



Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM¹ Scholarship Guidelines

ABOUT

Progress Software Corporation, provider of application development and digital experience technologies, created and funds the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM to commemorate Mary Székely, the company's "fourth founder" and its first employee. Mary led development efforts at Progress for its core product platform for more than 30 years, from 1982 until 2013. Mary passed away in June 2019 but left an indelible mark on those who had the opportunity to work with her. She had a love for math and science and was a trailblazer for women in tech at a time when women pursuing careers in the STEM fields were rare.

One new scholarship will be awarded annually.

AWARD

- Four-year, renewable scholarship to cover tuition, fees and educational expenses while pursuing an undergraduate degree.
 - Maximum annual scholarship is \$10,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Requirements

Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM scholarship recipients must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Female or identify as female.
- Planning to major in **computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.**
- High school senior or high school graduate who plans to enroll OR a student currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school.
- Cumulative high school unweighted GPA must be above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent) to qualify.
- Desire to make a meaningful contribution in the field of **computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.**
- Massachusetts resident.
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident eligible for federal financial aid.
- Personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities.

Exclusions

- Progress Software employees, board members, and their family members are not eligible.
- Students in graduate school are not eligible.

¹ For the purpose of this scholarship, STEM is defined as **computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science**



SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), a division of The Boston Foundation, oversees the management of the scholarship and ensures it complies with IRS rules for awarding scholarships.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; interest and experience in computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities, including dedication, generosity and loyalty; strong work ethic; highest personal integrity; passion for learning; a leader, innovator, teacher, mentor and trailblazer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete applications are due **Friday, March 20, 2020 by 5pm**. Please follow instructions carefully.

To access the application, click here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=tpischolarship>

Once you create an account and log in, there should be an opportunity to enter an Access Code at the top of the page. Please enter: **Mary**

1. Prior to completing the application, please be sure you meet all **eligibility requirements**.
2. The first step is to create an account. Keep a record of your username and password.

Review Sample Application: Please review the sample application in advance to be sure you have access to all the information you will need to complete the application. A sample application is available here: <https://www.tpi.org/scholarship/progress-software-mary-szekely-scholarship-for-women-in-stem>

Required Documents: Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application and include uploading electronic files, scanning and uploading, or using a fax-to-file feature.

3. **Recommendation:** Make sure you give the person you are asking to submit a letter of recommendation ample time to complete their recommendation prior to the application deadline. Instructions are included in the application.
4. If you have **questions**, please email progress@tpi.org.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following materials are required. Only complete applications submitted online will be considered.

1. **Complete Application Submitted Online**
2. **Essays** – Two essays are required (one long and one short).

Long essay (500 words) prompts. Please select one to write about:

- a. *Share your passion for STEM and what you hope to achieve in the field.*
- b. *Describe an achievement or series of achievements related to computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science that you are most proud of.*

Short essay (300 words) prompts. Please select one to write about:

- a. *Provide insight about how you have paved the way for others or provided opportunities for others that may not have previously existed.*
- b. *Describe your educational and career goals and why this scholarship would enable you to achieve them in a way that might not be possible otherwise.*



c. *Explain how you have made an impact on others through mentorship, community engagement and/or philanthropic efforts.*

3. High School Transcript

4. Standardized Test Scores

5. Letter of Recommendation from a teacher attesting to the student's passion and commitment to achieving their goals in STEM

6. Resume

TIMELINE

- Complete applications are due **Friday, March 20, 2020 by 5pm.**
- Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in April.
- Scholarship recipient and amounts will be announced in late April/early May.
- Scholarship applicants not selected to receive a scholarship will be notified of decisions via email in May.
- Scholarship recipient will be publicly announced by Progress in June.
- Scholarship payments will be sent to the college the student plans to attend in July.

RENEWING THE SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship recipients are eligible to renew their scholarship for up to four years in a five-year period while pursuing an undergraduate degree, provided the following requirements are met:

- Submit year-end transcripts.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).
- Remain enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school.
- Maintain a major in **computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.**
- A student may take up to one academic year off from enrollment in college and remain eligible to retain their scholarship provided all four years of the scholarship are completed within five years from the date of the original award.

REVISIONS

TPI and Progress Software reserves the right to review the eligibility and terms of this scholarship and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Please contact progress@tpi.org