

The Perseverance of These Youth Knows No Bounds

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Since 2007, Toyota's Making Life Easier (MLE) program has awarded \$9.4 million in scholarships to more than 2,300 students affiliated with 65 select nonprofit partners. These scholarships, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per student over four years, will help them achieve their educational, professional, and financial aspirations.

Many having already faced extremely challenging circumstances, the resilience and tenacity of these young students proved stronger. They rose above, and often found community, hope, and guidance by connecting with their local Boys & Girls Club, Girl Scouts council, Junior Achievement, or other community partner. These partners often had sponsored programs by Toyota, and local Toyota team members volunteering to support.

Having gone this far, when perhaps hopeful for a traditional prom or graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements with friends and family, a global pandemic had other plans: forcing virtual studies and social distancing.

“Yet they continued to thrive,” said Al Smith, group vice president, Toyota Social Innovation. “Their perseverance knows no bounds, and Toyota is proud to provide financial assistance as they take the next steps on their journey to college.”

In addition to the scholarship, recipients receive a backpack filled with items to help them navigate the road ahead: including a laptop, a power bank for charging mobile devices, and a \$150 gift card.

Toyota is honored to celebrate with these students. It may not be a standard graduation this year, but these are no standard students. They all exemplify flexibility and an unwavering commitment to academics and to the community.

Al Smith congratulates these scholarship recipients: