George W. Jenkins

Scholarship

University of Miami
High school counselors of college-bound students play an essential role in helping students make their educational goals an affordable reality.

The George W. Jenkins Scholarship, funded by Publix Super Markets Charities, is one of the premier scholarships available to students at the University of Miami. This four-year scholarship is awarded based on academic merit, financial need, and an essay that demonstrates a history of overcoming significant adversity. The scholarship is valued at more than $62,000 per year; in total, it is worth more than $250,000 over four years. The award includes tuition and fees, on-campus room and board, a meal plan, University health insurance, and a laptop allowance. Students may also receive a stipend for books, transportation, and personal expenses.

The Jenkins Scholarship is one of UM’s distinguished Programs of Academic Excellence. With the support of the Office of Academic Enhancement, Jenkins Scholars take part in exclusive programs, benefit from one-on-one advising, participate in group community service efforts, and are personally referred for additional prestigious academic opportunities.

To be considered for the Jenkins Scholarship, candidates must be nominated by their high school counselor.
The George W. Jenkins Scholarship program was established through the generosity of Publix Super Markets Charities, and the University of Miami in honor of Publix founder George W. Jenkins. The scholarship is awarded to high school graduates from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee with strong academic credentials, financial need, and a history of overcoming significant adversity.

George W. Jenkins came to Florida in 1925 with only $9 in his pocket. At age 17, he began his career as a broom pusher and store clerk at Piggly Wiggly Grocery. Jenkins quickly earned a promotion but was distraught when an absent owner purchased the store and refused to meet with him. A true self-starter, Jenkins bought a vacant space next door and opened the first Publix Food Store in 1930.

As Jenkins expanded his grocery chain, he maintained the belief that Publix stores should be places where “customers find it a pleasure to shop and employees find it a pleasure to work.” Today, Publix is the largest employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States, with more than 1,000 stores—a testament to Jenkins’ strong work ethic and desire to achieve. It is these qualities the George W. Jenkins Scholarship program wishes to encourage and reward in today’s students.