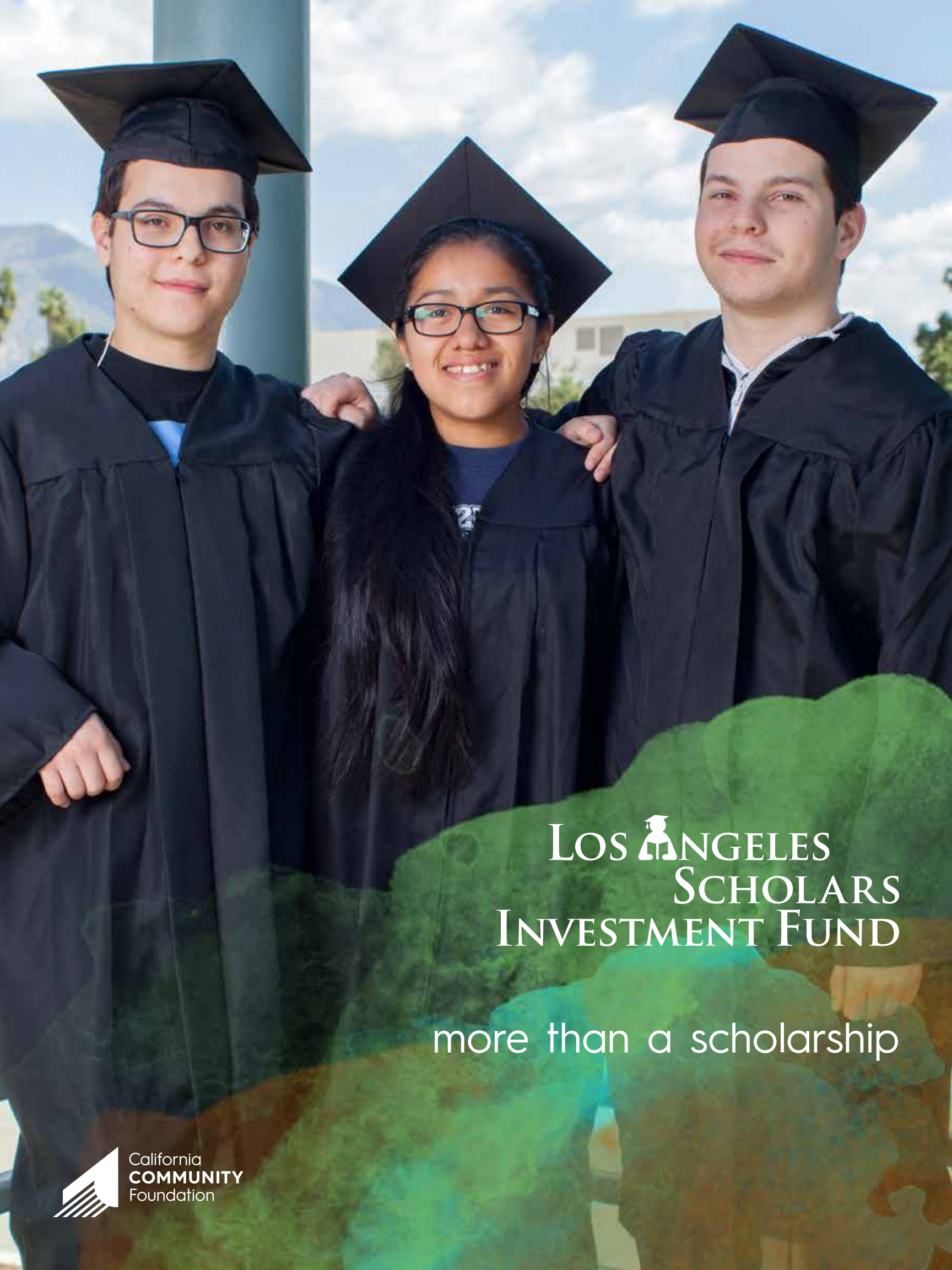




LOS ANGELES
SCHOLARS
INVESTMENT FUND

more than a scholarship

Los Angeles Scholars Investment Fund

Launched in 2012, the **Los Angeles Scholars Investment Fund (LASIF)** is increasing the number of low-income L.A. County youth who achieve their dream of a college degree.

By combining need-based scholarships with intensive services before and during college, LASIF addresses the multifaceted financial, academic and personal barriers that have led to a college completion crisis in our community.

the need

In many ways, Los Angeles County is a world-class hub for higher education. We are home to top-ranked universities and a robust network of institutions, including 20 community colleges, five California State University campuses, the University of California at Los Angeles and more than 35 private nonprofit colleges and universities.

Despite this extensive higher education infrastructure and a full 25 percent of the state's school-age youth, L.A. County is severely behind in producing the number of college graduates needed to sustain and grow the livelihood of our region, now and in the future.

Less than half of all L.A. County students complete high school with the classes required to apply to a four-year college, often due to limited information or course offerings at their high schools. Those who do enroll in college often face significant financial and other obstacles. The average tuition cost for a four-year institution is more than five times higher than it was in 1980. Few students are accessing public financial aid due to the complex process. Even when students do receive private scholarships, they are often only for a single year. Further, many first-generation college students lack access to the informational resources and support networks that are just as critical in getting to and through college.



the college graduation **crisis**



Just **one in five students** enrolled in a public university in L.A. County will graduate from that institution within four years, rising to 56 percent within six years.

a **different approach**

LASIF is a collaborative initiative of the California Community Foundation, the College Futures Foundation and a growing network of individual and institutional supporters.

LASIF urges investors to think differently about college support. We know that **scholarships alone aren't enough**. LASIF closes the graduation gap by focusing on highly effective programs and interventions that address the multifaceted needs of our students.

LASIF supports community-based organizations and educational programs and agencies in L.A. County that:

- integrate proven college and financial aid guidance services with need-based scholarship support;
- help students and families access all available public financial aid; and
- have a successful track record of increased postsecondary enrollment and success rates for low-income students.



//Los Angeles is ground zero for the national crisis in high school and college graduation. We can't let the hard work and persistence of so many low-income students go to waste. We can't ignore the challenges they face navigating the hard times of higher education. And we can't thrive as a city without their contributions. It's our responsibility as a community to do our part to support them in their path to college completion. Philanthropists, businesses and lovers of L.A. alike have a stake in their future.//

– **Chet Pipkin**, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Belkin International, Inc.
and LASIF investor



our impact

Too often educational outcomes are measured simply by college admission rates, lacking the systems to track and support success toward degree completion.

In collaboration with the College Futures Foundation and our nonprofit partners, we track and evaluate LASIF not simply by college acceptance and enrollment rates, but through the long-term educational pathways and college completion rates of students served.

It is only through LASIF's collaborative approach that such a powerful and **intensive learning and evaluation system** is possible.

These powerful data inform both LASIF investments and the work of our nonprofit partners.

In addition to areas of great success, like our high college persistence rates, the data illuminate areas in need of greater attention and resources, such as expanded outreach and services to young men of color and additional work to ensure eligible students access all available public financial aid.

While there is much to do, we are very encouraged by student success to date. Our comprehensive student outcomes tracking system shows that **90 percent of the LASIF inaugural class of 2013 have persisted to their third year of college and 92 percent of the class of 2014 have persisted to their second year.**

We continue to measure and monitor student data to inform and enhance the efforts of LASIF and our partners.

shared knowledge builds stronger models

LASIF supports novel approaches that **combine multi-year, need-based scholarships with additional services** proven to help students graduate. Even more power comes from their collaboration in the LASIF investment portfolio.

By sharing their successes through LASIF, our partners learn from each other and further their impact.

Outstanding models are as diverse as the populations and communities they serve.

LASIF draws its strength from the diversity of its nonprofit partners. Each brings a unique opportunity for impact, whether in geography, community, the age of the students they serve or in the program model they use to reach students. Strategies include one-on-one counseling, financial aid assistance, academic preparation, college planning, family engagement, mentoring, peer networks, internships and on-campus support.

Successful organizations engage with students and families early and often.

Some partner organizations begin outreach to students as early as elementary school, while others follow students throughout college and beyond, preparing them for jobs in their chosen career fields. Long-standing relationships with students, and in many cases their families, is paramount for our LASIF partners.

Collaboration between school and high-performing programs leads to powerful collective impact.

When the best learn from the best, not only is the value to the individual organization tremendous, but it also accelerates a movement for broad adoption of similar models. LASIF helps connect its partners to each other, K-12 systems and colleges, valuable trainings and resources and other influential organizations in the community.



join us

An investment in LASIF is a commitment to helping the students of Los Angeles County reach their potential. Together, LASIF donors have the opportunity to change the course of L.A.'s economic future and reverse the downward trajectory of college graduation rates.

Because the economic and educational challenges facing Los Angeles County can be found in communities throughout the United States, investing in LASIF holds the potential to provide a nationwide model to address the college graduation crisis. LASIF is a partner in College Futures Foundation's Community Philanthropy for Student Success initiative, a network of seven community foundations in California working together to increase college attainment across the state through models similar to LASIF.

By joining with LASIF to invest in college success, **you help ensure that thousands more low-income Angeleno students will realize the promise of a college degree**, improving the economic stability and quality of life across our region and building a better future for our communities, county and state.



“LASIF really spoke to me because it's not just about getting kids to think about college and to get to college, but to actually graduate. To finish. We need our kids to graduate so they can be contributing members to society in California, and especially here in Los Angeles.”

-Chandra Wilson,
Actress, “Grey's Anatomy” and LASIF Investor

To support LASIF or to learn more, please contact us at 213-413-4130 or lasif@calfund.org, or visit calfund.org/lasif.

education pipeline

The California Community Foundation (CCF) is committed to improving the quality of life of all Los Angeles County residents by addressing the root causes of the county's most urgent problems. The foundation has served as a public, charitable organization since 1915, empowering donors to pursue their own personal passions and to collaborate with us in transforming Los Angeles County. CCF stewards \$1.5 billion in assets and manages nearly 1,600 charitable foundations, funds and legacies.

The Los Angeles Scholars Investment Fund is part of **CCF's Education Pipeline** priority area. CCF believes that Los Angeles County's prosperity depends on future generations and a well-educated workforce. Our goal is to address disparities in student achievement. From the pipeline of cradle to college, CCF is one of the largest scholarship providers in California, in addition to funding other issues like early childhood education, parent engagement and professional development. Learn more at calfund.org/education.

Building LosAngeles Together

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