, TRAVEL, & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES