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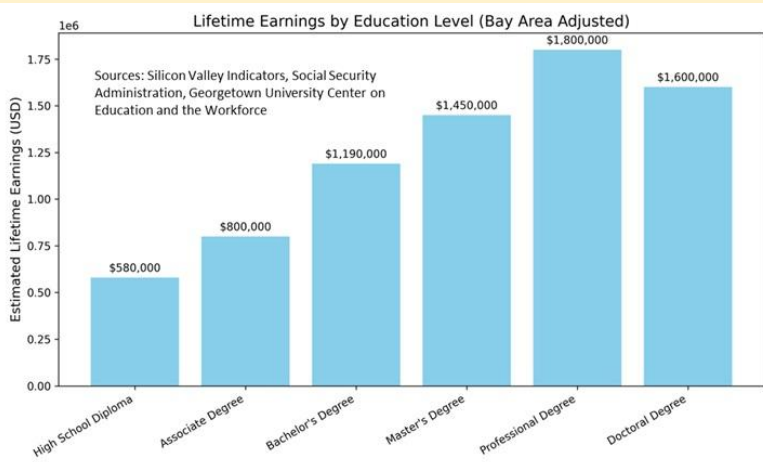


A Report on Scholarships Program Of Sikh Gurdwara San Jose

Background & Motivation

In the fall of 2018, members of the Parbandhak Committee recognized a pressing concern: Many Sikh students were unable to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. As a result, they often found themselves in low-paying jobs with limited upward mobility. The chart below

illustrates how lifetime earnings in the Bay Area can significantly increase with higher education. While these figures represent averages, they highlight the transformative potential of education, especially for families with limited financial means. We have scholarships program to help students from needy families.



Empowering Academic Excellence

Another key motivation was to support high-achieving high school students in gaining admission to prestigious universities. These students often go on to hold influential positions in society. However, it

is common for highly educated individuals to become disconnected from their community due to professional demands. The scholarship program aims to keep these future leaders engaged with the Gurdwara Sahib, ensuring continued progress for the Sikh community.

Promoting Sikh Identity in Education

A third goal was to encourage more Sikh educators with visible Sikh identity (*Sikhi Saroop*) in K–12 schools. Over their careers, these teachers interact with thousands of students, helping normalize and positively represent Sikh identity. They also serve as role models and advocates for Sikh students who may face challenges due to their faith. Since teaching salaries are often lower than those in the tech sector, dedicated scholarships were introduced to support those pursuing teaching credentials. This initiative has seen promising early success.

Encouraging Sikh Representation in Journalism

The program also seeks to inspire Sikhs to enter journalism—both in news and broadcasting. Sikh journalists can play a vital role in accurately representing the community and dispelling misconceptions over time.

Program Impact & Future Plans

In response to these motivations, the Gurdwara Sahib launched a scholarship program targeting all these categories. The initiative has been highly successful in achieving its objectives. In the following pages, you'll find testimonials from scholarship recipients detailing how this support has contributed to their academic and professional growth.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Sangat for their generous donations, which have made this program possible. A wider support will allow us to expand its reach and impact.

New Scholarship Announcement – Fall 2025

Building on this success, we are pleased to announce scholarships for students entering college in Fall 2025.

- **Applications and details** are available at: www.sanjosegurdwara.org
- **Application Deadline:** August 31, 2025

Testimonials From Scholarship Winners



Taranjeet Singh Rathore: Taranjeet Rathore won the scholarship in 2019. He consistently kept high grades in his studies. Here is what he writes,

"I'm deeply grateful to have been a recipient of the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose scholarship in 2019. Today, I am proud to be pursuing my Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) at National University in California, where I am training to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA). This scholarship not only provided crucial financial support during my early academic journey but also served as a powerful reminder of the Sikh community's belief in education, seva, and uplifting one another. I carry this spirit with me into the operating room and beyond, striving to serve patients with compassion, competence, and humility. Thank you for investing in students like me. It continues to make a lasting impact."

Taranjeet is son of our Hazoori Ragi Lakhan Singh Rathore. Taranjeet is clearly proud of his Sikhi Saroop and Sikh values. Young people like him are ambassadors of Sikhi.

Pardeep Singh Dhoor : Pardeep Singh won the scholarship in 2020. He consistently kept high grades in his studies. He wrote,

"Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh.

I hope this message finds you in Chardi Kala. I am sincerely thankful to have been a recipient of the Gurdwara Sahib San Jose scholarship in 2020. This support not only lightened the financial burden of my education but also reminded me of the strength and encouragement of the Sangat behind me.

I went on to complete my **Bachelor's in Computer Engineering**, graduating with a **3.96 GPA** and the honor of *Summa Cum Laude*. I am currently working as an **Embedded Software Engineer at Analog Devices Inc.**, where I develop software for healthcare devices aimed at protecting and improving people's lives. The humanitarian impact of my work brings a deep sense of fulfillment, and I feel truly blessed to be able to contribute in a way that aligns with the values instilled in me through Sikhi.

"ਵਿਚਿ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਸੇਵ ਕਮਾਈਐ ॥ ਤਾ ਦਰਗਹ ਬੈਸਣੁ ਪਾਈਐ ॥" ("In this world, earn your living through service, and you shall be honored in the Court of the Lord." – Guru Granth Sahib Ji)

I am forever grateful to **Waheguru Ji** for guiding me on this path and to Gurdwara Sahib San Jose for your immense support in shaping my journey.

We are very proud of his accomplishments."



Ravneet Kaur Sandhu: Thanks to the scholarship from Sikh Gurdwara San Jose, Ravneet Kaur Sandhu is now an accredited science teacher for California schools. She writes,

"In 2022, life felt like an ocean where I didn't know how to swim and didn't know where my life was taking me, as I was all lost in this new country, trying to figure out my purpose. I took the first step in "faith" and came across the scholarship program of the San Jose Gurdwara Sahib. I want to extend my gratitude to the Gurdwara Sahib management for the generous scholarship that enabled me to complete my teaching credential program at San Jose State University in California. The support was financial, emotional, and psychological in a way that allowed me to survive in this new country. I am now working as a certified Science Teacher in the Fremont Unified School District. This scholarship was significant as it allowed me to focus on my studies and practical training. I pursued my passion for education, equipped with the skills and credentials necessary to achieve my professional goal of becoming a dedicated educator and making a positive contribution

to our community. I am short of words to express my gratitude to the Gurdwara Sahib. I would not be where I am today without the unconditional support of the management.

With gratitude,
Ravneet Sandhu”

Shabnam Kaur : Shabnam Kaur was a high-performance student in her high school and College. Respecting her wishes, her picture is not included. She writes,

“ In 2021, I had the privilege of pursuing higher education with the blessings of Guru Sahib Ji. Sikh Gurdwara Sahib San Jose graciously considered me for their four-year scholarship program. After an interview and a thorough application process, I was fortunate enough to receive this generous four-year scholarship, which helped me seamlessly transition from high school to university. This program enabled me to afford San Jose State University as a full-time student. I was incredibly fortunate to complete my college education with the full support of receiving tuition reimbursements through the scholarship funds. In retrospect, if I hadn't applied for this scholarship in 2021, I would have been burdened with college loans, which is another option for some college students. Despite the challenges, I managed to maintain a college GPA above 3.5 as a full-time student through my hard work and dedication. I am proud to say that I successfully completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) without the financial constraints that many students in our Sikh community face.

As a token of gratitude, I would like to return the favor to the community in the same way they supported me. In the future, I intend to contribute to the scholarship fund to support Sikh students who are beginning their college journey, just as a generous family did for me when I started my college journey. I am eternally grateful Guru Sahib gave me this opportunity to advance in my education. Thank you to the Gurdwara Sahib Committee and their members for the tremendous support.

~ Shabnam Kaur, BSN
San Jose State University Alumni”

Guneet Kaur Behar: Guneet Kaur Behar is a graduate of Guru Nanak Khalsa School and was a bright high school student. She also volunteered for the SAT prep program at GNKS. She writes,

“I graduated Summa Cum Laude from San José State University this spring, where I completed my Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. The scholarship I received from the Gurdwara Sahib supported me throughout my entire undergraduate journey and made a real difference in helping me stay focused on my goals. I'm now working full-time as a Software Engineer at State Farm and pursuing my Master's degree in Computer Science at Georgia Tech. I'm truly grateful to the Sangat for the generous support and encouragement over the years.”

We are very proud of her accomplishments.

Dr. Karamjeet Singh Bagri: Thanks to timely support from Gurdwara Scholarship during Pandemic, Karamjeet Singh Bagri was able to complete his studies at the dental school. He writes,
“Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,
My name is Dr Karamjeet Singh Bagri, I am practicing dentist, living in Manteca California. I started my dental school in year 2020, at University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of dental medicine, following dental school, I did one year of General Practice Residency at Spokane, Washington at Providence Sacred heart medical health center. I am very much thankful to San Jose Gurudwara, for awarding the scholarship. The year of 2020-2021, was also the year when pandemic started, and due to pandemic there were Less job opportunities. The scholarship money helped, to take care of some tuition and living expenses, while I was in my dental school. I am thankful to San Jose Gurdwara, for providing me this scholarship.”

Geeta Kaur Karlcut: Geeta Kaur is an alumna of Guru Nanak Khalsa School. She won the scholarship in 2022. Here is what she writes,

” “Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh. My name is Geeta Kaur and I am a rising senior at Scripps College double majoring in Biology and Politics. I hope to pursue law school after graduating.





I am extremely involved on my campus through multiple clubs and organizations, including serving as the president of the Scripps Pre-Law Society, Vice President of Finance in our student government, and Finance Director for a volunteer

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organization that provides legal information to individuals navigating the small claims court. I was granted the scholarship from the San Jose Gurdwara in 2022 and have used it as a sign to push myself academically and professionally. I have been on the Dean's list every semester, even while pursuing two majors. During the summers, I try to advance my professional goals by taking on internships. I have worked at an immigration clinic, multiple law firms, and a company that aims to end global hunger. This summer, I am conducting environmental research through my school and completing a legal internship at a technology company”.

We see a lot of potential in Geeta Kaur.

Arshbeer Kaur Saini: Arshbeer Kaur first completed her training as a medical assistant and now is pursuing training for Licensed Vocational Nursing. She could pursue this, thanks to the scholarship from our Gurdwara Sahib. She writes,

“Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!
I hope this message finds you in ChardiKala.

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose for awarding me the scholarship in 2023. Your support truly changed my life. With the blessing of this scholarship, I was able to continue my education, gain important skills, and, even before completing my studies, I was able to secure a job in the healthcare field. Your support gave me the strength and confidence to keep moving forward during a very difficult time in my life.

Even though I was going through many personal and financial challenges, I stayed committed to my goals. With Waheguru’s blessings and hard work, I earned second position in my class. I am now continuing my academic journey to become a nurse and I am determined to pass nursing school with excellent grades.

It means so much to me that the Gurdwara Sahib has once again come forward to support my dreams. This renewed scholarship is not just financial help—it is a reminder that our Sikh community stands behind its youth, encourages them, and gives them the strength to serve with compassion and dedication. Please find attached my current photo, as requested. I am so thankful for your continued faith in me and for helping students like me build a better future. May Waheguru Ji bless the entire Sangat with health, happiness, and ChardiKala.

With deep appreciation and respect,
Arshbeer Kaur Saini”



Sadh Sangat Ji, as you see this scholarships program is very effective in changing lives and helping the Sikh Youth. Please donate generously so that we can expand this program and help more young people. You may sponsor scholarships in name of your near and dear ones.