A scholarship for highly-motivated students

The Boundless Opportunity Scholarship (BOS) is designed to benefit motivated non-traditional students who recognize the power of education to create a better life for themselves and their families.

The scholarship is available for undergraduate degrees and certificate programs at select two- and four-year colleges and universities in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The Daniels Fund — the legacy of cable television pioneer Bill Daniels — awards grants to participating colleges and universities who then provide need-based scholarships to successful student applicants.

The BOS program serves seven non-traditional student populations, and is intended to help students able to demonstrate the need for financial assistance as they invest in themselves through continued education.

Participating schools choose to offer the BOS program to one or more of these defined student populations:

- Adult learners
- GED recipients
- Former foster care youth
- Former juvenile justice youth
- Returning military
- Individuals pursuing EMT/paramedic training
- Individuals pursuing Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification

Not all schools will offer Boundless Opportunity Scholarships to all student populations. The financial aid office at each participating school can provide more information.

Details about the scholarship

A current and complete list of colleges and universities receiving funding to offer Boundless Opportunity Scholarships can be found on the Daniels Fund website at DanielsFund.org/Boundless.

Students interested in applying for a Boundless Opportunity Scholarship should request an application from their college or university’s financial aid office, or review the scholarship section of their school’s website.

All BOS recipients are required to complete an online survey to provide information on career and academic goals, and how they will be achieved. This information helps the Daniels Fund evaluate the success of the program and its graduates. After the scholarship recipient has been notified, but prior to the disbursement of funds, the school’s financial aid office will provide each recipient with a link to access the survey.

Boundless Opportunity Scholarship awards may be used only toward the following expenses:

**Direct expenses:**
- Tuition and fees
- Room and board

**Indirect expenses:**
- Books and supplies
- Transportation commuting expenses (limited to gasoline or public transportation)

Since 2003, the Daniels Fund has distributed more than $13 million in Boundless Opportunity Scholarship funding to our college and university partners, resulting in more than 4,300 scholarships for non-traditional students. Individual scholarship awards range from $500 to $5,000 annually. The name of this program was inspired by a quote from Daniels Fund founder Bill Daniels:

“America remains the greatest nation on earth, where boundless opportunities still exist for each and every one of us.”
About Bill Daniels

Bill Daniels achieved great success by working hard, following his instincts, acting with ethics and integrity, and treating everyone around him with respect. His brilliance in business was matched by his compassion for people and desire to help those in need.

Born in Greeley, Colorado in 1920, Bill spent his early childhood in Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa. As his family struggled through the Great Depression, Bill's values regarding work and responsibility were formed.

When Bill was a teenager, his family moved to Hobbs, New Mexico. Bill was driven and popular, but his unruly nature prompted his parents to enroll him in the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI). He quickly embraced cadet life. He was a natural athlete and developed remarkable leadership skills. Bill left NMMI a disciplined young man with appreciation for teamwork, etiquette, respect, and the chain of command.

Bill would prove a fine naval officer and fearless combat pilot in World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star for making repeated trips to rescue wounded shipmates after a devastating attack on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. Bill also served during the Korean Conflict, and retired a decorated full Commander.

Bill began his business career by opening an insurance agency in Casper, Wyoming. Driving home from a family visit in New Mexico, Bill stopped for lunch in Denver. A boxing match flickered on a small black and white screen behind the bar. It was Bill's first encounter with television, and he was captivated. He learned many small towns — including Casper — did not have access to TV. As a result, Bill started building Casper's first cable system in 1952.

Bill went on to own hundreds of systems across the country. His firm, Daniels & Associates, operated these properties and brokered many of the deals that shaped the industry. An avid sports fan, Bill generated local sports programming, clearing the way for today's regional sports networks. He sponsored professional boxers, served as president of the American Basketball Association, was a founder of the United States Football League, and was an owner of professional sports teams, including the Utah Stars and Los Angeles Lakers.

Bill never claimed to be perfect. In fact, he was surprisingly open about his failures and mistakes. He struggled with alcoholism, but maintained sobriety after treatment at the Betty Ford Center in 1985. His devotion to work led to four divorces. He ran unsuccessfully for governor of Colorado in 1974. And Bill lost plenty of money investing in unsuccessful ventures.

The respect Bill earned for his achievements in business was matched by the admiration generated by his philanthropy. Over the years, he made countless charitable contributions and supported his community in meaningful ways. With his plane, he set a new round-the-world speed record while raising $300,000 for education. He opened his home, Cableland, to fundraising events for nonprofits dozens of times per year, and donated the house to the City of Denver as the official mayoral residence.

Recognizing the value of learning financial responsibility at a young age, Bill founded Young Americans Bank in 1987. His concern that students weren't learning the importance of ethics led Bill to collaborate with the University of Denver to incorporate ethics, values, and integrity into the business school curriculum. In 1994, the school was renamed to become the Daniels College of Business in Bill's honor.

Bill gave more than just money. He spent time with people in need to understand their situations. His visible support of charitable causes inspired others. He helped society's most vulnerable and disadvantaged achieve happier, healthier, more productive lives.

Bill spent his final years planning the Daniels Fund and providing the specific direction that guides its operation. When he died in 2000, Bill's estate transferred to the Daniels Fund, making it one of the largest foundations in the region. The Daniels Fund continues Bill Daniels' legacy of generosity by making grants to outstanding nonprofit organizations and providing scholarships to deserving students in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.