



Governor's Scholars Program

Quarterly News & Updates

September | 2025

Poll

What GSP memento are you purchasing?

T-Shirt

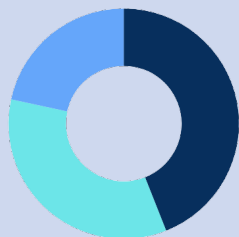
Crewneck Sweatshirt

Hooded Sweatshirt

Q2 Poll Results

What class was the most memorable?

Leadership Seminar
21.6%



Focus Area
44%

General Studies
34.4%

KET Feature

2025 Summer Recap

The 43rd Summer of the GSP has come to a close. Thank you to our 1050 scholars, 3 host institutions, and 143 summer faculty and staff for an amazing 5 weeks!

"The Governor's Scholars Program helps Kentucky students build confidence, find joy and grow personally and academically,"

Governor Beshear, a 1995 alum of the GSP, said as he congratulated the scholars. The full press release from the Education and Labor Cabinet is linked below with more details.



Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program Celebrates Successful Completion of Summer Term with 1,050 Graduates

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Aug. 1, 2025) - Gov. Andy Beshear congratulated the 1,050 outstanding high school seniors from 117 counties across the commonwealth who recently completed the 43rd Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program (GSP). For more than four decades, the residential summer program has focused on enhancing Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders through educational and career opportunities at college



GSP Alum, Emily Sisk (2020), interviewed Dr. Jennifer Price (1992) about the Governor's Scholars Program, Price's role as the GSP Executive Director, and how the experience feels like a "full-circle moment." You can see the interview on Kentucky Edition by KET [here](#).

GSP Tribute

In recognition of two individuals who each made a significant impact on the GSP:

Patrick Nnoromele (GSP Faculty for over 20 years and parent of 4 GSP Alums)

Philepia J. "P.J." Williams (1992 Alum and GSP Board Member)

campuses across the state.

[Read More](#)

2025 by the numbers **1,050** new alumni

	GSP-Centre	GSP-Morehead	GSP-Murray
number of new alumni	355	349	346
counties represented	88	91	87
high schools represented	178	175	178

over **38,000** number of GSP alumni since 1983

Planning for the 44th Summer

2026 Student Application Timeline

- Sep 2, 2025:** Selection packets mailed to schools & districts.
- Jan 9, 2026:** Deadline for districts with one school, private schools, or homeschools to mail applications.
- Jan 23, 2026:** Deadline for districts with more than one school to mail applications.
- April 13, 2026:** Latest date for GSP to mail notifications to students.
- May 1, 2026:** Last day for students to accept or decline their appointments.
- May 19, 2026:** Notifications mailed to Scholars of session, campus and class assignment.

And just like that, planning is already underway for the summer of 2026. Our team is traveling around the state recruiting high school juniors to apply, training school officials on the application process, and searching for our next faculty and staff applicants.

Student application materials and helpful hints packets are now available on the [GSP website](#).

Faculty and staff applications will be available beginning October 1, 2025 on the [GSP website](#).

Alumni Highlights

Andy Beshear ('95) was a scholar on the GSP-Northern Kentucky University campus from Henry Clay High School in Lexington. After graduating from high school, Gov. Beshear studied political science and anthropology at Vanderbilt University where he earned



a bachelor of arts degree in 2000. He then attended the University of Virginia School of Law, receiving his JD in 2003. Gov. Beshear worked as a lawyer for White & Case LLP in Washington D.C. before being hired by Stites & Harbison and eventually returning to Kentucky. He served as Kentucky's 50th Attorney General from 2016 – 2019, and is currently serving as the 63rd Governor of Kentucky. He and his wife, First Lady Brittainy Beshear, along with their two children, Will and Lila, live in Frankfort and are members of Louisville's Beargrass Christian Church.

Official bio from the Governor's Office ([here](#))

Governor Beshear visited all three campuses during the summer Program. He spoke to Scholars about his GSP experience and participated in a Q&A.

Alumni Updates



[View Alumni Page](#)

Visit the GSP website under "Alumni Updates and Highlights" to see what your fellow scholars have been up to.



[Submit an Update](#)

We would love to hear about the great things our Alumni are doing these days. If you have an update you would like to share, please submit it here to be featured in the next newsletter.

Donor Spotlight

The GSP was designed to be funded and supported through a unique partnership between the Governor and state legislature and the private community – corporations, foundations, organizations, and friends of the Program.

Dennis Berman ('91) *Alumni and GSP Board Member*

Dennis Berman, a 1991 Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) alumnus, has remained deeply connected to the program, transitioning from scholar to donor to board member. Having grown up

Neal & Deborah Dornbusch *Friends of the GSP & Parents of GSP Alumni*

Neal and Deborah Dornbusch have been strong supporters of the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP), a prestigious initiative that nurtures Kentucky's

in Louisville and now living in New York City, Dennis continues to support GSP, ensuring Kentucky's brightest students have access to transformative educational experiences. His commitment reflects a strong dedication to giving back to his home state. As a board member, he plays a vital role in guiding the program's mission, reinforcing the importance of education, leadership, and opportunity for Kentucky's youth. Dennis' ongoing involvement showcases how GSP alumni can stay engaged and make a lasting impact, no matter where life takes them.

brightest students. With their two children, Alex '06 and Katie '09 completing the program, they have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact GSP has on young scholars, fostering leadership, academic excellence, and personal growth. Their support reflects their commitment to educational opportunities that empower students to reach their full potential. Families like the Dornbusch's play a vital role in strengthening the GSP's mission, ensuring future generations continue to benefit from its enriching experiences.

Churchill Downs



Churchill Downs has been an invaluable partner to the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) for over two decades, and its continued support has significantly enriched the experience and legacy of the program. By hosting the annual Churchill Downs Winners Circle Governor's Scholars Event, Churchill Downs not only honors distinguished Jefferson County scholars, but also provides a memorable and inspiring day that includes lunch, a recognition ceremony, and the thrill of live racing at one of the most historic racetracks

in the world. This event reflects Churchill Downs' deep commitment to education, community engagement, and the future of Kentucky's young leaders. Beyond the event itself, Churchill Downs is a generous benefactor, allowing the program to continue offering transformative educational experiences to high-achieving students across the Commonwealth. This partnership sends a strong message to scholars that their achievements are valued and celebrated by leaders in the community, and it reinforces the importance of investing in the next generation. We are deeply grateful to Churchill Downs for their unwavering generosity. Their support continues to make a lasting impact on Kentucky's brightest young minds, and we thank them sincerely for being such a valued and visionary partner.



Help us clear out the GSP Store and make room for new mementos (coming soon!) by purchasing a GSP hoodie, blanket, water bottle, etc. - all at 60% off!

[GSP Store](#)



GSP wants your most up to date contact information on file. Click here to provide us with your current email, mailing address, and/or phone number.

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