

Progress Software Corporation- Mary Székely Scholarship 2024-25

TPI Scholarship Site

Scholarship Description

About: Dedicated to propelling business forward in a technology-driven world, Progress (Nasdaq: PRGS) helps businesses drive faster cycles of innovation, fuel momentum and accelerate their path to success through industry leading infrastructure software products. We strive to be a diverse, equitable and inclusive company, where every person—no matter their experience, perspective, identity or belief—has a sense of belonging.

We created the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM to commemorate Mary Székely (pronounced: “See-kay”), who served as the company’s co-founder and lead technologist for more than 30 years. Mary was instrumental in Progress becoming known as the trusted provider of infrastructure software products—a charge that Progress continues to this day. She had a deep love for math and science and was influential in our industry at a time when women pursuing careers in STEM were rare. Mary passed away in June 2019 but left an indelible mark on those who had the opportunity to work with her.

The scholarship is awarded to a single recipient annually.

Award: \$10,000 scholarship to cover tuition, fees and educational expenses. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

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; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely’s qualities, including, but not limited to a strong work ethic; high personal integrity; passion for learning. Each recipient must have the desire to become what Mary Székely was: a leader, mentor, and innovator.

Timeline:

- Complete applications are due on International Women's Day, **Friday, March 8, 2024 by 5pm EDT.**
- Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in April.

- Scholarship recipient will be notified in late April/early May.
- Scholarship applicants not selected will be notified of decisions via email in late April/early May.
- Scholarship recipient will be publicly announced by Progress in June.

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 science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems
- 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 reserve the right to review the eligibility and terms of this scholarship and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.

Thank you for your interest in the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. Please read these instructions carefully before filling out your application.

Questions/Comments: Please contact progress@tpi.org.

Complete applications are due Friday, March 8, 2024 by 5PM EDT.

Requirements

ELIGIBILITY

Requirements:

The recipient of the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM scholarship recipient must meet the following eligibility requirements. The candidate must:

- Identify as a woman
- Be a resident of Massachusetts and a U.S citizen or permanent resident eligible for federal financial aid
- Plan to major in **computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems**

- Have a financial need
- Be a high school senior OR high school graduate who plans to enroll OR is currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school
- Have a cumulative high school unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
- Have a desire to make meaningful contribution in the fields of **computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems**

Exclusions:

- Progress employees, board members and their families are not eligible
- Students in graduate school are not eligible

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

1. **Completed and submitted** application online
2. Two **essays** are required. The essays submitted should provide the review committee an understanding of the applicant's proficiency in two of the following three areas:
 - How they developed an interest in STEM
 - Career aspirations in the STEM field
 - How they exemplify Mary Székely's qualities

**** Applicants may submit a copy of their personal statement as one of their essays, if it addresses the subjects in the essays prompts. ****

Essay Prompts (500 words).

1. *Share your passion for STEM, where it began and what you hope to achieve in the field, including any past or current achievements related to computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.*
2. *Provide insight about how you have impacted others or provided opportunities for others that may not have previously existed. Examples may include mentorship, community engagement, volunteerism and/or philanthropic efforts. Any initiatives that are also related to STEM, a plus.*

3. **High School Transcript** (must have a cumulative unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent).
4. **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher attesting to the student's passion and commitment to achieving their goals.
5. **Resume**
6. **Submission Summary** from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Instructions

Completing your application

- To preview the application, click on the **Print Questions** button in the upper right-hand corner. You should do this prior to beginning the application to review the questions.
- Click the **Save as Draft** button at the bottom of the page to save your responses. To return to your application on a later date, log in and click on your application under your contact information. It will be marked "draft" until you submit it.
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required. You will not be able to submit your application until all required questions are answered.
- If you would like to save a copy of this application, click on **Application Packet** button at the top of the page.
- Recommender must upload a letter of recommendation to the student's online application.

Submitting your application:

- All attachments must be submitted in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** format.
- You must submit your application for it to be considered. Once you submit your application, you will receive an email confirming its receipt. If you do not receive this email, then it has not been properly submitted and will not be reviewed. Log back into your account to submit, or email **progress@tpi.org**.
- To request a recommendation, enter the email address of your reference in the space provided, then click "Compose Email" to send them an email requesting a reference. The recipient will receive an email from the system which will include a link for them to click, answer questions and upload their letter of recommendation.
- Your recommender will continue to be able to submit their letter even after you click "submit." You do not need to wait for your recommendation to be uploaded in order to submit your application.

Important: Review your application before clicking "submit". Make sure all attachments are uploaded in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** format, and your answers are complete and clear. Click on the "Application Packet" button to view your application in the form the reviewers will see it. **Applications that have missing information, unreadable attachments or don't load correctly will not be considered.** Please note that **.jpeg files are not able to be viewed.** It is important that you look over your application to make sure everything has been properly submitted.

If you have any questions or need help uploading documents to your application, please contact Sharon Rajadurai at progress@tpi.org.

Student Demographic Information

Race/Ethnicity*

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latino
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Multi-racial
White (including Middle Eastern)

U.S. Citizen?*

Choices

Yes
No

Legal Status*

Choices

U.S. Citizen
Permanent Resident Alien

Were you born in the U.S.?*

Choices

Yes
No

Country of Origin

If you were not born in the U.S., where were you born?

Character Limit: 25

Other*

How did you learn about this scholarship?*

Choices

High School or Guidance Counselor
After school or summer program
College contact
Friend
Internet search
Social media

Current/past scholarship recipient
Other

If other, how did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Character Limit: 5000

Student Contact Information

Applicant Legal First Name*

Character Limit: 100

Applicant Legal Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Gender*

Do you identify as a woman?

Please note that you must identify as a woman to be eligible for the scholarship.

Choices

Yes

No

Date of Birth*

Example: 01/01/2005

Character Limit: 10

Family/Household Information

Student Aid Index (SAI)*

You can find this on your FAFSA Submission Summary.

Character Limit: 20

Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

You can find this on your FAFSA Submission Summary. Please include a dollar amount.

If you do not have access to this figure in your FAFSA Submission Summary, you can find it on line 7 of your 1040 tax form. If your family uses another version of the 1040 form, you can figure out how to find your AGI here: <https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/irs-tax-return/how-to-find-your-adjusted-gross-income-agi-to-e-file-your-tax-return/L2BNspAbm>

Character Limit: 20

Number of Family Members Supported by Family Income

Character Limit: 2

Number of Immediate Family Members in College in 2024-25

Character Limit: 2

High School Information

High School: Name*

Character Limit: 150

High School: Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

High School: Month and year of Graduation

Example: 05/2024 (May 2024)

Character Limit: 7

High School GPA- Unweighted*

If school does not provide unweighted GPAs please enter "0." We will consider this a "N/A" response.

Character Limit: 20

High School GPA- Weighted*

If school does not provide weighted GPAs please enter "0." We will consider this a "N/A" response.

Character Limit: 20

GPA- Other

If your High School GPA is not calculated on a 4.0 scale, please indicate the scale used (*e.g. 4.5, 5.0, 100, etc.*).

Character Limit: 10

College Choice(s)

Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school in 2024-25.

Please list, in order of preference, the university, college, community college or trade school you hope to attend in the fall of 2024.

First Choice College - Name*

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Application Status*

Have you been accepted to your First Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Second Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100

Second Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Second Choice - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Second Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Third Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100

Third Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Third Choice - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Third Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Fourth Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100

Fourth Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Fourth Choice College - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Fourth Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Additional college choices

Please list school name, city, state and application status. *(Example: Boston University, Boston, MA, I am still waiting for a decision).*

Character Limit: 250

Major/Field of Study*

What is your anticipated course of study in college? E.g. computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

Character Limit: 50

College: Living Situation*

Choices

Live on campus

Live off campus

Living at home with family

Essays

Two essays are required. The combination of essays submitted should give the review committee an understanding of your future in STEM and how you exemplify Mary Székely's qualities. If you choose, you may submit a copy of your personal statement and one essay responding to one of the prompts below.

Essay One

Essay One (500 words) prompt:

- *Share your passion for STEM, where it began and what you hope to achieve in the field, including any past or current achievements related to computer information systems, software engineering, IT and/or computer science.*

Character Limit: 4000

Essay Two

Essay Two (500 words) prompt:

- *Provide insight about how you have impacted others or provided opportunities for others that may not have previously existed. Examples may include mentorship, community engagement, volunteerism and/or philanthropic efforts. Any initiatives that are also related to STEM, a plus.*

Character Limit: 4000

Personal Statement

You may submit a copy of your personal statement as one of your essays.

File Size Limit: 15 MB

Required Attachments

Please attach the following **required attachments**.

Transcript: Transcripts must be received by the application deadline. Grade reports are not acceptable. Online transcripts may be uploaded to your application and must display the following information:

- student name
- school name
- grade received
- the term in which each course was taken

If your school does not provide transcripts to students, please upload a word document explaining that, and have your school email your transcript to progress@tpi.org . Transcripts can also be mailed to

*Progress Software- Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM
c/o The Philanthropic Initiative
75 Arlington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02116*

Transcript: Unofficial or Official?*

Which type of transcript are you attaching?

Choices

Official

Unofficial

Transcript*

Please attach a copy of your transcript.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Resume*

Please attach your resume.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

FAFSA Submission Summary*

Please attach a copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary in .pdf format. We cannot accept web pages, html, or jpeg documents.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Certification

All of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also attest that I am not a Progress employee, board member or a family member of a Progress employee or board member.

Electronic Signature of Applicant*

Please type your full name.

Character Limit: 50

Today's Date*

Character Limit: 10

Once your application is submitted, you may view your application at any time by returning to your online account. However, you will not be able to make any changes.

Recommendation**Recommender's Email Address***

Please enter the email address of your recommender below and click "Compose Email" to send them a personal email asking them to be a reference. Do not put your own email address here. Your recommender will receive an automated second email from this system that will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Below are generic instructions for you to copy and paste into your email if you'd like to use them. If your recommender did not receive an email then first ask them to check their spam folder. If the email isn't there ask him or her to send the recommendation letter to progress@tpi.org.

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. You'll receive another email from administrator@grantinterface.com which will include a link. This link will provide instructions on how to upload your recommendation to my application. The application is due by 5PM on March 8, 2023.

Character Limit: 254

Please submit a recommendation from a professor, teacher, who can attest to your passion and commitment to achieving your goals in STEM.

Attach Recommendation Letter here*

Thank you for serving as a reference for an applicant to the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities, including a strong work ethic; high personal integrity and a passion for learning. Each recipient must have the desire to become what Mary Székely was: a leader, mentor and innovator. Please include your name, position & relationship to student below, write a letter of recommendation, and upload it using the link below. As part of your letter, please comment on the student's:

- Ability and motivation to succeed in college.
- Passion and commitment to achieving their goals in STEM.
- Personal attributes and qualities.

Please note the applicant will not be able to read the recommendation.

Deadline to upload your letter is 03/8/2024

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Recommender's Full Name*

Character Limit: 250

Recommender's position/title and affiliation*

Character Limit: 250

How long have you known the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250

In what capacity do you know the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250