Optimism and believing that things can be better is what led to the creation of KC Scholars and what has enabled us to be such a powerful force for positive change. The ability to believe in one another, ourselves, and our community – and the steadfast determination of our early leadership teams to overcome adversity – has been a testament to our will as an organization over the past seven years. Standing on the foundation built by the champions of change and the Black heroes that came before us, we challenge you to continue to BE BOLD in our communities and BE THE CHANGE you want to see. As you know, CHANGE starts at home, so continue to work daily to help change lives so we can strengthen our communities by helping more and more people lead better lives. Join us at KC Scholars in building a better world, one life at a time.
Great Jobs KC Update

We enrolled our 500th Great Jobs KC participant this past month. Since then we’ve reached over 600 with over 1,400 filling out profiles. These are BOLD BEGINNINGS indeed!

Pictured: Our 500th enrollee Andre Forbes, Jr. and Earl Martin Phalen

What is Great Jobs KC?
Provides access to a fully-funded, short-term, flexible, skills-based career training program.

• It’s short term because you can complete the program in less than a year.

• It’s flexible because our training partners offer programs that include virtual, online, on-campus, hands-on, or even hybrid training.

• It’s skills-based because you master high-demand skills that employers are seeking in the following careers: healthcare, construction, information technology, or manufacturing.

• It’s a career training program because it trains you for a career, not just a job. A career with a salary the helps you secure your future.

Find out if you qualify for our Great Jobs KC program!
Fill out the form and find out.

Or, if you think this is the perfect opportunity for someone you know please share the link with them.

See if you qualify!
Award Day is Coming!

Save the Date: Award Day is coming April 28th!

And this year will be BIG!

This year, to tie in with the NFL Draft being held here in Kansas City we are holding our own draft of sorts.

Each year KC Scholars surprises a small group of our Traditional and College Savings Match awardees in person at their schools, letting them know they’ve received our scholarship. This year our scholars will be #DraftedbyKCScholars and we plan to surprise ALL of our awardees on the same day.

Stay tuned for more details!

To get you ready here’s some footage from a previous AWARD DAY. Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR7hSuKrleE
One Mission

We ask ourselves each day,

WHAT CAN I DO TO CHANGE ONE LIFE TODAY?

We take time to remind ourselves of the lives we change and the impact we make. Videos like this show us how far we’ve come and inspire us to continue our mission to change even more lives.

Watch here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwG9BEcrIkg
Our team has been visiting campuses in our Postsecondary Network this semester to check in with scholarship recipients.

Last month we visited The University of Central Missouri! We enjoyed the opportunity to connect with students as well as the wonderful student support staff that ensures our students are successful. Our goal is to deepen our connection with students and to create an opportunity for KC Scholars to meet each other. It has been amazing to see KC Scholars interacting with other recipients on their campus and hearing about their accomplishments and their interesting educational paths.

We look forward to more visits in the next few months.

Did you know that UCM has an additional scholarship opportunity for KC Scholars?! UCM created the Opportunity Scholarship for KC Scholars in 2021 to cover the remaining costs after the KC Scholars scholarship is applied to cover the full cost of attending UCM. This award value is almost $19,000 and has made a major impact on our students. We couldn’t be more grateful for UCM and their investment in KC Scholars.

You can read more about the scholarship at: https://www.ucmo.edu/news/university-news/posts/2021-04-30-new-ucm-scholarship-for-kc-scholars-helps-students-realize-education-dreams.php
Many thanks to Mid-America Regional Council for helping us to host the Arms Around KC Community Resource Partner luncheon. It was a wonderful event designed to celebrate social service nonprofits for the vital work they do, and the beginning of an ongoing conversation about collaboration among agencies to help even more Kansas City residents achieve economic stability.

If your business or non-profit would like to become a wrap-around service partner helping to provide support for our scholars please reach out to us at CommunityResources@kcscholars.org
Scholar Night at the Mavs

Coming up in April, we will be hosting a KC Scholars Night at the KC Mavericks vs. Rapid City Rush hockey game. If you’re a current scholar, keep an eye in your inbox for details.

COMING UP

Around the Metro

A few of our scholars enjoyed a private tour of Cable Dahmer Arena, home of the KC Mavericks. They also got to tour the team locker room, as well as meet and learn from the head coach, Tad O’Had; the Director of Corporate Partnerships, Carlos Ocampo; and the President of the club, Mike Cukyne.

We were recognized at the annual Avila University Steer Dinner & Auction where they raised over $1 million. These funds will impact over 800 students.
We Can’t Do It Alone

We all can make a difference. Even the smallest contribution can help us make a huge impact.

Consider giving to provide deserving scholars the opportunity for postsecondary education. In helping members of our community secure employment that insures a good paying salary you will also be helping to racially and ethnically diversify our regional workforce.

We encourage you to support our Scholars.

Send a check to:
KC Scholars, 8080 Ward Parkway, #402, Kansas City, MO 64114
or
Donate directly by clicking the button below:

Donate Now

KC Scholars Supporter Spotlight

KC Scholars’ Volunteer selected as The Independent’s Rising Star

Sarah Owings has been a community reviewer at KC Scholars since the program began in 2017. In her role as community reviewer, Sarah reads the application essays written by hopeful KC Scholars. Sarah recognizes the role that KC Scholars plays in our community. And she believes that students in our community deserve a helping hand to realize their dreams of obtaining a college education. By reading and reviewing these essays she helps KC Scholars to choose awardees allowing us to do our work of creating a strong and resilient college educated community.

KC Scholars appreciates the 5+ years of dedication that Sarah has provided our program. As a community volunteer reviewer Sarah is making our community a better place!
Dear KC Scholars Scholarship Committee and Donors,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the KC Scholars Adult Learner Scholarship I have been awarded. This scholarship will make a tremendous impact on my life and will allow me to continue my education and achieve my goals.

I cannot begin to express how much this support means to me. The financial assistance provided by this scholarship has taken a great deal of stress from me and will allow me to focus on my studies without worrying about financial difficulties.

When I went to the website to apply, I must have misread the information. I thought this was a variable scholarship of up to $5000. At the Welcome Session I learned that it was $5000/semester until I graduate. I broke down in tears of joy. Those tears begin every time I think about this amazing gift.

I am truly honored to have been selected for this scholarship and I am determined to make the most of this opportunity. I am committed to working hard, maintaining high academic standards, and giving back to my community in any way that I can. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I will work to make you proud of your investment in me.

Sincerely,

Michaell C. Larkin
Student of Environmental and Earth Sciences at UMKC

“KC Scholars has been a blessing. Taking away the financial barrier of funding my education has allowed me to be able to focus on my coursework. Many great things have happened since becoming a KC Scholars scholarship recipient, I made the Dean’s List for the Fall 2022 semester and I am currently in the first stage ( I passed! ) for a Cyber security apprenticeship with Boeing. I am so grateful for KC Scholars and the opportunities that they are providing the KC community. Thank you!”

Best,

Nikita Harris
Adult Learner Scholarship Recipient 2021
We’re GROWING!
Below are the current KC Scholars team opportunities.

**Current Job Openings**

Employer Network Service Manager
Career Resource Manager
Employer Engagement Manager
Scholar Advocate—Great Jobs KC
Education Partner Coordinator
Marketing Coordinator
Regional Recruitment Manager
Data Analyst
Data Visualization Specialist
Director of Leadership Annual Giving
Data Architect

Apply on our career page!

https://kcscholars.org/join-our-team/
Check out what it’s like to work here!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTJgRsdYmdQ&t=3s
CEO Earl Martin Phalen’s book *Giving My All* was released online last month, read about it in the KC Hispanic News (page 4): [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19zxSxu1RG1yrAkYCubsgnnz_HS9PDQ7h/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19zxSxu1RG1yrAkYCubsgnnz_HS9PDQ7h/view)
KC Scholars’ Chief Operating Officer, Natalie Lewis was featured on Darron Story’s podcast last month, you can listen here: https://omny.fm/shows/cumulus-kansas-city-podcasts/natalie-lewis-of-kc-scholars-mandy-lavelle-of-luck
Executive Vice President Dr. Angie Besendorfer stopped by the Banking on KC podcast to share the latest on Great Jobs KC, listen here: https://open.spotify.com/episode/6FgwSXXcFWamG7no8BwCer
CEO Earl Martin Phalen was featured on Chris DeBello’s radio show, Issues and Ideas Radio, listen here: http://issuesandideassradio.com/podcasts/earlmartinphalen.mp3
Be Bold. Be KC.

We asked how you felt about Valentine’s Day last month and we only heard from a few of you. This month let’s see how you feel about going GREEN... in the meantime here are the results from last month’s survey.

How do you feel about Valentine’s Day?

- Love it! It’s a treat!
- Not really
- It’s not for me
- I don’t want to think about it

Well... looks like for half of you the day doesn’t even make it onto your radar, hope your valentine feels the same.

Looks like an even split on the Hersheys vs Sweetarts vs BBQ debate.

Chocolate Kisses or Sweetart Hearts?

- Send chocolate with a card.
- Send heart shaped candy.
- Gave the gift of time.
- I don’t want to think about it.

Not many people cared to weigh in on their feelings on Valentine’s Day last month, but this month we’re feeling LUCKY. As we find out how KC feels about St Paddy’s Day.

Flowers or Phrases?

- Flowers
- A card saying I love you
- A card saying I’m thinking of you
- I don’t want to think about it

The results and the next round of BE BOLD can be found in next month’s newsletter.

Tell Us What You Think!
Join us online **EVERY Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00pm** for a virtual information session.

Join on your computer, mobile app, or device

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 221112442485
Passcode: 37VfG6

Or call in (audio only)

+1 816-406-3910 United States, Kansas City
Phone Conference ID: 618 051 675#