IN 2010, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY offered a unique limited-time opportunity for alumni, donors and friends with the Spartan Scholarship Challenge (SSC). Funded by a large anonymous gift to the university, the SSC maximized donors’ gifts through a $1 match for every $2 in new endowed scholarships.

The College of Arts and Letters benefited greatly with the creation of five scholarships through the SSC initiative. Five donors decided to dramatically increase the amount of aid available to MSU students in need.

- Karen Gillmor, Ph.D. (BA, ’69, Justin Morrill College) and her family established The Gillmor Family Spartan Scholarship Challenge for Arts and Letters. This gift is intended to provide scholarship money to students who major in the college.
- Mrs. Arlene Stien (BA, ’51, German) established the Arlene and Warren Stien Spartan Scholarship Challenge for Liberal and Performing Arts to honor both her passion for the humanities and her husband’s passion for music.
- Karen Huyser and Lauren Krieger (MA, ’83, Mathematics) created the Sarah Huyser Spartan Scholarship Challenge for Theatre in memory of their mother, Sarah Huyser, who passed away in early 2010. Sarah loved theatre at MSU and supported the theatre program in her estate plans.
- Susan Brewster (BA, ’76, Art Practice, MA, ’86, Art Education) is a professor in the Art and Art History Department. She and her husband John are committed to the importance of art education in our schools. To show their support they established the John and Susan Brewster Spartan Scholarship Challenge for Art Education in support of students majoring in art education.
- Dean Karin Wurst, Associate Deans David Prestel and Janet Swenson, and Associate Dean Emerita Marilyn Frye, funded the College of Arts and Letters Deans’ Spartan Scholarship Challenge for Arts and Letters to demonstrate their commitment to undergraduate students accessing high quality programs.

“Our family is happy to participate in the Spartan Scholarship Challenge to assist talented students to attend MSU, a premier academic and research land grant institution from which I graduated in 1969 and in which my eldest son is enrolled as a freshman. My career in public policy received its foundation during my years as a student in Justin Morrill College of MSU, of which I will always be proud.” —Senator Karen L. Gillmor, Ph.D. (BA ’69)

Ohio State Senator
Karen Gillmor, Ph.D.