EXPLORING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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SUNY Ulster
Ulster County Community College
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Finding out about and applying for scholarships can be a time consuming and complex activity. The goal is to identify funds that are considered gift aid as a resource for paying for college. Scholarships are not only for geniuses, so don’t be discouraged from applying because your grades are not wonderful. Other criteria for scholarships include community service, leadership, hobbies, athletics, program of study and pure luck.

THE COMMON LINK
There is a common link among all scholarship winners – THEY APPLY!!! This may take a lot of work, and can be eased by tailoring one application so that it can be used over and over again for other scholarships. There is an art to applying for scholarships. Speak to past winners. You can learn from someone who has applied successfully.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!
An abundance of scholarship information is sent directly to high schools, and will be made available to those who request it. Also tap the resources of other schools, which may have different information.

Some approaches worth trying:
* Check your school scholarship binder
* Speak to parents and friends
* Visit local libraries
* Visit college scholarship offices
* Check college catalogues for scholarship information
* Use the internet

STUDENTS, START YOUR ENGINES!
Start your scholarship search as early as seventh or eighth grade. Students can enter contests (spelling bees, essay contests, athletic events, and general contests) that may offer a scholarship as the prize. Search for opportunities from lenders, newspapers, and other companies.

DEADLINES
Scholarship opportunities always have deadlines. You might want to set up a spreadsheet to clearly identify the deadline dates as well as the requirements for each scholarship. Some scholarships only require a completed application form. Others might require an essay or recommendations. If the scholarship is based on a certain criteria, be prepared to provide documentation.

BE PREPARED
Expect to do some writing and follow through on all requests:
* Write to the scholarship source requesting an application (or you may be able to apply online). If the application is to be mailed, it is a good idea to enclose a cover letter that includes a brief description of why you are applying, where the information to apply was found, and the importance of the scholarship.

* If you receive a “reject” letter, it is recommended that you write a thank you letter for the opportunity to apply. If you can apply again in a future year, include a request to be put on a mailing list.

* If you receive the scholarship, send a thank you letter immediately. Include a description of how the scholarship will positively impact your pursuit of a college education.
TEN TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Read the scholarship requirements and directions carefully. Your application will not be successful if you are not eligible for the scholarship.

2. Complete the application in full. If a question does not apply, note that on the application. Do not leave anything blank.

3. Follow directions. Provide everything that is required, but do not supply things that are not requested. You could be disqualified.

4. Neatness counts. Make several photocopies of the forms you receive. Use the copies as working drafts to develop your application. Type your application. If you must print, do so neatly.

5. Make sure that your essay makes a positive impression. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details to make your experience come alive: who, what, where and when.

6. Pay attention to deadlines.

7. Give the application a final check. Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words or grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

8. Provide your name and social security number (if applicable) on each page of your application to ensure that nothing is misplaced. Before sending your application, make a copy of the entire packet for your records.

9. Ask for help if you need it. If you have problems with the application, call the funding organization and ask questions.

10. Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It is your face to this organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting your best application.

SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are many fraudulent scholarship databases.

Be wary of:

* Scholarship services that charge fees for their listings or claim to have “exclusive” information
* Companies that guarantee a scholarship or your money back
* Services that ask for a credit card number or say you are a “finalist” in a contest that you did not enter
SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES:

Fastweb
www.fastweb.com

AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
www.axaonline.com/axafoundation/

Coca Cola Scholar Program
www.coca-colascholars.org

Women Sport Foundation
www.womenssportsfoundation.org

Davis Putter Scholarship Fund
www.davisputter.org

American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award
www.legion.org/programs/resources/scholarships

State Aid to Native Americans
NYS Education Department, Room 475 EBA
Albany, N.Y. 12234

Padgett Business Services Scholarship Program
www.smallbizpros.com

Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts
www.fummwa.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
www.hsf.net

Gates Millennium Scholars
www.gmsp.org

National Society of Accountants Scholarship Foundation
www.nsacct.org

Tylenol Scholarship
www.tylenol.com
Ron Brown Scholar Program
http://www.ronbrown.org

Scholarships on the Net
http://www.advocacy-net.com/scholarmks.htm

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship
http://www.truman.gov/

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarships
http://www.jackierobinson.org/

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation
http://www.marine-scholars.org/

United Negro College Fund Merck Science Initiative
http://www.uncf.org/merck/program.htm

Undergraduate Scholarship Program through the National Institutes of Health
https://ugsp.nih.gov

National Scholarships at all levels
http://scholarships.kachinatech.com/scholars.html

Sallie Mae’s free Online Scholarship Search
http://www.salliemae.com/planning/scholarships.html

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation
http://www.astronautscholarship.org/

Athletic Scholarships
http://scholarships-ar-us.org/athletic.htm

Scholarships for College Students
http://www.scholarships4students.com

Intel Science Talent Search
http://www.sciserv.org/sts

Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships
www.discoverfinancial.com/community/scholarship.shtml
National Peace Essay Contest  
http://www.usip.org/ed/npec/index.shtml

Holocaust Remembrance Scholarships  
http://holocaust.hklaw.com/

Ayn Rand Essay Scholarships  
http://www.aynrand.org/contests/

Brand Essay Competition  

Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund  
http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/

Presidential Freedom Scholarships  
http://www.learnandserve.org

SallieMae Scholarship Search  
http://www.college_answer.com

American Political Science Association  
http://www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/aspen3.cfm

National Academy of American Scholars Program  
http://www.naas.org/senior.php

Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students  
http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarship.cfm

International Students Scholarships  
http://www.iefa.org/  
College Board Scholarship Search  
http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp

Burger King Scholarship Search  
http://www.sms.scholarshipamerica.org/bkscholars/

Siemens Westinghouse Competition  
http://www.siemens-foundation.org/
League of United Latin American Citizens
http://www.lulac.org/programs/scholar.html

CollegeNet Scholarship
http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app

Union Sponsored Scholarships and Aid
http://www.aflcio.org/scholarships/scholar.htm

Federal Scholarships & Aid Getaways
http://www.fedmoney.org/

25 Scholarship Gateways from Black Excel
www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm

World Learning
http://www.worldlearning.org/sitemap.htm

ScienceNet Scholarship Listing
http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarship.html

Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford
http://www.rhodesscholar.org/info.html

The Roothbert Scholarship Fund
http://www.roothbertfund.org/scholarships.php

Nursing Education Scholarships
http://www.nysna.org/education/schools/scholarships.html

ExploraVision High School Scholarships
http://www.exploravision.org/

John F. Kennedy Scholarship
http://www.jfkcontest.org/

The Lincoln Forum
http://www.thelincolnforum.org/essayContest.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarships available through New York State Higher Education Services Corporation</th>
<th><a href="http://www.hesc.org">www.hesc.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Service Recognition Scholarship (MSRS)</td>
<td>The Military Service Recognition Scholarship provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of members of the armed forces of the United States or of a state organized militia who, at any time on or after Aug. 2, 1990, while a New York State resident, died or became severely and permanently disabled while engaged in hostilities or training for hostilities. For study in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Lottery – Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship</td>
<td>The New York Lottery – Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarships are awarded to one student from every public and non-public school with experience in extracurricular activities and community service and who has demonstrated leadership skills. For study in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Math &amp; Science Teaching Incentive Scholarship</td>
<td>The NYS Math &amp; Science Teaching Incentive scholarship provides grants to eligible full-time undergraduate or graduate students in approved programs that lead to math or science teaching careers in secondary education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Memorial Scholarships for Families of Deceased Firefighters, Volunteer Firefighters, Police Officers, Peace Officers, and Emergency Medical Service Workers</td>
<td>The NYS Memorial Scholarship provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of deceased firefighters, volunteer firefighters, police officers, peace officers, and emergency medical service workers who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in service to the State of New York. For study in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Regents Health Care Scholarship in Medicine &amp; Dentistry</td>
<td>The NYS Regents Health Care Opportunity Scholarships are awarded annually to eligible applicants studying medicine or dentistry in NY State.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Regents Professional Opportunity Scholarship</td>
<td>Scholarships are awarded to eligible applicants pursuing degrees in one of the several specified professions. For study in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Scholarships for Academic Excellence</td>
<td>Scholarships for Academic Excellence are awarded to outstanding graduates from registered New York State high schools. Awards are based on student grades in certain Regents exams. For up to five years of undergraduate study in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Volunteer Recruitment Service Scholarship</td>
<td>The NYS Volunteer Recruitment Service Scholarships are provided to volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance companies for use as recruitment and retention incentives for new members. Scholarships are for study at local colleges or universities in New York State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>The NYS World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship program guarantees access to a college education to the families and financial dependents of the victims who died or were severely and permanently disabled in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the resulting rescue and recovery efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship</td>
<td>The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship is a competitive federal honors program that provides scholarships to academically talented high school seniors who are New York State residents and plan to attend any approved institution of higher education in the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship</td>
<td>The Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship is a competitive award made to licensed nurses who have been accepted in a master’s nursing program at an accredited nursing school in New York State. Applicants agree to become nursing faculty and agree to serve as a teacher in a facility in New York State.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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October 8, 2008