



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Veteran Families
Freedom Scholarship



**HONORING SERVICE
AND ENSURING
ACCESS**

WHAT IT TAKES

The Campaign for
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Veteran Families Freedom Scholarship

WE OWE A TREMENDOUS DEBT TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES.

However, what often go unacknowledged are the selfless contributions of the devoted spouses who support our men and women in uniform, often caring for young families and running households on their own under the most trying of circumstances. Providing these spouses with access to all that Montana State University has to offer is one way to show our pride and our gratitude.



UNDERSTANDING THE NEED.

At Montana State University, we know that the spouse of one Afghanistan veteran found it necessary to drop out of college less than a year before graduation to care for her husband, a double amputee, and their two children. Despite a strong desire to return to college, their additional monthly stipend of only \$936 pushed her dream to return to MSU beyond her reach.

A \$650,000 ENDOWMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERAN FAMILIES FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP WILL ESTABLISH MSU AND BOZEMAN AS THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY OF CHOICE FOR VETERANS RETURNING FROM MILITARY SERVICE.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

Another veteran, who was deployed twice to Iraq and Afghanistan, finished his service with the Marine Corps and moved to Bozeman where he currently attends MSU. While his costs are being covered through the post-9/11 GI Bill, there is nothing available for his wife. Also a Bobcat, she is incurring significant student debt, exacerbated by having to pay out-of-state tuition, placing stresses on the family and potentially limiting their opportunities and choices when they graduate.

HONORING SERVICE.

We ask so much of those who serve in our Armed Forces and of their families, who have made sacrifices in the service of our nation. In return, we have a responsibility to provide spouses, in particular, with opportunities to pursue higher education. Together, we can honor dedicated service and strengthen the MSU community by bringing veterans' talents and leadership abilities to Bozeman.

Veteran Families Freedom Scholarships

4%

of our students are veterans

583

VETERANS ENROLLED AT MSU
IN 2014-2015

\$1,600/year

is awarded for each scholarship, on average

\$16,500/YEAR

is the annual resident cost of attending Montana State.
(INCLUDING FOOD, HOUSING, AND SUPPLIES)

MOST TARGETED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NON-RENEWABLE,
COVERING ONLY THE FIRST YEAR OF TUITION AND FEES



INVESTING IN POTENTIAL.

For many veterans and their families, education is the most significant investment they will ever make—an investment that will never depreciate, giving them the chance to pursue their dreams and unlock their greatest potential.

Matching their investment will pay tremendous dividends to veterans themselves as well as society, enriching the diversity of our university and the community and opening doors of economic opportunity.

Our goal is to place MSU's academic, research and cultural programs **within reach of all** deserving individuals, including veterans and their spouses.



SARAH MARTINEZ

Sarah Martinez was well on her way to completing her degree when her husband, Saul, was wounded in the line of duty in Iraq by an IED. Putting her studies on hold, Sarah concentrated on supporting her husband, moving five times as Saul recovered. Now in Bozeman, Sarah and Saul have the opportunity to attend Montana State together.

“I told myself that when [my children] were old enough to go to school, I would go back and finish my degree,” Sarah said. “When the time came to transfer to MSU, I realized that I would need financial help to be able to attend school and not jeopardize my family’s financial stability.”

“Without this scholarship, I would have to take a year off from school to be able to save the money necessary to attend MSU without putting my family in financial jeopardy.”

Part of that help came through the Veteran Families Freedom Scholarship. Supported by private gifts from members of the MSU community who recognize the sacrifices military families make in service of our country, this scholarship gave Sarah the chance to complete her education. With a focus on attaining a Community Health degree, Sarah is earning an education that she will be able to put to use helping others.



JESSICA SULLIVAN

MSU Senior Jessica Sullivan pursued her elementary education degree for more than six years as she supported her husband, Patrick, in his military service, accompanying him to different military installations around the country. Each time he was re-stationed, first to Alaska, then Louisiana, Jessica had to transfer to a different college, losing her in-state residency and course credits that did not transfer between institutions.

“If supporting him meant I had to go to school for additional years, then so be it—I wouldn’t change it for the world. I will always stand by my soldier.”

Both Jessica and her husband eventually wanted to attend MSU, where Jessica had originally been accepted immediately following high school. Upon Patrick’s discharge from the service, he and Jessica moved to Bozeman to complete their degrees.

“Because of the G.I. Bill, my husband’s out-of-state costs were covered, but not mine,” Jessica said. “After calculating the savings, I attended MSU only part time until I could gain my in-state status, prolonging my education. Going to school for six years because of having to transfer, I already have accrued nearly \$40,000 in loan debt that will continue to accumulate until I graduate.”



Learn more about how to write your own page of Montana State University history.

Development Office
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI FOUNDATION
info@msuaf.org
406-994-4207

montana.edu/WhatItTakes