

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2025

Contact: Summer Owens

info@thesowhatfoundation.org

901-299-9749

Scholarships for College, Trade School & More: The S.O. What! Foundation Opens Applications for Special 2025 Scholarships

Memphis, Tennessee – March 10, 2025. – The S.O. What! Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2025 scholarships, which provide financial support to students determined to pursue education beyond high school. These scholarships honor the lives and legacies of individuals who embodied resilience, perseverance, and strength, ensuring that their stories inspire future generations of students.

“These scholarships are more than just financial aid—they are a lifeline, a tribute to the resilient spirits of those who inspire us, and a promise to students who refuse to let life’s challenges define them,” said Summer Owens, founder of the S.O. What! Foundation.

Applications are open through March 28, 2025, for the Agnes Owens and Ocie Williams Memorial Scholarship, the Curtis Owens Memorial Scholarship, and the Ellen "Pedie" Granberry Memorial Scholarship. Additional scholarship opportunities will be available through the S.O. What! Foundation’s S.T.E.P.-O.U.T. program and the Bertha Rogers Looney and Summer Owens S.O. What! Success Endowed Scholarship at the University of Memphis. These scholarships support students enrolled in programs at four-year universities, community colleges, trade schools, and vocational programs. Scholarship recipients will be honored at the 3rd Annual S.O. What! Awards & Scholarship Soiree on May 3, 2025. This inspiring event celebrates powerful stories of resilience and contributions to the Memphis community.

Scholarships Now Open for Application

- **The Agnes Owens & Ocie Williams Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to female students with a demonstrated resilience story who are pursuing post-secondary education, this scholarship honors the special bond between Summer Owens and her grandmothers, Agnes Owens and Ocie Williams, who passed away just

five days apart. Their wisdom, strength, and love continue to inspire generations through this scholarship.

- **The Ellen "Pedie" Granberry Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to students pursuing a **career in cosmetology**, this scholarship was established to honor Ellen "Pedie" Granberry, the S.O. What! Foundation's long-time friend and well-known hairstylist, whose life was tragically cut short by youth violence in the community. Her passion and dedication live on through this opportunity for aspiring cosmetologists.

- **The Curtis Owens Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to students pursuing certifications in trades or vocational education, this scholarship honors Curtis Owens, the S.O. What! Foundation's young cousin, who was on the path to becoming an aircraft mechanic before his life was tragically cut short in a car accident at the age of 20. His ambition and hard work are now carried forward through this opportunity.

Apply Today & Join the Celebration!

Applications are open through **March 28, 2025**. Students interested in applying can review qualifications and submit their applications at www.thesowhatfoundation.org.

"These scholarships are not just about education—they are about honoring resilience, remembering loved ones, and providing hope for students who are determined to rise above their circumstances," said Summer Owens. "We believe in the power of opportunity, and we are committed to helping students pursue those opportunities and succeed in spite of their challenges."

Recipients will be honored at the 3rd Annual S.O. What! Awards & Scholarship Soiree on May 3, 2025, where the foundation will celebrate the perseverance, strength, and success of youth overcoming adversity.

For more information on the S.O. What! Foundation scholarships, application details, and eligibility requirements, visit www.thesowhatfoundation.org.

About The S.O. What! Foundation

The **S.O. What! Foundation's** mission is to help youth and young adults overcome obstacles and eliminate excuses hindering individual, family, and community success.

The S.O. What! Foundation addresses negative attitudes and environments, lack of motivation, hopelessness, and challenging life circumstances by providing scholarships, mentoring, educational programs, and unique exposure opportunities to youth. Through these trauma-informed programs and initiatives, the foundation empowers young people with the confidence, resilience, and skills needed to overcome adversity and build brighter futures.

For more information, visit www.sowhatfoundation.org.

###