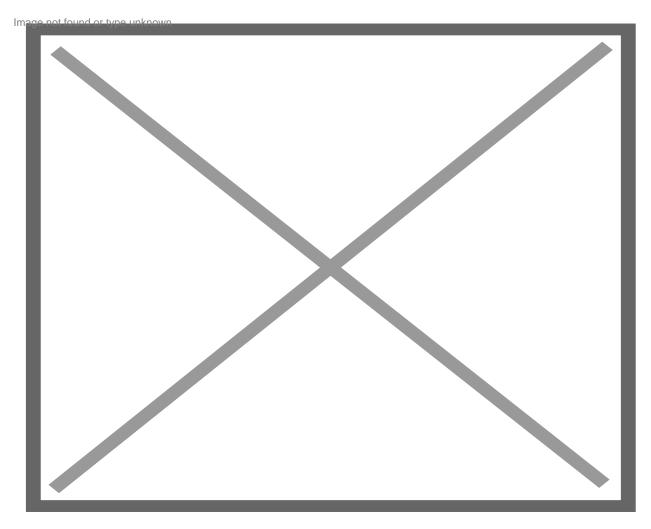
St. Croix Foundation Announces STEM and General Scholarships for 2024 Graduates

Diverse scholarships aim to support students pursuing higher education in STEM and beyond, alleviating financial barrier

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The St. Croix Foundation has announced multiple scholarship opportunities for the island's 2024 graduating seniors, aimed at helping youth overcome financial challenges associated with higher education.

The Lang-Wise STEM Scholarship Fund is offering three scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 each to 2024 graduates from St. Croix public, private, or parochial schools intending to pursue degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Established in 2022 by local engineer Raydiance Wise, the fund aims to mitigate costs related to textbooks, travel, and other educational expenses.

"These scholarships not only relieve financial burdens but also inspire our youth to pursue careers in STEM fields, which are crucial for the future development of our community," said Deanna James, president and CEO of the St. Croix Foundation.

Students may also apply for consideration for the Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund, which will award at least one scholarship up to \$5,000 to a graduating senior from a St. Croix public high school. This fund, created by Junior Gaspard in honor of his resilient grandparents, seeks to empower students who have faced significant challenges and view education as a path to success.

Graduates of the St. Croix Educational Complex are eligible to apply for the 20th Anniversary Reunion Committee fund, established by Anquanette Gaspard and fellow alumni from the class of 2023 to support the next generation of SCEC students.

While all applications for each scholarship must be submitted by June 14, each fund has varying requirements, which can be found on the St. Croix Foundation <u>website</u>. The Foundation says applicants will be informed of selection outcomes as early as July 3, 2024.

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