



THE TORCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SUPPORTING TALENTED, FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Northeastern University



OVERCOMING EXCEPTIONAL ODDS

The gap in achievement that separates economically disadvantaged students from others has been the focus of national discussion, research, and controversy. While there is no easy fix, Northeastern University's **Torch Scholars Program** strives to narrow this gap—transforming students with potential into successful professionals, mentors, and community leaders.

Strengthening Northeastern's century-old commitment to providing equal educational opportunities for all, the Torch Scholars Program is a bold, innovative initiative that gives full tuition plus academic and social support to students who have overcome exceptional odds, are the first in their families to attend college, and demonstrate clear potential for success.

Supporting the Torch Scholars Program does far more than help send first-generation students to college, however. It recognizes talent and drive. It helps to attract a student body that mirrors society and is better fitted to tackle its challenges. And it targets promising young people who have what it takes to become tomorrow's leaders. Each year, nearly 500 nominees apply for 10–12 Torch scholarships, which provide full tuition, fees, books, room and board, and ongoing academic and social support over the entirety of students' college careers.

This visionary program has brought tremendous opportunity to promising students—and it has the potential to do even more. **Building on its remarkable results so far, the Torch Scholars Program is seeking both endowed and current use funding to expand its reach to support greater numbers of deserving candidates.**

Establishing a named endowed or current use fund empowers donors to make a real impact, from setting up a need-based scholarship, supporting out-of-region co-ops, and expanding the breadth of the program as a whole.

Endowed funds provide a permanent stream of critical revenue to ensure that talented, motivated students have equal access to quality higher education, while current-use funds ensure that the program has the immediate financial flexibility to respond to unforeseen opportunities and challenges. In partnership with foresighted philanthropists, we can better position Northeastern to continually attract and educate talented and deserving students regardless of financial or cultural barriers.



“Torch Scholars are game-changers; they demand more of themselves and rise above tough situations to excel as leaders.”

—Dr. Philomena V. Mantella, Senior Vice President & CEO, Professional Advancement Network (right, at center)



Trustee Ted English, DMSB'76, supports and mentors Torch Scholars like Katty Mojica Martinez, SSH'13 (left), and Diane Ortiz, DMSB'16 (right). English, executive chair of Bob's Discount Furniture, has generously supported nine Torch Scholars to date and considers the program “one of Northeastern's greatest legacies.”

35,000

THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS TORCH
SCHOLARS CONTRIBUTED
THROUGH JUNE 2016.

82%

THE FIVE-YEAR GRADUATION RATE FOR TORCH SCHOLARS.

ACROSS THE NATION, FEWER THAN 45% OF
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
GRADUATE WITHIN FIVE YEARS.



2007

THE YEAR THE
TORCH SCHOLARS
PROGRAM WAS
ESTABLISHED.

Trustee emeritus Anthony R. Manganaro, E'67, H'08, a successful businessman in real estate, self-storage, and medical supplies, was instrumental in founding the Torch Scholars Program. He and his family provided the program's first gift in 2005. Manganaro envisioned Torch as a way to assist students who might not enter college with the best grades or test scores, but who have shown motivation and commitment in other ways—students like he once was. “The Torch Scholars Program is effective altruism at its best,” he says.





REMOVING BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

In addition to income barriers, students from less affluent backgrounds often lack access to the information and support necessary to ensure their academic and personal success. Much more than a scholarship, the Torch Scholars Program is a comprehensive model for higher education access, leadership, and achievement.

Torch is committed to supporting talented, first-generation college students through an extensive full-scholarship program that includes:

- a comprehensive summer immersion program
- intensive academic planning and assessments
- in-depth peer and professional mentoring
- a wide array of social events that foster group identity and camaraderie

Torch Scholars are chosen for their drive to succeed—for their families and themselves—and exhibit a universal commitment to giving back, with each student completing 100 hours of community and volunteer service each academic year.

RECOGNIZING EXTRAORDINARY TALENT AND PERSEVERANCE

Born in Haiti, Torch Scholar Daem Celestin, S'21, moved to the United States at the age of six. In addition to learning a new language and culture, she also had an immense amount of responsibility living in a low-income household as the eldest of six children. Nonetheless, she persevered, serving as vice president of her high school class while cultivating her talent and passion for music.

She was accepted into the Handel and Haydn Society's Young Women's Chorus, a prestigious, highly selective choir for advanced vocalists. Now Daem is majoring in biochemistry and continues to excel, making the dean's list in her first year at Northeastern.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

CURRENT-USE FUNDS FOR THE TORCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM MAKE AN INSTANT, PRESENT DAY IMPACT, WHILE **ENDOWED** FUNDS EXIST IN PERPETUITY AND GENERATE A STEADY, SPENDABLE INCOME STREAM EACH YEAR. DONORS CAN SUPPORT THE TORCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY SIZE, OR CREATE A NAMED FUND THROUGH THE GIFT AMOUNTS SPECIFIED BELOW.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The heart of the Torch Scholars Program lies in its scholarships. Gifts to establish a Torch scholarship will partially support students' tuition, room, and board expenses throughout their time in the program.

Each **current-use** scholarship, which indicates a gift that is spent in its entirety instead of merely its accumulated interest, requires a gift of \$150,000.

Donors can also create an **endowed** scholarship with a gift of \$500,000.

TORCH CLASS COHORT EXPANSION FUND

Each year, the Torch Scholars Program can only accept a certain number of deserving students for its highly competitive scholarships. Donors may add an extra spot to an incoming Torch class and support a student for his or her five-year academic career at Northeastern.

Donors can choose to make a **current-use** gift of \$150,000 to expand the Torch class cohort.

CO-OP FUND

National and international co-ops require extra resources for travel, rent, and even professional attire. Gifts to the Torch Co-op Fund enable students to move to work locations and subsidize living expenses when necessary. These gifts may cover multiple students' co-op experiences.

Donors can establish a **current-use fund** with gift of \$50,000.

Donors may also choose to create an **endowed fund with a** gift of \$250,000.

TRAVEL FUND

Many Torch students need funding to subsidize travel to and from home, study abroad, and activities like alternative spring break. Gifts to the Travel Fund may be awarded to multiple students based on need.

Donors can establish a **current-use fund** with a gift of \$25,000.

Donors can alternatively make an **endowed** gift of \$100,000.

SUMMER IMMERSION PROGRAM FUND

The Torch Summer Immersion program brings incoming, first-year Torch Scholars to Northeastern for six weeks of intensive mentoring, learning, and bonding with their cohort. It ensures that Torch Scholars are college-ready when classes begin in the fall.

An **endowment** of \$1 million will permanently fund this program.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

INTERVIEW DAY FUND

Torch Scholars Program finalists travel to Northeastern from all over the United States for interview day, where they meet with administrators and demonstrate their academic and social readiness. The university provides transportation, meals, lodging, and other expenses.

Donors wishing to **endow** interview day can do so with a gift of \$1 million.

RESEARCH FUND


Research opportunities and fellowships are an effective way for Torch Scholars to get the most out of their Northeastern education. However, research funding is typically offered to graduate students, and many undergraduates either forego research assistant positions altogether, or accept them without pay. The Torch Scholars Program seeks funding to help greater numbers of Torch Scholars have access to these important learning opportunities.

A **current-use** gift of \$50,000 will support these vital research opportunities.

ALUMNI FUND

The Alumni Fund supports an annual retreat for all Torch Scholars, graduates of the program, and key mentors. The event focuses on leadership and service—and keeps students connected long after they leave Northeastern.

Donors wishing to support the Alumni Fund can make a **current-use** gift of \$25,000.

EACH YEAR NEARLY
 **500 NOMINEES** 
FROM ACROSS THE U.S. VIE FOR
10-12 TORCH SCHOLARSHIPS

ONGOING IMPACT

“In high school, I studied hard and maintained a high grade point average. But my family couldn’t afford to send me to college. Thankfully, my high school advisor told me about the Torch program.

“The impact Torch has had on me is ongoing. Although I graduated in 2016, Ted English, the donor who supported my scholarship, is still a big part of my life as a trusted mentor and friend.

“I would say to anyone considering supporting the Torch Scholars program, you will immediately improve a young person’s life, career prospects, and overall wellbeing. You will be rewarding hard work and ambition while helping ensure that the doors of opportunity remain open. I don’t know where I would be right now without Torch.”

—Diane Ortiz, DMSB’16





A LIFETIME OF FULFILLMENT

At Northeastern, being a part of our campus community—one that's engaging and culturally diverse—matters deeply. By supporting the Torch Scholars Program, a thriving microcosm, you will prepare students for a lifetime of achievement and fulfillment. You will help to instill Northeastern's distinctive approach to life and learning in students who have, through hard work and determination, earned the opportunity to succeed.

Help Northeastern continue to attract a gifted, deserving, diverse student body—and prepare them for success on a global stage.

A gift in support of Torch, whether endowed or current use, is a powerful way for donors to signal their commitment to the program and makes a direct, positive impact on the lives of bright and motivated young men and women for generations to come.



THE PROGRAM HAS SUPPORTED
107 STUDENTS
DURING THE PAST DECADE



ABOUT NORTHEASTERN

Northeastern University is a place of learning with a global reach, making a difference in the world while providing transformational experiences to students. Founded in 1898, today's Northeastern is a global, experiential, research university offering undergraduate and graduate programs leading to degrees through the doctorate in nine colleges.

More than 1,150 full-time faculty members teach more than 19,000 undergraduate and 14,000 graduate students, who come from all 50 states and more than 125 countries. Northeastern is distinguished for its superb cooperative education program and the entrepreneurial focus of the young people who study here. Students graduate fully prepared to contribute to the workforce as innovative problem-solvers and to the world as leaders.

LEARN MORE

Alumni and friends of Northeastern can support the Torch Scholars Program to ensure its longevity and continued success.

To learn more, or to make a donation, contact:

Charlotte Troyanowski
Senior Director of Donor Relations

617.373.3026

c.troyanowski@northeastern.edu





Northeastern University