Establishing an Endowed Fund or Scholarship

What does “endowing a scholarship or fund” mean?
Establishing an endowed fund or scholarship creates a fund in which the principal donation is invested and the interest funds the scholarship award. Thus, the “fund” remains for the College’s use in perpetuity and creates a lasting legacy at SUNY Oswego.

What is the minimum dollar amount required to fully fund an endowed fund or scholarship?
Currently, it is $25,000.

How can the endowed scholarship or fund be funded?
Funding can occur through outright gifts of cash or appreciated stock, or through a multi-year pledge (no more than 5 years). Also, endowed funds can be endowed through a bequest or other charitable giving instruments (e.g. gift annuities, trusts, etc.)

Can I endow a fund or scholarship over a period of time?
The minimum amount to endow a fund or scholarship can be pledged and paid over a period of no more than 5 years.

How soon will an award be distributed following the establishment of the endowed fund?
Generally, endowed scholarships or funds are available to be awarded after June 30th; at least one year after the scholarship/fund is fully funded and invested. Generally, during this period, earnings accumulate, thus ensuring that the desired monetary award level will be available for distribution.

An exception is made if the donor wants the fund to be activated sooner and elects to make a separate (“current use”) gift equivalent to the desired amount. In the meantime, the endowed fund is accumulating earnings for an award one year hence.

How will the award funds be distributed?
The annual award will be based on interest applied, less any applicable fees, in accordance with the Oswego College Foundation, Inc. Board policies. The Foundation’s Board of Directors reviews its endowment spending rate annually. As of June 2016, awards were based upon 4% of the funds 20 quarter rolling average account balance.

How are the funds invested?
Endowed funds are invested in accordance with the Oswego College Foundation, Inc. Investment Policy and Procedures. These investments are overseen by the Foundation’s Investment Committee which meets as least quarterly, as well as its Board of Directors. Copies of the Foundation Investment Policy are available upon request.

How is the endowed scholarship or fund named?
By the donor, in consultation with the Office of Alumni &University Development. Some options:
- In honor of an individual or family member (living/deceased)
- In honor of a couple – one or more may be deceased
• In honor of the donor himself/herself
• In recognition of a business or organization

Who determines the parameters or the restrictions?
The donor, in consultation with the Office of Alumni & University Development.

Is this a charitable gift tax deduction?
Yes, the Oswego College Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status. All charitable contributions to the College are tax deductible commensurate with the donor’s individual tax situation. Donors should consult their tax preparer to determine deductibility of individual gifts.

Is there a contractual agreement?
Yes. The signed agreement reflects pertinent information regarding institutional policy on endowed funds, the name of the fund, how funds are to be distributed, and specific criteria, terms and conditions relating to the award and the College’s stewardship commitment.

Does the College inform a donor about the status of his/her endowed fund periodically?
Yes. The College is committed to “stewarding” endowed gifts. Each year the Office of Alumni & University Development sends each donor a Stewardship Report indicating the endowed fund’s contributions and disbursements, as well as appropriate information about the student(s) receiving the award(s) or how the fund was used. Opportunities in which student scholars can meet their respective benefactor(s) are encouraged and arranged when possible.

Are endowed scholarships/funds publicized?
Yes. If the donor agrees, a press release is sent to local print media. If applicable, information may be sent to the respective high school counselor(s). A scholarship will also be listed with all other scholarships that are available to SUNY Oswego students in the Scholarship Newspaper and on the college website. The Office of University Development encourages individual donors to be featured in college publications. It is a highly visible venue for acknowledgment and a way to inspire other friends and alumni of SUNY Oswego to make a similar commitment. If, however, a donor prefers no publicity or to remain anonymous, his or her wishes will be honored.

Who do I contact for additional information?
Please contact the Office of Alumni & University Development, King Alumni Hall, Oswego, NY 13126 or by phone at 315-312-2258 or scholar@oswego.edu