



Polly Farmer Foundation

2024 PFF Alumni Scholarships



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ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



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Polly Farmer Foundation Scholarships



The Polly Farmer Foundation Scholarships are intended to assist Follow the Dream alumni who are pursuing tertiary courses across Australia and career development. This scholarship is available to students who participated in the Foundation's Follow the Dream program and are registered as a PFF alumni member. The scholarships are sponsored by PFF alumni partners BHP, Worley, Monadelphous, Mitsui Iron Ore Development and Rio Tinto. In 2024, eighteen scholarship have been awarded.

2024 Scholarship recipients

Student	FTD Program (School)	Institution	Course
Carly Silver	Northam (Merredin College)	ECU	Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
Dakoda Black — Bolton	Katanning (Narrogin SHS)	ECU	Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
Jessika Coenen	Bunbury	CDU	Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Jaimee Davies	Governor Stirling	CQU	Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Tahlia—Rae Willcocks	Mt Lawley	Curtin	Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Jasper John	Broome	ANU	Master of Teaching
William Hazelton	Champion Bay, Geraldton	Curtin	Bachelor of Arts (Geography)
Cassandra Dempsey	Cecil Andrews (Lesmurdie SHS)	Curtin	Bachelor of Applied Science
Jasmin Bentink	Albany	UWA	Bachelor of Science (Environmental)
Lilli Byass	Wanneroo (Mindarie College)	ECU	Bachelor of Health Science
Shondle Neave	Esperance	Curtin	Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing)
Alexis Young	Mandurah (John Tonkin College)	Murdoch	Bachelor of Nursing
Courtney Collard	Newton Moore, Bunbury	ECU	Bachelor of Social Work
Cynthia Nelly	Tom Price	Curtin	Bachelor of Psychology & Human Resource Mgt
Kalirra Tesling	Champion Bay, Geraldton	CR TAFE	Diploma of Beauty Therapy
Blayre Chivers	Sevenoaks	NM TAFE	Diploma in Surveying
Jason Goodlad	Bunbury	SR TAFE	Cert III Conservation and Ecosystem Mgt
Isaiah McKenna	St Mary's College, Broome	Curtin	Bachelor of Laws

The Polly Farmer Foundation, through its alumni partners, have awarded 57 scholarships since launched in 2021. Initially called bursaries, in 2021 there were 16 recipients, followed by 12 in 2022 and 11 in 2023, with this year 18 scholarships awarded.

This year scholarships have been awarded up to an amount of \$3,000. The scholarship committee allocated funding according to course and financial situation. Some previous recipients received a reduced scholarship, that will assist with course fees in 2024.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Carly Silver: Merredin College FTD

Carly is second year of a **Bachelor of Education (Secondary)** at Edith Cowan University. She is majoring in English and a minor in HASS.

“Follow The Dream was such an incredible opportunity for my final year of high school. It allowed me to have extra time and a productive space to focus and study.

Follow The Dream was also extremely helpful in providing teachers in specialised subjects to help me study specific areas.

I'm extremely grateful for the help of my teachers, who would assist in FTD tutoring if I asked them to swing by for help. It helped me gain a lot of self-discipline when it came to studying on my own and provided me with study techniques that I still use in my university course”.



Dakota Bolton — Black: Narrogin FTD

Dakota is studying the **Bachelor of Education (Primary)** at Edith Cowan University.

“Follow the Dream became my safe space and support system when I needed help under any circumstance. Teachers & my coordinator encouraged me to pursue the career I've always wanted, that being a primary school teacher. Through study sessions, building connections with staff and yarning it made me realise that I am capable, guiding and helping me find the right pathway to get into my dream course.

Now that I have graduated high school, I realised how much I doubted my abilities and confidence to believe that I could be a university student. To have a support system changed my mentality. Now I can say that I am a university student and on the road to success. All I needed was one person to believe in and support me. Without FTD I believe that I wouldn't be the person I am today”.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Jessika Coenen: Bunbury FTD

Jessika is enrolled at Charles Darwin University in the **Bachelor of Education** (Primary) and Master of Teaching (Secondary).

“I was part of the FTD program for my whole high school experience at Bunbury SHS. I benefitted a lot from the program especially with the extra help I received while completing ATAR. I also found it a place to get to know all the other Aboriginal and Islander students in the school.

Being part of the program gave me so many amazing opportunities including participating in some awesome camps and learning more about my culture. I cannot recommend this program enough, I'm so lucky to still be part of it as an alumni, tutor and running the FTD at Dalyellup College as their AIEO.

I have a number of students attending, getting the opportunity to take them on amazing camps and help them achieve their educational goals and learn more about culture. The funding will help me with buying supplies, course fees & getting help e.g. tutor”.

Jaimee Davies: Governor Stirling FTD

Jaimee is enrolled a **Bachelor of Education** (Primary) at the Central Queensland University of through the Geraldton Universities Centre.

“I was fortunate enough to be enrolled and engaged with the Follow the Dream at Governor Stirling SHS. The program was supportive and nurturing that aided in the academic success of its students. I had access to excellent tutors who assisted in all subjects, ensuring that my comprehension and understanding of each subject was at the level necessary. The tutors were also a great asset in guaranteeing success in my results.

FTD also held various camps, took the students on excursions, gave networking opportunities, and access to career and learning exhibitions, which assisted in the academic paths the students were undertaking into life outside of high school. Without the Follow the Dream program I feel as though I would have been lost at school”.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Tahlia—Rae Willcocks: Mt Lawley FTD

Tahlia—Rae is studying a **Bachelor of Education** (Primary Education) at Curtin University.

“I have been part of Follow the Dream since year 10. It gave me a place in the school, and people that I knew had nothing but my best interests at heart. It provided a safe space for me to talk about anything from my personal life to a test at school.

The Coordinator took me to Curtin University for the first time, and was there the whole time during my application process, advocating for me and supporting me.

The tutoring that was provided, gave me the extra help that I needed. Being given the ability to go on cultural camps and connect with country, and also my peers sometimes gave me the extra motivation and support that I need. I have met so many amazing people on the camps, many of who I am still friends”.



Jasper John: Broome FTD

Jasper is studying a **Master of Teaching**, at the Australian Catholic University.

“Follow the Dream was an Integral part of me graduating from Broome SHS and attending university. The program offered me support academically, as well as through mentorship from Tutors and the coordinator Tim Gray.

Through the support I was able create opportunities for myself and I feel forever grateful to Follow the Dream staff . Tim Gray would often give me support academically with schoolwork, as well as sorting for specific tutors for subjects I would be struggling with. He also mentored me and gave advice on how I could best balance my sport and schoolwork to get the best outcomes for both.

PFF continued to support me during my time at university, by giving me employment in 2021 to complete the PFF alumni magazine. I am also employed as an After School Tutor and In - Class Tutor at Broome SHS”.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

William Hazelton: Champion Bay FTD

William is studying a **Bachelor of Arts**, majoring in Geography at Curtin University

“I joined Follow the Dream at the start of year 8. I was a D grade student who did not have a passion or drive to do anything educational. During the first couple of weeks the Coordinator Helen and many of the helpful tutors showed me that learning wasn't a chore but something that can help me find my path into the future.

My grades instantly shot up and half my report card became A grades, which was one of my favourite feelings back then. When I began to do ATAR in year 11 it was the most draining and soul crushing part of my life, but Helen never gave up on me and offered guidance to keep me going.

I hope to stay close to the FTD program and when I graduate bring my knowledge and help the Aboriginal community”.



Cassandra Dempsey — Lesmurdie FTD

Cassandra is completing a **Bachelor of Applied Sciences**, majoring in Indigenous Community Management and Development. She is in her third and final year of study.

“Follow the Dream helped me understand the value of my identity and culture and ignited my passion to empower and give back to my community.

It has given me a sense of belonging as there are many other Follow the Dream students and alumni that have similar lived experiences and values that have been influenced by our culture.

I have come back to the program as a tutor, this has helped me recognise my passion for youth and the education of our people”.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jasmin Bentink - Albany FTD

Jasmin is enrolled at the University of Western Australia in a **Bachelor of Environmental Science** and a **Bachelor of Science** with a major in Zoology & specialising in Environmental Science and Management.

“The degree aligns with my passion for environmental sustainability and wildlife conservation, and I look forward to making a positive impact in these fields through my academic pursuits at UWA.

My time with Follow the Dream has played a pivotal role in shaping my academic journey and personal growth. The program provided valuable additional support, fostering an environment where I could excel in my studies. Beyond academics, FTD became a supportive community where I found a sense of belonging and forged enduring friendships. The program's insights into opportunities beyond high school, particularly the eye-opening career camp, have broadened my horizons and clarified my future academic and career path”.



Lilli Byass: Wanneroo FTD

Lilli studying **Health Science** at Edith Cowan University. She is hoping to transfer to Occupational Therapy next year.

“I was a participant in the Follow the Dream Program from year 7 when I was at Yanchep Secondary College and then at Mindarie Senior College through to year 12.

FTD helped with science and some mentoring. I did plenty of tutoring, which helped my grades tremendously.

The FTD Coordinator would call in and make sure our family were doing okay and make sure we had support. She also liaised with people at my school when some things weren't easy for me to navigate.

I will use the funding from this scholarship for my course fees as well as buying equipment that I require for my course, such as books”.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Shondle Neave: Esperance FTD

Shondle is studying a **Bachelor of Science (Nursing)** at Curtin University.

"I started Follow the Dream in year 9 until Year 12 when I graduated high school. FTD supported me in many ways. One way that really helped me was the university camp, as I got to explore the campuses plus find out the support offered to me as an Indigenous student at each university.

Based on this I was able to apply at the university that best suited me. Another way FTD helped me, is by allowing me a quiet place to study for a test or exam. Along with supplying tutoring when I required it to help with any challenging subjects etc.

On a more personal note, Follow the Dream enabled me to have a place where I felt supported, and safe as well having a sense of belonging.

The funds of the scholarship will be used on any upfront costs for things such as the nursing uniform (scrub top and pants, nursing specific shoes, and a fob watch) and things such as any immunisations or vaccinations I may require".



Alexis Young - Mandurah FTD

Alexis is enrolled in a **Bachelor of Nursing** at Murdoch University.

"I plan to become a qualified nurse to work in rural communities, FIFO or Indigenous based services and move into para-medicine later.

Follow the Dream allowed me to study with like minded people, discuss topics of interest and lead me in the right direction.

FTD taught me that there is always help and helped me to understand the power and importance of education. Both my parents didn't graduate from high school, so I owe the Follow The Dream staff in Mandurah for encouraging and supporting me.

I will use the funds to buy myself a Lenovo idea centre 16GB all in one desktop computer".

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Courtney Collard - Bunbury FTD

Courtney is enrolled in her second year of **Bachelor of Social Work** degree at ECU.

“Follow the Dream assisted me with my education throughout High School. The program supported me with staying on top of my subjects, particularly the topics I struggled with in school, I felt that FTD created a safe space throughout my schooling. It was culturally safe & instilled a sense of leadership and resilience.

I hope to inspire and be a role model to others to gain a better education and strongly encourage them to seek the support in school such as accessing the Follow the Dream program.

This scholarship will ease the pressure of financial expectations & assist me in terms of gaining resources such as books, equipment, living costs and getting the appropriate materials throughout my studies”.



Cynthia Nelly - Tom Price FTD

Cynthia is studying a Bachelor of Psychology and Human Resource Management.

“I joined the FTD program when I was in year 8, it felt safe being surrounded by friendly staff, my older sister, cousins and friends. This program provided me with a safe space & resources that my struggling single mother could not afford at the time.

It helped me gain confidence and strength to remain the bright student I was and to continue focusing on improving my attendance and grades. This program set me up on a better pathway.

The funds from the scholarship can allow me to purchase a laptop for my studies, purchase food and fuel, and help towards my university tuition fees”.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kalirra Tesling: Champion Bay FTD

Kalirra is studying for my **Diploma of Beauty Therapy** at Central Regional TAFE in Geraldton

“At the Follow the Dream, I was continually guided and supported through school to achieve my educational and artistic successes, to the best of my ability. I had many opportunities to develop my leadership skills through team building, engagement and the constant support that I received over the years from my coordinator and tutors.

My tutors encouraged me to gain my confidence by public speaking through many NAIDOC assemblies at school and I once was an MC for the FTD End of Year Celebration, which helped me confidently speak to and in front of new people. I have developed a strong, hardworking personality which has enabled me to positively strive for everything that I worked hard for.

When choosing a career, at first, I was very unsure of what pathways I wanted to pursue, but from the supportive guidance and reassurance from my coordinator, she has opened my vision for my goals and interests for the future”.



Blayre Chivers: Sevenoaks FTD

Blayre is in the second year of **Diploma of Surveying** at North Metropolitan TAFE at East Perth Campus.

Blayre completed Cert 3 & 4 in 2023 and wants to graduate in the Advanced Diploma to become an Authorised Surveyor.

“Follow the Dream Program enabled me to get the guidance and help I needed to get through my senior years and try to gain a pathway to find I wanted do in the future. The coordinator, helped me understand myself better and had tutors when needed and helped with my up coming assignments and exams.

I don't think I would have passed without the encouragement I had from being the Follow the Dream.

I was also one of the lucky students who attended the National Indigenous Business Summer School in 2018 (Year 12) where I met other Aboriginal students, gained leadership skills and friends from the week”.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JJ Goodlad: Bunbury FTD

JJ is enrolled in **Cert III Conservation and Ecosystem Management** at South Regional TAFE in Bunbury.

“My time in Follow The Dream helped me heaps as I struggled with understanding certain subjects at school and gained the motivation to complete my work on time. I had a very helpful tutor who I have used through the years of my study.

My tutor always knew how to get me to keep pushing with their motivational words. My FTD Coordinator has also been a really big help throughout my years in FTD, making sure I am up to date and aware of any opportunities that were available through PFF.

Follow The Dream allowed me to gain more knowledge in my desired field of interest, being Conservation. I was lucky enough to attend the CCWA Conservation Conference in 2023 as a student thanks to PFF sponsorship”.



Isaiah McKenna: St Marys FTD

Isaiah is studying a **Bachelor of Laws** at Curtin University.

“I graduated in 2020 from the St Marys College FTD Program, which I had been part of for the entirety of my high school journey. FTD was an outlet for me to advance my studies, receive career guidance and tutoring and to speak to tutors about the university and post high school experience. Through FTD, I also was able to surround myself with a community formed from the frequent FTD students who became my best friends until graduation. The program enriched my school experience, cultural knowledge, academics and friendships.

I feel the program equipped me with the networking, leadership and academic skills to be successful at university and out of home. If awarded the scholarship, the money will support my home and living expenses, as my family are all back in Broome”.





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