

2017-2018 Education Fund Scholarships



In 2017-18 PLATO will provide scholarship and grant assistance to three University of Wisconsin–Madison returning adult students, one Odyssey Project student, and the educational advancement of young people through multiple community agencies. This is all made possible by PLATO members who value lifelong learning and generously support our work on behalf of students who would be left out 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 are targeted toward single-parent students and other nontraditional adult returnees. Financial need and academic potential are critical components in determining the awards. For 2017-18 the PLATO Education Fund is supporting three \$3,500 scholarships.



For **Fathiya Ali** having three children (ages 9, 7, and 5) in addition to attending school is not easy. However, pursuing her dream gives her the motivation to do what she needs to do. She is from a country where female education is nearly impossible, but is fortunate to have a supportive family who encourages her in the pursuit of her dreams. After a gap of one decade, during which she found a home and began her family, she was finally able to go back to school. She plans to major in personal finance and earn a certificate in business.



Chee Thao decided to re-pursue his education after his employer told him that the work he was doing was worth double what they were paying him. Chee describes it as the “worst/best talk” and moment that spurred him in Fall 2016 to return to school. While the impetus to continue schooling was financial in nature, he has come to find that he truly enjoys learning, and with his family’s consent, has decided to pursue graduate studies in either soil science or biological systems engineering.



Anthony Utrie is a single father who returned to finish his undergraduate degree at UW–Madison in 2015. Upon completing a BA in psychology, Anthony decided to pursue an MSW. Anthony works as a residential counselor for Goodwill and is a volunteer wrestling coach and mentor for young people. After completing his MSW Anthony plans to work as a therapist and substance abuse counselor in the Madison area. His passion for helping people find success in their lives helps him balance a difficult schedule of family, work, school, and volunteering.

Odyssey Project



In 2017-18 the PLATO Education Fund is donating \$5,000 in support of an Odyssey Project student. Since 2003, the Odyssey Project (www.odyssey.wisc.edu) has helped adults begin the journey out of poverty through free access to an intensive two-semester college level course in the humanities led by UW–Madison Professor Emily Auerbach. More than 300 students have completed the program with over 50% continuing their education after Odyssey.



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Community Organizations

In 2017 The PLATO Education Fund plans to support four community agencies that provide educational opportunities for low income youth. This year we solicited nominations from the PLATO membership to recommend agencies for funding. Seventeen members made nominations for thirteen different agencies. All of the nominated organizations provide important services to youth in our community. After review we decided to recommend the following agencies for funding this year. If we receive additional donations beyond our current level of support we plan to expand the number of agencies. Thank you to the members who made nominations and helped us expand our efforts.

One City Early Learning Center: PLATO Education Fund grants will provide two scholarships to families who otherwise cannot afford the tuition for this innovative pre-school which prepares young South Madison children to become school ready.

DANenet: PLATO Education funds will support staff and equipment for low-income 5th to 8th graders learning computer programming, engineering and art through participation in small group projects.

Kidlinks World: PLATO Education funding will provide transportation and mentor stipends to support two high risk adolescents learning all aspects of gardening, from growing to selling, and to expose them to agriculture-related careers.

Maydm: The PLATO Education Fund will provide scholarships for four elementary school girls and students of color to participate in an intensive semester program teaching them technology and computing skills.

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 students pursuing a college education, and to support educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth through local community organizations. Your tax-deductible donation to the PLATO Education Fund helps to provide scholarships and funding to assist local community education initiatives.

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

Mail to: **UW Foundation PLATO Fund**
US Bank Lockbox
PO Box 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Or donate online via credit card at **platomadison.org/donations**

PLATO is a community of intellectually curious adults, typically 50 and over, which explores subjects of interest through member-led discussion groups, lectures, travel, and cultural activities.

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