

The Ascend Scholarship Fund

Our Goal, Our Vision

Ascend St. Vrain powers a needs-based, multi-year scholarship for St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD) students who want to attend a four-year university, community college, vocational, or technical school here in Colorado. With your help, we can provide access to post-secondary education to hard-working youth who have the ambition to improve their lives through education. By partnering with you, we can build a community where students: 1. have access to education that unlocks their full potential, 2. where employers can find local qualified talent, and 3. where students continue to feel connected to their community.

Why Ascend?

Why does the Ascend St. Vrain Scholarship Fund focus on middle-income families? The short answer is *debt*: students from middle-income families take on more debt than any other group to continue their educations, and **an average student with loans owes over \$35,000 after graduation**. While **many working households do not qualify for assistance**, they are also unable to simply write a check to cover tuition. Thus, new graduates start their lives “in the hole” in a way that follows them for years, and sometimes for decades. This **debt delays life**. Buying a home, starting a family, and planning for retirement are overwhelming when you have *negative* assets.

Why include students of *all* achievement levels? Hardworking youth can be overlooked if we let all of life become winner takes all. After all, **we believe that even imperfect lives deserve opportunities**. There are any number of reasons for a flawed GPA: a difficult home life, a death in the family, or even just difficulty adjusting to high school. What’s more, we know that the “hand up” of a scholarship does not simply help the student, but also helps his or her family for generations to come.

Why is this only for students attending school in Colorado? We believe in Colorado, the Front Range, and the St. Vrain Valley. We believe that we have amazing schools where students can realize their full potential, and we believe that learning and growing close to home helps to foster a connection with the area. We want Colorado businesses to be able to find young talent locally. And, of course, by focusing on in-state tuition our scholarships will have the greatest return on investment.

Partner with Ascend

Your generosity will reach beyond this generation. By partnering with The Longmont Community Foundation and funding the Ascend St. Vrain endowment, you can touch the lives of graduating classes for decades to come. **You can help** build a fund that gives students in the St. Vrain Valley access to not just a career, but also helps them reach their full potential. **With your assistance, we can support our students and add stability to the lives of determined youth.** These multi-year scholarships give students the financial security to focus on their education and graduating on time.

For more information on how to partner with Ascend St. Vrain, contact **Scholarship Director, Marjorie Weibel** at 303-678-6555 or marjorie@longmontfoundation.org.