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Savings to Goldsby Scholars, Parents Tops \$10 Million at MSCC

The Thomas B. Goldsby Jr. Scholarship program at Mid-South Community College continues to save students and parents tens of thousands of dollars annually, and the estimated overall value has topped \$10 million.

Based on a conservative estimate using a major Arkansas university for comparison, MSCC Goldsby students have saved approximately \$10.2 million in higher education expenses since the fall semester of 2001.

The program has generated 2,684 scholarships, and students have completed 5,037 classes and compiled 14,994 college credit hours. After participating in the innovative, unique program, Goldsby Scholars have used their start at MSCC to earn more than 310 degrees and certificates, including more than 18 certificates of proficiency and technical certificates, 69 associate's degrees, 172 bachelor's degrees, 23 master's degrees, and 2 juris doctorates.



“One of the most important things we can do for our region is increase the college-going rate, and this is one of the greatest models ever created to accomplish that,” said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter. “Those numbers clearly demonstrate the tremendous impact the Goldsby Scholarship is having on our region. The number of scholarships awarded through this program is amazing, and the cost savings to the people of Crittenden County is staggering.”

“I remain convinced that there is absolutely nothing we can do with our money that is more important than investing in the future of our young people, and this program continues to be a very powerful tool in assuring us a brighter future.”

The program’s success, however, has come with a price. The Goldsby family has pledged \$1 million toward the effort, and more than half of that amount has been expended from the scholarship fund in just over 10 years. In addition, MSCC has nearly matched the amount covered by the generosity of the Goldsbys.

“We want this innovative and vital program to continue to be available to every eligible student in our region, but for that to happen, we need more people to step up and follow Tommy Goldsby’s example,” Dr. Fenter said. “Hundreds of families in our community have already reaped the financial rewards of this program, and we need their help to keep it going.”

MSCC has initiated a Parent Partnership Campaign designed to encourage parents who have benefitted from the program to donate a fraction of their savings in support of the Goldsby Scholarship.

“This is a great program, but it is struggling because it’s successful, because we’re doing something for our kids,” Dr. Fenter said. “We’re not asking people to give something for nothing; we’ve already provided a service. We’re merely encouraging families that have received Goldsby scholarships to give back 10 percent of what they saved.”

“Without additional financial support, drastic changes will be necessary, and I don’t want us to end up in the position of having to decide which deserving student receives a scholarship and which one doesn’t.”

Jeremy Reece, MSCC Director of Enrollment Services who coordinates the program, said the Goldsby Scholarship is nothing short of amazing.

“The number of college credit hours, certificates, and degrees grows significantly every semester, and that demonstrates that the Goldsby Scholarship is an exceedingly wise investment,” Reece said. “This is a great giving opportunity to make a difference for young men and women who will do great things, get wonderful degrees, and hopefully come back here to help the community.”

“Sending a donation to the Mid-South Community College Foundation will allow us to continue to give our future doctors, lawyers, business entrepreneurs, and teachers a taste of what college is all about.”

While everyone expected the scholarship initiative to be successful, no one anticipated the overwhelming response. During the first semester it was available, Goldsby Scholarships were awarded to 15 students. That number now routinely exceeds 200 each term.

“Students in Crittenden and surrounding counties are qualifying and responding beyond our expectations, which is a good problem to have overall,” Reece said. “But it does create some financial challenges for the college.”

“Our students are very fortunate to have this opportunity, and we just want to make sure that it’s always available. The beauty of this program is that it doesn’t matter who you are, where you come from, or who your parents are. Everyone who meets the program qualifications receives the award.”

To underscore the impact of this initiative, Goldsby Scholars have attended more than 140 top colleges and universities across the United States. MSCC students have continued their education at (among many others) Arizona State University, Arkansas State University, Baylor University, Christian Brothers University, Drexel University, Florida Atlantic University, Harding University, Hendrix College, Louisiana State University,

Miami University, Middle Tennessee State University, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, New York University, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts, Pepperdine University, Purdue University, Rhodes College, Saint Louis University,

SUNY Buffalo, Syracuse University, Texas Tech University, The New School Union, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas for the

Medical Sciences, University of Central Arkansas, University of Cincinnati, University of Florida, University of Illinois,

University of Louisville, University of Maryland, Ole Miss, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of North Dakota, University of Tennessee, University of Texas-San Antonio, Vanderbilt University, Wellesley College, Wichita State University, and Xavier University.

To participate in Goldsby Scholarship Parent Partnership effort at the college, please call MSCC Director of Advancement Patti Coleman at (870) 733-6764 or email her at pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu. For more information on Goldsby scholarship opportunities at the college, please call Reece at (870) 733-6786.