



FIRSTGen *at Saint John's University:*

The Immokalee Scholarship Fund

Transforming Lives and Society
by Unleashing the Potential
of Economically Disadvantaged
Young Men From Immokalee

America is Losing the Potential of its Young Men

Imagine you're an 18-year-old living in Immokalee, Fla., one of America's poorest communities. You exude potential and desire to attend college, graduate, gain a rewarding career, contribute to the community and raise children who make achieving the American dream a family tradition.

Tragically, many high-potential young men in Immokalee and elsewhere hear . . .

“Forget college, your dreams and your ambitions.

You are segregated to poverty and inequality that will continue for you, your children and beyond.”



Today fewer men graduate from college than women – a U.S. first and a rising, disturbing trend. This educational gender gap widens considerably for young men from low-income families.

America **cannot thrive** with only half our population educated and young men from low-income families shut out of college – the door-opener to economic and social vitality.

THE COLLEGE GENDER GAP

1970 = Men comprise 58% of college students. **Today** = Men comprise 43% of college students.

About **82 percent of high school graduates** from high-income families enroll in college, compared to **52 percent of graduates** from low-income families.

Source: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12/tables/dt12_236.asp



Despair— A Destructive Cycle We Can and Must Break

Ambitious, skilled teenagers from low-income families often find college and its pathway to a better life a fantasy.

Too often, **economic and social despair results**, continuing a destructive cycle of poverty, segregation, lost potential, and social and civic degradation.

By virtually every measurement of economic, career and social well-being, college graduates **dramatically outperform** their peers with less education.

That is America's history, present and future.



LOST OPPORTUNITY

More than 111,000 African-American and Hispanic students annually graduate in the top half of their high school class but do not earn either a two-year or four-year degree within eight years.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2013



A Door-Opener for Today's Young Men and U.S. Success

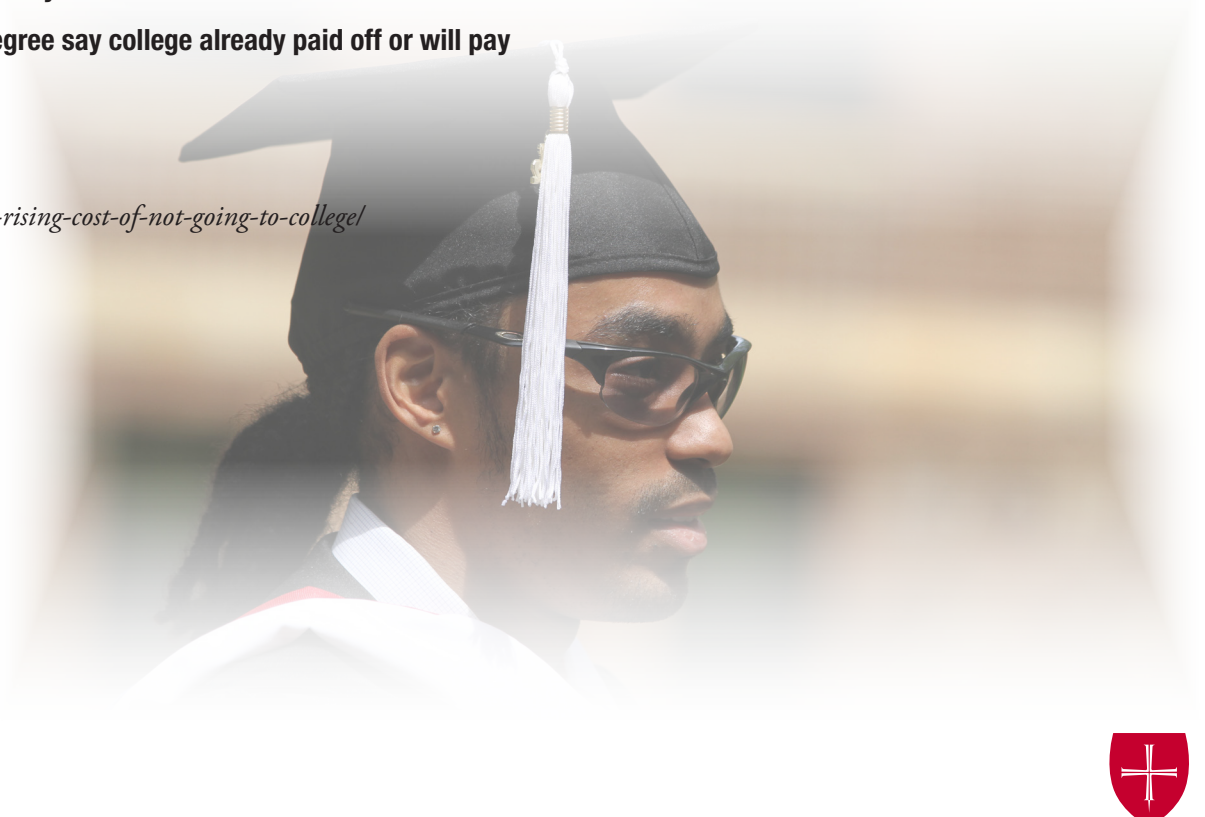
The G.I. bill made college a reality for thousands of first-generation college students—World War II's veterans. **America prospered.**

While Millennials—those born from 1981 to 1997—are far from World War II, **the tremendous benefits of a college education** remain:

- Millennial college graduates working full-time **earn about \$17,500 more annually than employed young adults with only a high school diploma.** This pay gap was much smaller in previous generations.
- College-educated Millennials **are more likely (86% vs. 57%) than those with a high school diploma or less to say their job is a career or a steppingstone to a career, and their unemployment rate (3.8% vs. 12.2%) is dramatically lower.**
- **89% of Millennials with at least a bachelor's degree say college already paid off or will pay off in the future.**

But this is about much more than money . . .

Source: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/02/11/the-rising-cost-of-not-going-to-college/>



Fostering Human Dignity and The Common Good

American society benefits from college graduates. Compared to peers without a college education, college graduates have:

- **Higher** volunteering and charitable giving rates.
- **Higher** voting rates.
- **Higher** participation in school, community, service, civic and religious organizations.
- **Higher** levels of community involvement.
- **Higher** neighborhood interactions and trust levels.
- **Lower** use of government expenditures.
- **Lower** poverty rates.

Source: Education Pays: 2013, The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society, College Board



Saint John's—A Tradition of First-Generation Success

Since its founding in 1857, Saint John's University has **dedicated itself to educating first-generation male college students**. Today nearly a third of our students are first-generation students.

Benedictine monks at Saint John's began educating Minnesota's early immigrants. Saint John's later attracted first-generation students from rural and urban areas around the world, including the Bahamas, Bosnia, Japan, Puerto Rico and Somalia.

First-generation Johnnies include entrepreneurs, public servants, physicians, educators, scientists, clergy, and many other vocations.

Through their children and community commitment, **a first-generation graduate from Saint John's fosters multi-generation success and impact**.



150: Total number of Class of 2020 who are legacy students, meaning their parents, grandparents or siblings attended SJU. Many Saint John's legacy students follow a path in which their relatives were first-generation college graduates from SJU.



Saint John's—Specializing in Educating Young Men

Saint John's University and its sister college, the College of Saint Benedict, have a collaborative relationship unique in American higher education.

Each school, which **ranks among the country's best liberal arts colleges**, provides a single-sex residential experience combined with coeducational classes and programming to **meet the unique developmental needs of young men** and women intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually.

Combining support of excellent faculty, a strong community and high-quality campus facilities leads to the following results:

- **90%** of CSB/SJU graduates finish in four years or less;
- **94%** of CSB/SJU students complete an internship, undergraduate research, practicum or other career-related experience;
- **97%** of CSB/SJU alums rate their college experience as good or excellent;
- **99%** of CSB/SJU graduates are employed, continuing their education or engaged in a full-time volunteer program within one year of graduation;
- **More than 100 companies** visit campus each year to interview CSB/SJU students for internships and permanent positions.

Many publications rank CSB/SJU among the best liberal arts colleges in the country for academics, career preparation and affordability, including:



One-of-a-Kind Community Fosters Young Men's Success

Saint John's is a place like no other for young men to discover themselves, their potential and fully nourish and advance it.

Located 90 miles west of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Saint John's is one of the country's most beautiful campuses. Its 2,700 acres—designated as the Saint John's Arboretum—include wetlands, lakes, an oak savanna, a restored prairie and hiking trails that wind through an extensive pine and hardwood forest.

Nearly all students live on campus, enjoying a vibrant community atmosphere for personal growth and discovery, which is an essential part of the Saint John's education and young men's growth. The Faculty Resident Program is a distinctive part of campus life whereby Benedictine professors and administrators live in the residence areas and serve as adult mentors.

Anchored by Saint John's Abbey, one of the largest Benedictine monasteries in the Western Hemisphere, the Saint John's community lives timeless Benedictine values that foster first-generation success, including hospitality, lifelong learning, listening, stability and stewardship.



Enduring Impact of Saint John's on Young Men

Students and alumni **do not view** Saint John's as simply a physical place or a means to an end.

Rather, they perceive it and experience it as *home*: a place deeply rooted in the **Benedictine values of stability and community**.

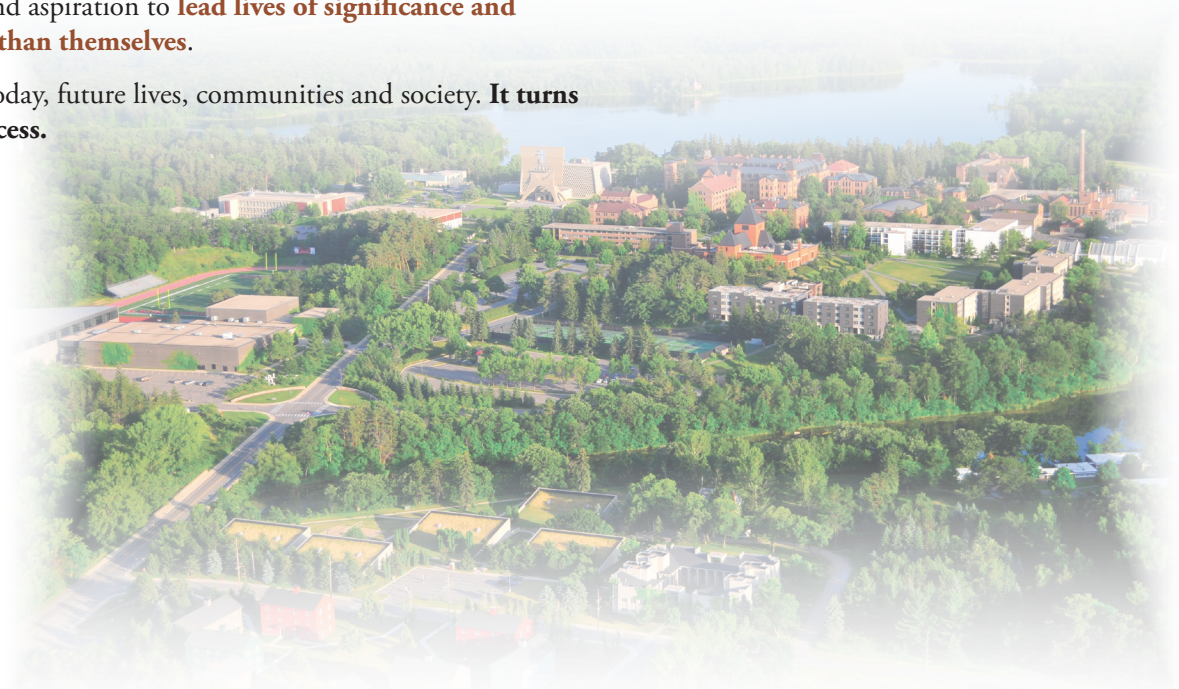
These values are a scaffolding for their lives after college, an arc of values that help define their friendships, their family lives, their professional lives and their citizenship.

Saint John's becomes an **ethical touchstone** throughout their lives.

Through the lens of **community**, and upon our **Catholic, Benedictine foundation**, Saint John's holistic educational approach helps men fully develop—*mind, body and spirit*.

Saint John's instills in young men the values and aspiration to **lead lives of significance and achievement, to be about something bigger than themselves**.

This life changing experience **improves** lives today, future lives, communities and society. **It turns first-generation into multi-generational success.**



Saint John's Work in Immokalee

Education is the surest route out of poverty. But many high potential kids in Immokalee have their path to college blocked **because they lack the financial resources to make college possible.**

In 2016, due to the generosity of Naples residents John Lyden and Jack Marshall, who founded the Rose Marie Lyden and Joanne Argus Marshall Scholarship in partnership with Saint John's University, that is changing. Today four young men from Immokalee are now realizing their dreams and building upon their potential at Saint John's University.



Meet Johnnie Alex Guzman '19 From Immokalee

Alex Guzman is the son of Mexican immigrant parents from Immokalee.

“I’ve seen new perspectives on things,” said Guzman, who came to Saint John’s through the Immokalee scholarship initiative. “I’m getting an opportunity, actually getting a chance at doing something with my life.”

That’s a common denominator of Saint John’s FirstGen Initiative and the Immokalee Scholarship Fund:

Creating opportunities for deserving students who otherwise couldn’t afford a Saint John’s education and its lifelong benefits.

“Definitely there are way more opportunities here when it comes to finding an internship or job,” said Guzman, a nutrition major who also mentors other students through the Intercultural LEAD (Intercultural Leadership and Development) program.

“It definitely changed my life,” Guzman said. “They really opened many doors for my future.”

Guzman likes working with kids and wants to be a pediatric dietician when he graduates. He has tapped the CSB/SJU alumni network and met with representatives of companies visiting campus. He recognizes how Saint John’s can help shape his future.

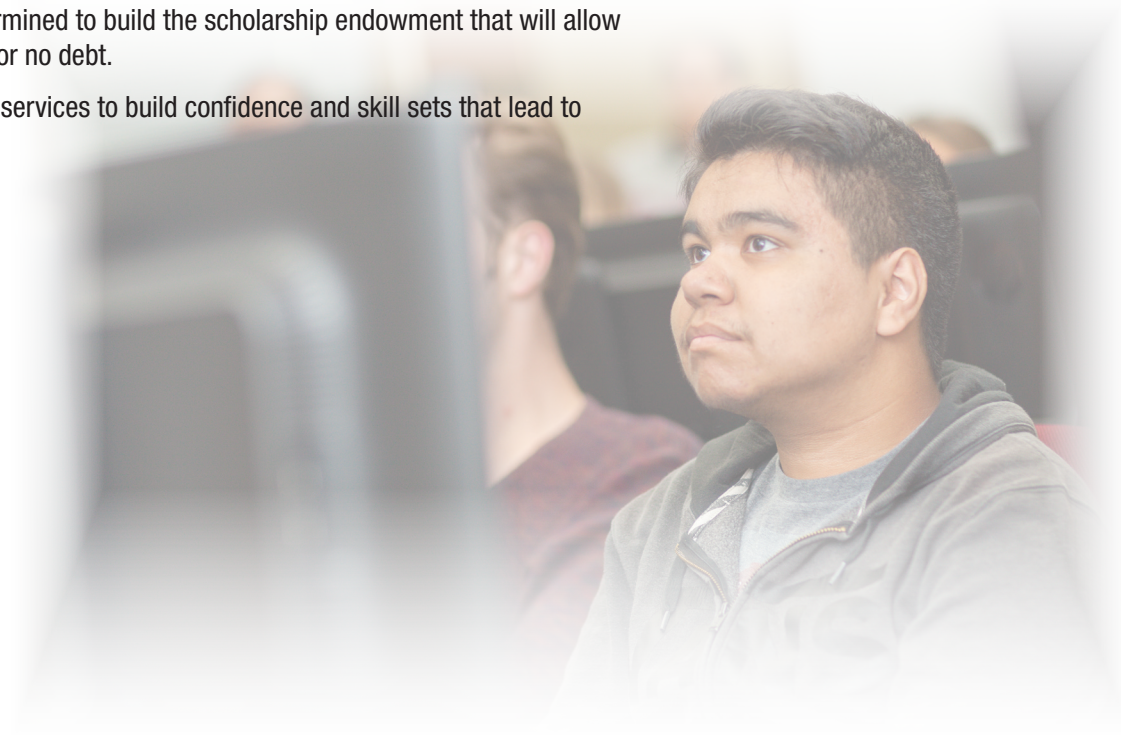
“I see it (The Immokalee Scholarship Fund) as a blessing,” Guzman said. “It gave me an opportunity I would never have been able to get in a million years.”



FirstGen at Saint John's: A Three-Pronged Approach

Saint John's approach to recruiting, educating and preparing First-Generation students for success at Saint John's and beyond includes the following:

- **First**, we identify and recruit first-generation students who are most likely to flourish at Saint John's. We have developed partnerships with Immokalee High School and other select high schools across the country. Working closely with their guidance counselors, the students and their families, we draw students who are best suited for the educational experience Saint John's has to offer.
- **Second**, we provide the financial aid necessary for academically qualified, low-income first-generation college students. We are determined to build the scholarship endowment that will allow these students to graduate with minimal or no debt.
- **Third**, we provide academic and support services to build confidence and skill sets that lead to graduation and success after college.



Goals of the Immokalee Scholarship Program

Our goal is to build on the foundation laid by the Rose Marie Lyden and Joanne Argus Marshall Scholarship and establish a steady stream of students from Immokalee, with a minimum of two students per entering class. This assures mutual support from these students' hometown as they embark on their college career at Saint John's.

Phase I: 2 students per class; translating into a total enrollment of 8 students in a mature program.

Phase II: As the program continues to grow, we seek to expand that to 4 or more students per class, with the possibility of including students from similar schools in south Florida and in the southeastern U.S.



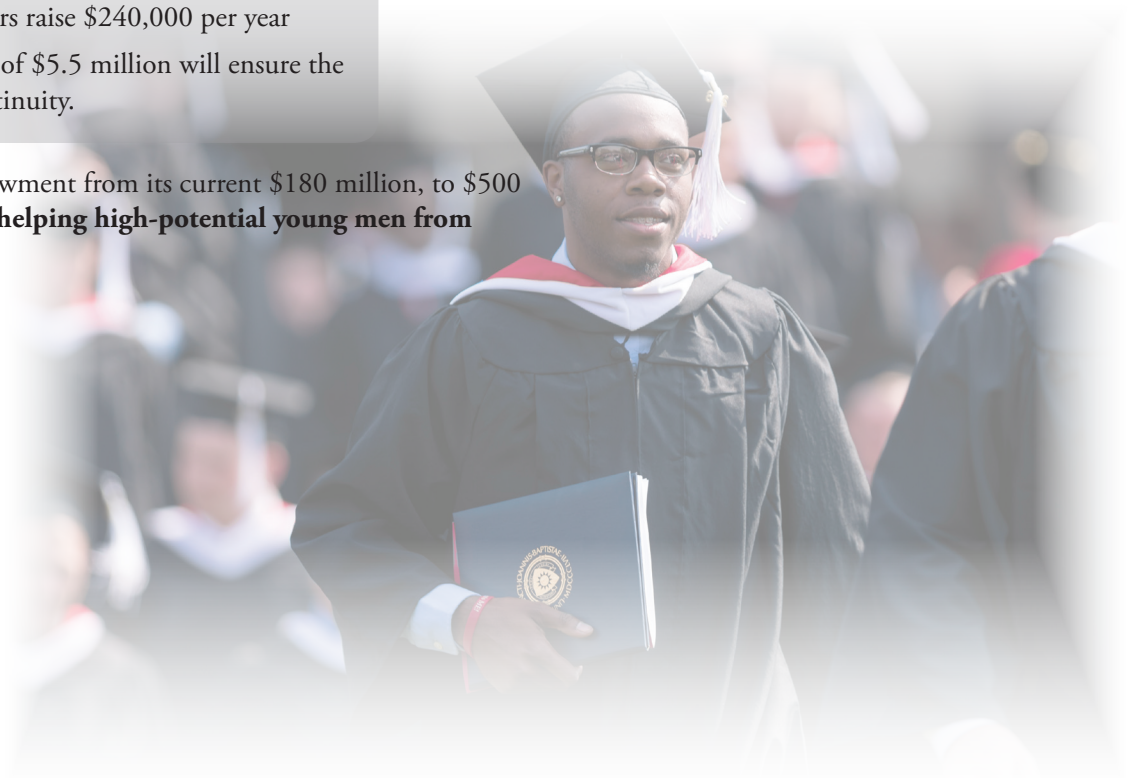
The Cost of Phase I

Through the Immokalee Scholarship Program, Saint John's University seeks funding to offer each student a scholarship of \$30,000 per year. In combination with other resources that Saint John's University will apply to this program, a four-year scholarship amounting to \$120,000 will ensure a student's college education, at the end of which a student **will graduate from Saint John's with little or no debt.**

Yearly Cost of the full program:	\$240,000 (8 students at \$30,000)
Phase I annual revenue goal:	Within four years raise \$240,000 per year
Phase I endowment goal:	An endowment of \$5.5 million will ensure the first phase's continuity.

Saint John's University is committed to building its endowment from its current \$180 million, to \$500 million. With these resources, we will realize our goal of **helping high-potential young men from impoverished backgrounds:**

- **reach their dreams;**
- **break a cycle of economic and social despair'**
- **and improve families, society and the common good.**



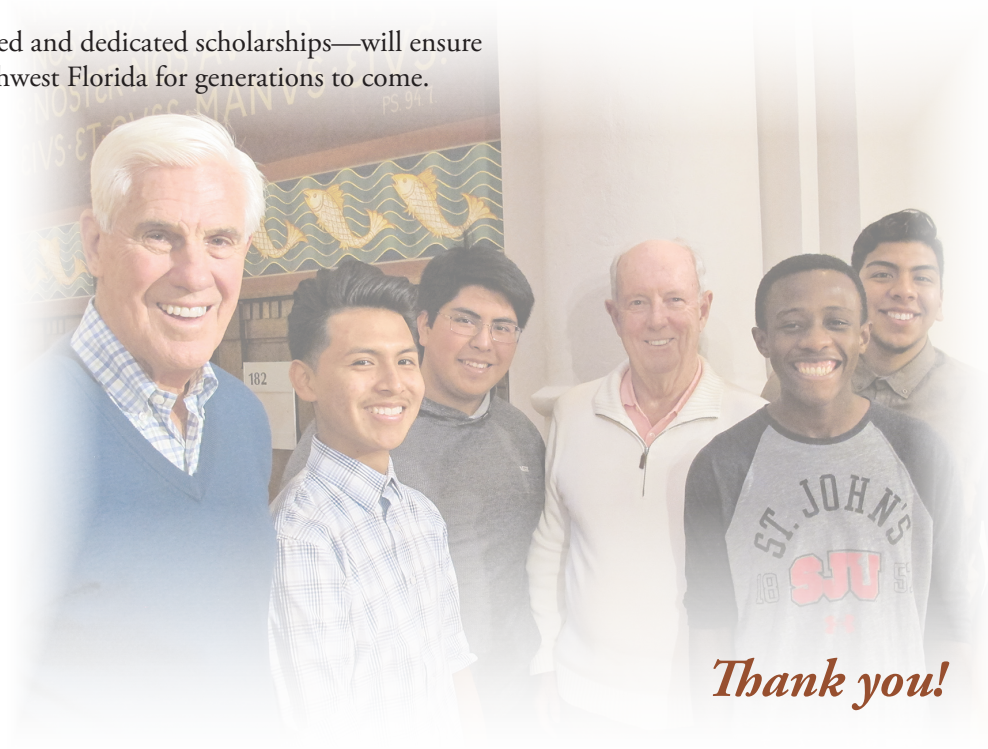
How You Can Help Us Transform Lives and Society

We invite you to support the **Immokalee Scholarship Fund** to help young men **realize their human potential and break a destructive cycle of economic and social inequality.**

Your gift **raises human potential and dignity, the common good and success for a first-generation, but also generations following these young men. The proof is our graduates** who show how first-generation success perpetuates across families and communities.

- **A gift of \$30,000** will provide financial aid that allows one student to complete one year of college at Saint John's.
- **A gift of \$120,000**, over four years, will provide the college education necessary to prepare a promising young man for a transformational future.

Gifts to the Immokalee Scholarship Fund—including named and dedicated scholarships—will ensure this partnership and opportunity serves students from southwest Florida for generations to come.



Thank you!



Help transform lives through the
Immokalee Scholarship Fund and other
Saint John's FirstGen initiatives by
contacting Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB,
at **EHollas@csbsju.edu** or **320-363-3961**.



Saint John's
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