The Pollock Scholarship was established in 2003 by the Dean of the School of Filmmaking, Dale Pollock, and his brother Jeffrey in memory of their father, Henry Pollock. Henry Pollock was a lifelong supporter of the arts, and particularly loved movies, theater and music. The scholarship will be awarded to students who have a demonstrated aptitude and talent for the moving image arts, in all its different forms.

This scholarship is a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund, created through the Talented Students in the Arts Initiative, a collaboration of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Surdna Foundation. Established in 2001-2005, this fund and its matching components support scholarships for students in the five arts schools of UNCSA, a faculty sabbatical program, and the Career Services program.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives by nurturing the arts, protecting and restoring the environment, seeking cures for diseases, and helping to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Surdna Foundation, a national family foundation established by John E. Andrus in 1917, focuses its grantmaking in five program areas: Environment, Community Revitalization, Effective Citizenry, the Nonprofit Sector, and Arts. Its Arts Program themes, aim, in various ways, to improve the artistic compatibility of teens.