

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## ***Foot Locker Scholar Athletes 2020-2021 Program to Award \$20,000 to Twenty Young Leaders Amid COVID-19***

*The scholarship, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, provides new hope for families facing financial insecurity*

**NEW YORK**, November 20, 2020 –The Foot Locker Foundation announced that it will award \$400,000 to help fund the education of outstanding student athletes who demonstrate strong academic ability and leadership skills in their sports, school, and communities. The initiative is being brought to life by the [2020-2021 Foot Locker Scholar Athletes Program](#).

More than 81% of students have reported financial difficulties due to COVID-19 hardship in 2020. According to the [National Student Clearing House](#), which analyzes data from 3.6 million students from 629 colleges, undergraduate college enrollment is down 2.5%. Between the cost of college skyrocketing in the last decade and the pandemic's significant impact on the economy, the future of education among young Americans is uncertain.

But there is hope. Over the course of 10 years – the Foot Locker Foundation has awarded more than 200 scholarships since the program's inception in 2011 and invested more than \$4 million directly towards the education and future of some of America's most promising scholar athletes. Winners range from mental health advocates to future biochemical engineers and aspiring human rights lawyers from all over the country. The Foundation is eager to continue this tradition during the 2020-2021 school year.

One shining example of accomplishment is student Brooklyn Wright:

- *Brooklyn Wright, a 2019 awardee, an author, activist, and a four-sport athlete. As captain of her varsity golf team and member of both varsity cheerleading and dance teams, she's also been recognized as MVP on her school's basketball team. Brooklyn's talents translate both on and off the court – her scholastic endeavors drove the creation of the first-of-its-kind "Going Green School Program" to provide teens more information on environmental issues and the importance of preserving the planet's resources. She has addressed cyber-bullying as a keynote speaker in her community and also authored a screenplay dedicated to the topic. Nothing will hold this go-getter back -- a 4.3 GPA*

*student - - Brooklyn aspires to become a plastic surgeon to provide necessary and life-altering procedures to those in need and cannot afford them. Brooklyn currently attends the University of Georgia.*

“We are honored to recognize exceptional scholars like Brooklyn each year, particularly at a time when students and their families are facing intense disruptions in their academic and personal lives, as well as uncertainty for what the future holds,” states Richard A. Johnson, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Foot Locker, Inc. “The Foot Locker Scholar Athletes Program is building the bridge between these young, talented leaders and the remarkable achievements ahead of them.”

For Foot Locker’s Scholar Athletes, aspirations for success via a college education can become reality. In addition to each student receiving scholarship dollars, one of the 20 students selected receives the Ken. C. Hicks Scholarship, an additional \$5,000 for demonstrating superior academic achievement, outstanding leadership, and a true love of the game.

The Scholar Athlete Program is a key initiative of the Foot Locker Foundation, which provides support for educational and sports programs across the country to empower young adults to continue to cultivate leadership skills learned in the team locker room, classroom, and community and do great things. The initiative is powered by [Fastweb](#), a trusted scholarship and financial aid resource used by students to help find opportunities to help pay for school.

Students can apply online or be nominated by teachers, coaches, mentors, family, and friends by visiting [footlockerscholarathletes.com](#). The program is managed by DoSomething Strategic, the consulting group of DoSomething.org, grounded in over 25 years of data on mobilizing young people worldwide.

Applications close on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (EST). Applicants must be college-bound in the fall of 2021, be an active participant in a sports-related activity and maintain at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA. Participants will be required to submit two essays and one recommendation to be considered for the scholarship.

#### **About Foot Locker Foundation:**

Founded in 2001, Foot Locker Foundation is the charitable arm of Foot Locker, Inc., which leads the celebration of sneaker and youth culture around the globe through a portfolio of brands including Foot Locker, Lady Foot Locker, Kids Foot Locker, Champs Sports, Eastbay, Footaction, Runners Point, and Sidestep. The company operates approximately 3,100 stores across 27 countries in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and New Zealand. Since its inception, the Foundation has developed significant partnerships, programs, and initiatives to improve and enrich communities across the country. Our mission is to promote a better world for today’s youth culture by creating, developing, and supporting innovative educational programs and encouraging health and well-being through physical activity.

#### **About Fastweb:**

Fastweb, a top site in the Monster network, is the nation's recognized leader in helping students pay for school, by providing scholarship and financial aid information, as well as information on

jobs and internships. As the oldest and most popular free online scholarship matching service, one out of three college-bound seniors use the site and more than 50 million users have benefitted from Fastweb's information and services. Fastweb lets students create personalized profiles that can be matched against its expansive databases of colleges and scholarships. To learn more about Fastweb, visit [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and follow Fastweb on social media for the latest on paying for school all year long: Twitter (at @PayingForSchool); Facebook; Instagram, and Pinterest.

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**Media Contact:**

Mary A. Signorino  
Foot Locker, Inc.  
[msignorino@footlocker.com](mailto:msignorino@footlocker.com)  
212-720-4316

Jie Jin  
DoSomething Strategic  
[jjin@dosomething.org](mailto:jjin@dosomething.org)  
212-254-2390 ext. 245

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