



**National Trailer
Dealers Foundation**

NATIONAL TRAILER DEALERS FOUNDATION

**MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR
TRAILER INDUSTRY FAMILIES**



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Endow the Foundation Today by Making a Donation. Visit <https://ntda.site-ym.com/page/Foundation> to Make a Difference and Create a Brighter Future for Students and Trailer Industry Professionals.



National Trailer Dealers Foundation



“I just want to thank you so much for the scholarship I’ve been awarded. It’s an honor to be selected and so unbelievably appreciated.”

— Elisabeth Neil
Scholarship Recipient

Welcome

At the National Trailer Dealers Foundation (“the Foundation”), we believe education is key to unlocking the full potential of students as well as semi-trailer industry professionals. That’s why we recently established the Foundation to help provide financial assistance to deserving students who may not have the means to afford education, thereby promoting access to learning opportunities.

This non-profit scholarship Foundation plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of education, providing crucial support for students who might otherwise be unable to pursue their academic endeavors. For both donors and recipients, the Foundation is essential, creating opportunities that transform lives within the trailer community.

For scholarship recipients, financial barriers are often the most significant hurdles to accessing higher education. Tuition fees, textbooks, and living expenses can make attending a college or university unattainable for many talented students. The Foundation steps in to fill this gap, offering financial aid that opens doors to education for children of National Trailer Dealers Association (NTDA) members or their employees.

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR TRAILER INDUSTRY FAMILIES

About Us

The Foundation was established in May 2023 as a 501(C)3 Non-profit Organization with the goal of providing scholarships to children of NTDA member employees as well as to trailer industry professionals who wish to further develop their technical skills by attending trade schools, vocational schools, colleges, or universities.

Our Mission

At the Foundation, our mission is simple yet profound: to make life easier for the families of trailer industry families. We believe that every individual deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in the world.

How the Foundation Helps

Through the generosity of individual donors and corporate underwriters, the Foundation offers a range of scholarship opportunities to students pursuing higher education. Whether it's covering tuition fees, purchasing textbooks, or supporting living expenses, our scholarships provide crucial financial aid to deserving individuals, helping them navigate the journey to success.

Prior to establishing the Foundation in 2023, the NTDA awarded nearly a quarter million dollars in scholarships since 1998. That sounds like a lot of money, but there is still a tremendous need to support the families of semi-trailer industry professionals. To reach a broader range of students and employees wishing to pursue their education, we established a 501(c)(3) that is exempt from state and federal tax. This means more funds can go directly toward scholarships rather than to taxes. Likewise, your donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Donating to the Foundation allows individuals and companies alike to leave a lasting legacy by supporting education and helping students and employees achieve their academic and career goals.

This year, the Foundation awarded scholarships to graduating seniors. We also added a continuing education scholarship for employees of NTDA Dealer Members, Dealer Branch Members, or Allied Members seeking to further their education. Through scholarships provided by the Foundation, we strive to remove financial obstacles and enable students to focus on their studies and personal or professional growth. Your donations make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and employees within the semi-trailer industry.



"I was elated to hear that I was selected for a scholarship! Thank you for your support."

***— Nathan Todzy,
Scholarship Recipient***

- In Their Own Words -



John Carr

"In the mid-1980s, during my tenure at Bridgestone where I focused on expanding market share in the commercial OEM sales channel, I recognized the crucial role that trailer dealers played in specifying tires for new trailers. Establishing a presence among OEMs, trailer dealers, and fleet customers was essential for the success of our initiatives. Consequently, we dedicated significant effort to directly engage with trailer dealers and found that supporting the National Trailer Dealers Association (NTDA) was a natural step towards better serving North American trailer dealers.

Over time, I came to appreciate the dedication and hard work of everyone at trailer dealerships, whether in the workshop, office, or fleet sales. It became clear to me that offering a scholarship program for the children of these talented individuals, who often juggled numerous financial responsibilities, would be immensely beneficial. Recognizing this need, I approached the NTDA with the idea of establishing a scholarship program, which has since evolved into the respected 501C3 organization it is today.

Reflecting on my own upbringing, where I lost my father at a young age and relied on the guidance of supportive mentors to navigate my path, I understand first-hand the importance of such support. These mentors not only informed me about my opportunities but also guided me on how to secure financial aid and scholarships for college.

The recipients of the NTDA scholarship program are exceptionally bright and deserving students. Financial constraints should not hinder them from realizing their full potential. I encourage every NTDA member to consider the individuals or opportunities that shaped their own paths towards success. Contributing annually to the NTDA scholarship fund is a meaningful way to 'pay it forward' and support the next generation of talented young individuals."

John Carr

Retired Trailer Industry Executive and founder of the National Trailer Dealers Scholarship Program



Benton Reynolds

"I never received a scholarship, but I financed my own education while in school through hard work. My mother was a school teacher and my father worked at a lumber mill. My grandfather, who only completed sixth grade, was remarkably intelligent. Despite this, he managed to send five out of his seven children to college, and four of them went on to become teachers.

Throughout my life, I've held a strong belief in the transformative power of education. It not only enhances an individual's life but also uplifts their family. Education plays a vital role in our nation by fostering a deeper understanding of business, history, and self-improvement, thereby enriching both individuals and the country as a whole. When we look back at American history, we see how books and education were instrumental in shaping our nation, driven by educated individuals.

During my college years, I witnessed first-hand the impact of scholarships on students who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to attend. Many of my peers, despite receiving scholarships, still had to work diligently to support themselves through college. Helping families in our industry makes their lives just a little bit easier."

Benton Reynolds

- In Their Own Words -



Gwendolyn Brown

"My father grew up on a farm with an eighth-grade education but later earned his GED to join the Navy during World War II, serving on the USS Pennsylvania. After the war, he worked as a laborer at a General Motors foundry and later as a janitor at a fiber drum manufacturer supplying automotive and chemical companies. At the peak of his career, he earned \$23,000 per year.

My mother was a dedicated homemaker who managed our household and volunteered for the local school system while ensuring my siblings and I stayed focused on life's important aspects.

My parents instilled a strong work ethic in me and my two brothers, as well as my half-sibling from my father's previous marriage. We all worked hard from a young age; I started babysitting at 12 years old. Using my first pay check, we bought new kitchen chairs from Sears to replace our worn-out ones. Eventually, I landed a high school co-op job at Dow Chemical's headquarters in the marketing department, where I learned invaluable skills from my co-workers.

After high school, my parents suggested I find a good secretarial job and look for a husband to support me. Despite their advice, my good grades and experience as high school newspaper editor, — where I won a writing competition at Michigan State University — convinced me that college was my destiny. The obstacle, however, was financial.

I applied to Delta College, a community college that accepted me, but I couldn't afford tuition even with a full-time job paying \$5.75 per hour. Fortunately, the Midland Foundation awarded me a \$3,000 scholarship, coupled with a Pell Grant, covering my tuition and books. This opportunity propelled me to excel at Delta and I earned a scholarship to Michigan State University, fulfilling my dreams beyond expectation.

Without the scholarships, I would have remained in poverty and missed out on my career successes. Today, as President of the National Trailer Dealers Association and National Trailer Dealers Foundation, I owe my journey to the generosity of those who believed in my potential. Working alongside the dedicated members of NTDA, I continue to learn and grow, never taking this opportunity for granted.

I am forever grateful for the impact scholarships have had on my life and family. That's why I am passionate about the National Trailer Dealers Foundation, which aims to ease the financial burden for deserving students. Every day, I am inspired by the exceptional individuals within NTDA, committed to making a difference in our industry and community."

Gwendolyn Brown

President, National Trailer Dealers Association and National Trailer Dealers Foundation

— FAST FACTS —

The Cost of Higher Education



The cost of a four-year college education in the U.S. can vary widely depending on whether the college is public or private, and whether the student attends an in-state or out-of-state institution. Here are some general figures:

Trade School costs **\$5,000–\$15,000** for a 3- to 18-month program, according to the College Board.

Public Colleges (In-State): The average cost for tuition and fees for the 2021–2022 academic year was around **\$10,740 per year**. This figure does not include room and board (housing and meals), which can add several thousand dollars per year depending on the location and type of accommodation, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Public Colleges (Out-of-State): For out-of-state students attending public colleges, the average tuition and fees for the 2021–2022 academic year were approximately **\$27,560 per year**. Again, additional costs for room and board apply, according to NCES.

Private Colleges: Private colleges generally have higher tuition rates. The average cost for tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions for the 2021–2022 academic year was about **\$38,070 per year**. Similar to public colleges, additional costs for room and board are significant, according to NCES.

It's important to note that these figures are averages and can vary widely depending on the specific college or university, location, and other factors such as the student's choice of program and financial aid eligibility or support from scholarships.

- Approximately **3.7 million students** graduate from high school each year.
- About **70% (2.6 million students)** of those graduates enroll in college each year in the U.S.
- **98%** of public school districts offer **career and technical education programs**, according to the NCES.
- **Mechanic and repair trade programs** saw an enrollment **increase of 11.5%** from spring 2021 to 2022, according to the National Student Clearinghouse.
- Many young people who are choosing trade school over a traditional four-year degree say that they are doing so because it's much more affordable and they see a more obvious path to a job, according to American Student Assistance.
- About **1 million students** graduate with an **Associate's degree** each year in the U.S.
- Approximately **1.88 million students** graduate with a **Bachelor's degree** each year in the U.S.
- Roughly **808,000 students** graduate with a **Master's degree** each year in the U.S.
- About **84,000 students** are awarded **Doctoral degrees** each year in the U.S.

Did You Know?



College enrollment rates vary greatly depending on the socioeconomic status of a student's family. About **89% of students** from well-off families go to college compared to **64% of students** from middle-class families, and **51% of students** from low-income families.

Approximately **11 million children** in the U.S. live in poverty. This represents about 15% of all children in the country. These figures can vary over time due to economic conditions, social

policies, and other factors, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The rise of poor and minority undergraduates has been most pronounced in public two-year colleges and the least selective four-year colleges and universities, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of National Center for Education Statistics data.

Students who grow up in poverty tend to have less access to higher education. This severely limits their chances of leaving poverty in their adult life.

In 2022, some **42% of children** lived in households in which no related adult had attained a college degree, **26%** lived with a related female householder (no spouse present), and **8%** lived with a related male householder (no spouse present). In 2022, some **16%** were in families living in poverty, according to NCES.

89%

Children from Well-Off Families go to College

64%

Children from Middle-Class Families go to College

51%

Children from Low-Income Families go to College

“Increased interest in the trades doesn’t necessarily mean these students won’t later go on to earn a bachelor’s degree, but ‘simply means’ that they are excited, and they’re more interested in getting into something where they can feel as though they are applying their skills and their talents to something that they can be good at.”

— Jean Eddy, President of American Student Assistance, a non-profit organization that helps students understand their options and make informed decisions about their education and goals early in life.

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR TRAILER INDUSTRY FAMILIES

ACCOUNTABILITY

Unpaid, volunteer Board members and staff completely support the Foundation. The Board past and present as well as staff of the Foundation have incredibly dynamic backgrounds with an incredible passion. Our only administrative expenses are accounting audits and an annual IRS 990 Form filing fee required of all nonprofit organizations.



IMPACT

The impact of our Scholarship Program extends far beyond financial assistance. By providing funding for education, we are investing in the future leaders, innovators, and change makers of tomorrow. Foundation scholarship recipients go on to excel academically, contribute to their communities, and inspire others to pursue their dreams, creating a ripple effect of positive change that reverberates within our industry and throughout society.

GET INVOLVED

Join us in our mission to empower students and industry professionals' futures through education. Your support makes a difference. Together, we can transform lives.

To learn more about the National Trailer Dealers Foundation or to donate, visit <https://ntda.site-ym.com/page/Foundation>, or contact us at **(810) 229-5960**. Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. Please note that the Foundation is a completely separate company from the National Trailer Dealers Association. Any tax-deductible donations made via check should be made out to the **National Trailer Dealers Foundation**.

"I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to receive a Scholarship. I am so appreciative of the organization for creating this. I am so grateful to receive this scholarship alongside other talented students."

— Allyson Shansky
Scholarship Recipient



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