



Shawnee Scholarship Fund Update

Together We GIVE, So They Can SUCCEED

Welcome to the first Shawnee Scholarship Fund Update for 2025! This edition announces the largest single gift in our history, establishing the Thomas F. Roush Scholarship for Educators. It introduces you to the newest student scholarship - the James Roberts Scholarship. This issue also shares some tips on charitable giving that may help reduce your taxes. Thank You for your interest in building upon the Shawnee Legacy of Excellence!

In the Spring of 1927 the first graduating class of fourteen students received their diplomas from Shawnee High School. Since that day thousands of young people have walked in the doors of Shawnee High School and walked out as graduates. In 2027 Shawnee will celebrate 100 years of student success.

To highlight this significant milestone, the Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Program was established.

This scholarship program provides a way for 100 years of Shawnee classmates and generations of Shawnee families to join fellow alumni to celebrate their time at SHS and build a legacy of support for future graduates. It is a great opportunity for donors to honor the special people at Shawnee who contributed toward their success. It is also a way to honor the many generations of family members who have attended Shawnee across the decades.

To date, 32 Shawnee graduates have received scholarships, providing \$61,000 in aid to deserving recipients. Please join us in supporting Shawnee graduates. [Donate now!](#)



THE THOMAS F. ROUSH SCHOLARSHIP FOR EDUCATORS

Dr. Thomas F. Roush is a 1993 graduate of Lima Shawnee High School and was selected as a Shawnee High School Distinguished Alumnus in 2019. He elected to pursue a career in medicine and has achieved recognition and success as an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Roush credits his career success in part to the educational foundation he received at Shawnee. "The Shawnee School system provided the bedrock upon which my entire livelihood was created" said Dr. Roush. "While the culture, facilities, and region were superb, the quality of my teachers at Shawnee were unparalleled."

In 2023 Dr. Roush established the Roush Family Scholarship, joining other grateful alumni who have generously funded scholarships to support a graduating senior. But with family members in the teaching community, he also recognizes and appreciates the daily challenges to be met by teachers, as well as the financial obstacles to their career professional development. To assist Shawnee High School educators in their pursuit of further professional development, Dr. Roush has generously provided the Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund with an additional \$200,000 gift, the largest single gift in our short history, to establish the Thomas F. Roush Scholarship for Shawnee Educators. "Throughout my quest as an orthopedic surgeon, I've been exposed to hundreds of teachers along the way, though none were better collectively than those at Shawnee. For that reason, I had a burning desire to give back and do what I could to continue to attract the best teachers to the Shawnee. I'm hopeful that the teacher award helps to entice the best and brightest teachers to continue to gravitate toward Shawnee to further our mission and accentuate our excellence."

The Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund has been designated as the oversight group for the scholarship and is tasked with thoughtfully selecting recipients and awarding scholarships. A scholarship recipient must be 1) employed as a teacher at Lima Shawnee High School; and 2) seeking to pursue and obtain an advanced degree (master's or doctorate) in education or an education-related field of study. A teacher-applicant seeking to pursue an advanced

degree in guidance counseling or school administration will also be eligible for consideration. Scholarships will be awarded two times each year and may be awarded to more than one recipient during each scholarship award cycle. Recipients are eligible to apply for a scholarship award in subsequent award cycles.

We are humbled and extremely grateful for this transformational gift. Dr. Thomas F. Roush, you are truly making a difference.



ANNOUNCING THE JAMES ROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP

The Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the James Roberts Scholarship, a new scholarship to support graduates whose focus is on the study of History and Civics.

James "Jim" Roberts joined the Shawnee High School faculty in the Fall of 1963 as a Social Studies teacher and Athletic Director. Mr. Roberts served as Head Baseball Coach from 1965 until 1973 and was inducted into the Shawnee Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989.

"Studying History and Civics," says Roberts, "helps us understand how events in the past made things the way they are today. With lessons from the past, we not only learn about ourselves and how we came to be but also develop the ability to avoid mistakes and create better paths for our societies. History is the study of change over time, and it covers all aspects of human society – political, social, economic, technological, medical, cultural, intellectual, religious, and geographic. Civics is the study, or science, of the privileges and obligations of citizens."

Throughout his career, Jim Roberts has had the opportunity to be an integral part in the lives of many students across Ohio as a teacher, coach, and administrator. When asked why he wanted to provide this scholarship, he replied "My heart as a teacher, in all my years of education, was at Shawnee. Shawnee had the best teachers, students, athletics, and administration." He then added "We were fortunate. I would like to see someone else have the same opportunity." Roberts is hoping that the student applying for this scholarship is interested in:

- The world in which they live,
- Why our society has prospered,
- What is of vital importance to preserve the United States,
- Where we are in the history of democracy, and
- What this has to do with our future.

At age 88, Roberts still shares his knowledge and wisdom with many of his former students. The following quote "is something I will always remember," says Roberts. "It was on the baseball field in North Dakota when we were only teenagers. Henry was the only black player."

"You may not think you are going to make it. You may want to quit. But if you keep your eye on the ball, you can accomplish anything." - Hank Aaron. **Thank you, Jim Roberts, for making our world a better place.**

Our Vision

Our vision is based upon the conviction that an educated society is essential to a healthy society. The Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund recognizes the importance of furthering the opportunities available to all Shawnee High School graduates. The Fund rewards those who have exhibited excellence, integrity, responsibility and respect for their fellow students as they continue their quest for lifelong career growth and lives of engaged citizenship in a global society.

Our Mission

Our Fund works hard to exhibit excellence, integrity, responsibility and respect for our donors and the community we serve. We are driven by a single goal: to help ensure the success of Shawnee High School graduates. Our Mission is therefore composed of multiple components. We educate alumni, students, and the community on the need to support Shawnee graduates. We raise funds to provide that support and prudently manage and administer the funds. We oversee the grant process and provide two types of scholarships - Legacy Scholarships and Named Scholarships. Legacy Scholarships encompass all areas of study. Named Scholarships are awarded based upon the criteria requested by the respective donors and approved by our Board of Directors.

*** Charitable Giving Opportunities in 2025 ***

The first quarter of a new year is an excellent time for tax-savvy donors to review opportunities for the year ahead.

Here are just a few ideas for 2025!

State and Local Taxes: In 2017 Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Prior to TJCA, state and local taxes (SALT) were deductible, without limit, for federal income tax purposes. The TJCA imposed a \$10,000 maximum on state and local tax deductions. This cap is set to expire at the end of this year. Taxpayers in high income tax brackets may wish to consider making additional charitable contributions in 2025 to help offset the burden of the \$10,000 cap on state and local taxes.

Increased Charitable Deduction Limit for Cash Gifts in 2025: The TJCA increased the charitable cash gift deduction limit to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). This charitable deduction limit, however, will revert to 50% of AGI in 2026 unless Congress extends this portion of the current tax law. Both limits allow a five-year carryforward of excess charitable contributions should the taxpayer be unable to utilize all the deduction in 2025. Donors may want to take advantage of gifting cash to take advantage of this 2025 increased deduction limit.

Meeting Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Through a Gift to the Shawnee Scholarship Fund: An excellent way to fulfill a Required Minimum Distribution is to give a part, or all, of your 2025 RMD to the scholarship fund. If you are over 70½, a direct gift from your IRA is considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and, while not included in your taxable income, does reduce your distribution requirement. The 2025 QCD limit is \$108,000 for gifts to charity. While there is no additional deduction, this may be a substantial tax-saving idea that helps prevent you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket.

The above ideas represent just three ways you can help support Shawnee graduates while also receiving timely tax benefits. In addition to gifts of cash or using a QCD, please remember gifts of appreciated stock may bypass capital gain taxes and produce a charitable deduction of the fair market value at the time of the gift. There are many other strategies available, so make sure you speak with your financial or tax advisor on the best strategies for you.

Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund

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(listed alphabetically)

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A special thank you to the above who have committed many hours and dollars to ensure the continued success of Shawnee graduates.

We have multiple opportunities available for those who have an interest in helping support the Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund. If you have an interest in serving on one of our committees – Donor Services & Development, Finance & Administration, Communications, or Scholarship, please let us know by emailing us at info@LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org.

To find out more about scholarships available, application process, past recipients, and how you can support graduating seniors,

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Where do we go from here? Please read the following message from our scholarship recipients:

"The price of education can be incredibly daunting and overwhelming. Not only has the scholarship support made the financial burden of college much more bearable, but it has also encouraged me to challenge myself to the utmost degree knowing that I have supporters who believe in me and my ability to succeed. This financial support has pushed me to get more involved, work even harder in my classes, and stay productive throughout the hard times, because I hope to make those who financially invested in me proud."

"Thank you to all who have donated. The assistance you have provided is immensely impactful. To those who have had the thought of donation cross your mind, thank you already for just taking the time to consider such a selfless and remarkable effort. The financial burden each student takes on when deciding to pursue a college degree is daunting, but by financially donating to committed students, you are investing in future teachers, health care professionals, lawyers, and CEOs. With these students already being equipped with a Shawnee education, they will no doubt be successful in any endeavors they will encounter, but your financial contribution, that communicates to that student that you believe in them and are willing to support them in reaching their goals, can truly be the difference that pushes that student to become a leader of this world."

Contributions are the lifeblood of our mission, and we need your help! The Fund has a goal of reaching a \$1,000,000 student endowment before the celebration of the 100th Shawnee High School graduating class in 2027. To reach that goal we need the help of everyone who has a stake in the future of Shawnee and its students. To date, we have raised over \$850,000 for the student scholarship fund and provided \$61,000 in scholarships! You have helped us reach this point and we are most appreciative.

But we still have \$150,000 to go to reach our student endowment goal! We hope you will consider a contribution to the Shawnee Scholarship Program this year. A contribution of any size helps support Shawnee graduates. **Click [here](#) to make a donation, or go to www.LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org.**

Best wishes,

Tom Orchard, SHS 1970

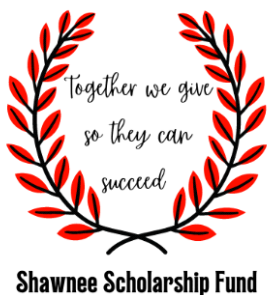
Chair, Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Fund

info@LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org



The Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a non-profit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and registered in the State of Ohio. Our EIN is 99-1585182. Gifts to the Fund which receive no goods or services in return are tax-deductible under current law. If you would like more information regarding our organization, please go to www.LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org. Always consult your tax professional should you have additional questions.

THANK YOU!



Please complete this form and return with check payable to the Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund. Mail check and form to:

Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund

7000 Temperance Point Street

Westerville, OH 43082

For electronic transfers, please visit our website at

www.LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org

Personal Information

Name _____

Address _____

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Gift Information

Amount of Gift \$ _____

Recognition Listing _____

(please print as you would like it to appear in acknowledgements/publications)

This gift is in support of Lima Shawnee _____ Student Scholarships _____ Teacher Scholarships

If this gift is in honor or memory of someone, please specify here:

If this gift is to support a specific Student Scholarship, please specify here:

Legacy Gift Information

I/We have named the Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund as a beneficiary in accordance with a

_____ Trust _____ IRA _____ Will _____ Planned gift \$ _____

Together We GIVE, So They Can SUCCEED!

The Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Our EIN is 99-1585182. Your gift to the Lima Shawnee Scholarship Fund, for which you received no goods or services, may be tax-deductible under current tax law. Please consult your tax professional. **Thank you!**