

**Appalachian Connection  
Press Release  
3.11.2024**

There are some big changes taking place with Appalachian Connection. The board of directors have agreed it is time to transition our organization. We believe that the capacity of our organization has been reached under its current way of operating, however we have been working to find a way to continue to serve our students. Appalachian Connection has joined with the Marshall University Foundation in Huntington West Virginia and their Marshall For All Program.

Marshall For All is a unique combination of scholarships, grants, work opportunities and family contributions making this an innovative approach to the college experience. Marshall For All will allow students to leave Marshall with a bachelor's degree, relevant work experiences and just as important, it allows them to leave without student debt. To read more about this program: please click on this link [Marshall For All](#)

Below are few facts about our transition.

**Will there be an Appalachian Connection Scholarship awarded in 2024?** No. The scholarship is undergoing some changes and will be made available again in 2025.

**What changes are coming to the Appalachian Connection Scholarship?** Beginning in the fall of 2025, the Appalachian Connection Scholarship will be part of the Marshall for All program.

**What does it mean to become part of the Marshall for All program?** This means the scholarship is no longer intended for a university in the state of Kentucky. Instead, the recipient will be required to attend Marshall University. The scholarship will continue to be awarded to an incoming freshman, full time undergraduate student who is a resident of eastern Kentucky (Perry and Knott counties will be the priority). Each recipient will continue to receive up to \$10,000.00 per year. The goal is to use this money in conjunction with other funding to allow the student to graduate debt free. In addition to financial support, the student will also receive job placement support to help them find employment upon graduation.

**Will the Appalachian Connection Board continue to select the scholarship recipients?** No. The recipients will be chosen by the Marshall University Office of Student Financial Assistance.

**How do students apply for the scholarship in the future?** Appalachian Connection will continue to advertise and work through the high schools to inform students when the application period is open. Once the application period is open, there will be a link provided to students with instructions on how to apply.

Appalachian Connection was founded in November 2015 with the principle that education is the key to unlock prosperity. It is our mission to find and nourish bright young Appalachian minds in students who are dedicated to making meaningful, life-long contributions to their communities. We awarded our first scholarship in the Spring of 2016 and remained dedicated to our mission ever since. Three exceptional eastern Kentucky students have graduated from our program and we currently have four students enrolled in college. We will continue to support them and contribute to their tuition until they graduate.

On behalf of the Appalachian Connection Board of Directors, President John Cornett and board members Patrick Farrell, Charlotte Fitz as well as former board of directors, we want to thank you for your support!