



For more than 50 years the Sumners Foundation has provided scholarships to outstanding students at more than a dozen universities in the Southwest. Sumners Scholars are strategically identified, selected and provided financial assistance and experiential opportunities to prepare them for a lifetime of participation in the democratic process.

Unfortunately, Congressman Sumners, for whom the Foundation is named, espoused some views, although popular with certain segments of the population at the time, that are antithetical to the mission and core values of the Foundation. Because of his high-profile position, many of these views were recorded for history. The Sumners Foundation repudiates those statements and abhorrent values in the strongest possible terms. The Foundation is committed to fostering individual values, ensuring racial equality, and equal opportunity for all.

The Foundation's core mission is the research, study and teaching of the art and science of self-government. For decades, the Foundation has strived to provide scholarships and grants to all parts of American society, including those that are disadvantaged economically and who have been subjected to historical discrimination because of their race, creed, or beliefs. We will continue to do so because it is the right thing to do, and because it strengthens American democracy.

To make our position clear, the Foundation has renamed itself to be the Sumners Foundation and scholarship recipients are referred to as Sumners Scholars, emphasizing the Foundation's independent status from Hatton W. Sumners. The focus of the scholarships will continue to be the commitment to leadership, participation in the democratic process and creating an educated, engaged citizenry.

This information is not provided as a desire to erase the past, but to assure all potential Sumners Scholars that the Foundation is committed to continuing to include students from all backgrounds with enhanced attention to diversity and inclusion. The Trustees are proud to have had a positive impact on past Sumners Scholars and their accomplishments since they graduated and continuing to prepare Scholars for the challenges and opportunities of participation in a democratic republic going forward.

To this goal, the Trustees of The Foundation are fully committed.