

Nicholas R. Scalera ('63) Scholarship Fund

The Nicholas R. Scalera ('63) Scholarship Fund was established at Seton Hall University in 2007 by its benefactor, a 1963 SHU alumnus. It provides annual scholarships to help undergraduate students with substantial financial and social needs secure a quality college education.

Applicants must be residents of Essex County and qualify for the university's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Preference is given to students who: reside in Newark or Bloomfield; or are or were under the care of the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) or its predecessor, the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS); or are alumni of Seton Hall Prep School's Griffin Bridges Program for inner-city youths.

The Scalera Scholarship Fund currently provides a total of \$5,000 a year to one or more students. Since the first grants were awarded in 2010, 33 Scalera Scholarships totaling over \$52,000 have been awarded to 19 needy students.

Some were homeless. Most struggled to make ends meet. Many had to work to meet daily living expenses. All received some financial aid from Seton Hall, but it wasn't enough to fully cover their costs. Scalera Scholarships enabled these students to pursue their degree.

Among the first recipients was Laquan S. Ford, a 2013 Seton Hall graduate who earned an MSW *cum laude* from Loyola University, Chicago in May 2016. To view an article about Laquan in *Seton Hall Magazine* in 2015, visit: <https://www.shu.edu/news/one-powerful-connection.cfm>

"Creating this scholarship is my way of offering deserving students of modest means the same opportunity I had to earn a college degree," Scalera said. "Thanks to my parents' hard work and sacrifices, I was the first member of my family to graduate from prep school and college. Educational opportunity should never have to depend on the extent of a family's resources."

Scalera earned a BA in social studies from Seton Hall in 1963 and an MS in Journalism *cum laude* from Columbia University in 1964. He served from 1989-94 as Director, NJ Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the state's child protection agency, and from 1972-89 as DYFS Assistant Director. In 1995, Nick founded a consulting firm that assists public and private nonprofit agencies serving at-risk youth. Scalera mentors many needy youths/young adults.

Nick has received many honors, including: Man of Achievement Award for services to at-risk youth, Phi Kappa Theta; Humanitarian Award, Seton Hall University; Public Administrator of the Year, NJ Chapter, American Society for Public Administration; Regional Administrator's Citation, US Department of Health and Human Services; Children's Service Award, NJ Chapter, National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse; Special Award, inmates of NJ state prison for women; and Humanitarian of the Year, Association for Advancement of the Mentally Handicapped.

For more information, visit: <http://www.scalera.com>.