

National Scholarship Opportunities



NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships in this section are either open to students across the nation or have a broad geographic eligibility criteria. If there are specific regional requirements, they are noted within the scholarship description. Scholarships are listed alphabetically by the month that they are due. Check with EACH scholarship individually to find out the exact DUE DATE.

SEPTEMBER

Atlas Shrugged Essay Contest

<http://essaycontest.aynrandnovels.com/AtlasShrugged.aspx?theme=blue>

- » **Year:** High school seniors, college undergraduates, and graduate students
- » **Due:** September
- » **Award:** First prize: \$10,000; (3) Second prizes: \$2,000; (5) Third prizes: \$1,000; (25) Finalists: \$100; and (50) Semifinalists: \$50
- » **Eligibility:** No application is required. The contest is open to students worldwide, except where void or prohibited by law.
- » **Region:** Global

QuestBridge National College Match Program

<http://www.questbridge.org>

- » **Year:** High school senior
- » **Due:** September
- » **Award:** Strong academic record, must take ACT or SAT, family income less than \$60,000. International students, Permanent Residents, and U.S. citizens attending high school in the United States are eligible to apply.
- » **Notes:** Application open in August. The QuestBridge National College Match is designed for high school seniors who have shown outstanding academic ability despite facing economic challenges. Most College Match scholarship recipients come from households earning less than \$60,000 annually (for a typical family of four) and have experienced long-term economic hardship. The following partner colleges will consider undocumented students (students who live in the U.S. and do not have a

current visa) for the full College Match scholarship: Brown, Carleton, Grinnell, Pomona, Princeton, Swarthmore, University of Chicago, Vanderbilt, Washington & Lee, Williams, and Yale.

- » **Region:** National

OCTOBER

La Unidad Latina Foundation Scholarship

<http://www.lulfoundation.org>

- » **Year:** Current undergrad and grad students
- » **Due:** October and February
- » **Award:** \$250-\$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** Hispanic undergraduate applicants who have a cumulative GPA of 2.80 out of a 4.0 GPA scale. No GPA mentioned for graduate applicants. Eligible degrees include: all Bachelor degrees, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Public Administration/Policy, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, and Master of Divinity.
- » **Notes:** Must have completed at least one full-time year of study for undergraduate applicants, and at least one full-time semester of study for graduate applicants.
- » **Region:** National

NOVEMBER

Golden Door Scholars

<http://www.goldendoorscholars.org>

- » **Year:** Applicants can be current high-school students or recent graduates not enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program. Community college students are welcome to apply.
- » **Due:** November
- » **Award:** Full tuition, room and board for a four-year degree
- » **Eligibility:** Applicants must be eligible for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).
- » **Region:** National with a strong preference for candidates from NC and SC

Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr. Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders

<http://www.uskli.org/student/scholarship.php>

- » **Year:** High School Senior or current College student
- » **Due:** November
- » **Award:** \$500 (community college student) -\$1,000 (four-year college student)
- » **Eligibility:** Applicant must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time student, in a four-year or two-year institution in the U.S. or U.S. territories, and demonstrate a verifiable need for financial support. At least one parent must be of Hispanic ancestry. Recipients must also be available to attend the National USHLI Conference.
- » **Notes:** Must provide SSN or ITIN
- » **Contact:** Contact the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute at (312) 427-8683.
- » **Region:** National

The National AIDS Memorial Grove (in San Francisco Golden Gate Park)

<http://www.aidsmemorial.org/namg-news/young-leaders-scholarship-program>

- » **Year:** Current high school seniors and college undergraduates
- » **Due:** November
- » **Award:** \$1,000 to \$2,500
- » **Eligibility:** Must demonstrate an active commitment to fighting AIDS (for example: providing peer-based prevention and education; advocacy or activism; public awareness; and/or practical, emotional or treatment support to people living with HIV/AIDS). Must describe their leadership experience and its significance to the future of the epidemic in an essay of up to 1,000 words. Applicants will be asked to provide a recommending letter. Applications will be judged by a panel of community leaders.
- » **Notes:** Award presentations are on World AIDS Day
- » **Contact:** Steve Sagaser 415-765-0497
- » **Region:** National

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/college-scholarship-program/>

- » **Year:** Current high school seniors

- » **Due:** November 7
- » **Award:** Up to \$30,000 per year to attend a four-year accredited undergraduate school
- » **Eligibility:** Applicant must plan to graduate from a US high school in spring 2014, intend to enroll in an accredited four-year college beginning in fall 2014, earn a cumulative un-weighted GPA of 3.5 or above, receive standardized test scores in the top 15%: SAT combined critical reading and math score of 1200 or above (must test by October 5, 2013) and/or ACT composite score of 26 or above (must test by September 21, 2013), and demonstrate significant unmet financial need. Will consider applicants with family income up to \$95,000.
- » **Notes:** Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholars are selected based on exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, a desire to help others, and leadership. A rigorous application review includes analysis of grades, standardized test scores, participation in available advanced courses, student essays, letters of recommendation, and family finances. Each year 30-40 students will be selected into the program.
- » **Region:** National

Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/undergraduate-transfer-scholarships/selection-eligibility/>

- » **Due:** November 7
- » **Award:** up to \$30,000 per year
- » **Eligibility:** Be a current student at an accredited US community college or two-year institution with sophomore status by December 31, 2013, or a recent graduate (since spring 2009). Applicant must plan to enroll full time in a baccalaureate program at an accredited college or university in fall 2014, have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.5 or better on a scale of 4.0 (or the equivalent), demonstrate unmet financial need and have not previously been nominated for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.
- » **Notes:** While the Foundation considers academic excellence first in evaluating candidates, competitive applicants must also demonstrate unmet financial need, which has two components: education costs that are appreciably greater than the total amount of

other scholarships or grant awards and insufficient student and family income to meet educational costs.

» **Region:** National

Univision's "Es El Momento" Scholarship

<https://www.scholarshipaid.net/app/univision/>

» **Year:** High school senior, community college student, or undergraduate student enrolled in a 4-year university

» **Due:** November 18

» **Award:** \$5,000

» **Eligibility:** Be a Latino/a student, have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00, and have a history of extracurricular activities.

» **Region:** National

» **Contact:** Univision@hsf.net

DECEMBER

Comcast Scholarship

<http://corporate.comcast.com/our-values/community-investment/youth-education-leadership#accordion-2>

» **Year:** High school senior

» **Due:** December 5, 2013

» **Award:** \$1,000

» **Eligibility:** All nominations for the Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program must be made exclusively by the School's Principal or Guidance Counselor. A student nominated by a Principal or Guidance Counselor must demonstrate a strong commitment to community service and display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience, and have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher.

» **Notes:** Applications are sent to eligible high schools. Students should check with their counselor and principal. They can also contact Comcast@applyists.com to find out if their high school is eligible.

» **Region:** National

CustomMade Scholarship

<http://www.custommade.com/scholarships/consumer-advantages-of-buying-custom-furniture-scholarship/>

» **Year:** Any student enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program in Fall 2013 or Spring

2014 at any accredited American college, university or trade school.

» **Due:** December 15

» **Award:** \$1,000

» **Eligibility:** Applicants must submit one exceptional essay of 1,000 words minimum on the following topic: "Why buy custom furniture?" Winner(s) will be confirmed ONLY after providing proof of enrollment in the form of a copy of a tuition bill OR letter of proof from the accredited United States college or university at which the winner(s) is enrolled. Upon confirmation of enrollment, winners will be publicly announced on CustomMade.com, and CustomMade will mail the winner(s) their check.

» **Contact:** scholarships@custommade.com

» **Region:** National

Scholarship America

http://scholarshipamerica.org/dream_award.php

» **Year:** Be a sophomore year level or higher during the 2014-2015 academic year

» **Due:** December 19, 2013

» **Award:** Between \$5,000 and \$15,000 annually, growing by \$1,000 each year until graduation.

» **Eligibility:** Be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card), or individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), have received a high school diploma or the equivalent from a U.S. school, by September, 2013, have completed or expect to successfully complete a minimum of one full year of postsecondary education by June 2014, plan to enroll in full time undergraduate study at the sophomore year level or higher at an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States for the entire 2014-15 academic year, have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent), and demonstrate financial need.

» **Notes:** Dream Award scholarships for 2014-15 will include general scholarships; STEM scholarships (for study in science, technology, engineering and math-related majors); and scholarships for Chinese-American students. Financial need will be considered in determining award amounts

» **Region:** National

Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Foundation Essay Contest

http://center.uoregon.edu/EWF/FORMS/CFP/cfp_login.php?formid=2496802

- » **Year:** College juniors or seniors
- » **Due:** December 2, 2013
- » **Award:** Awards: First Prize - \$ 5,000, Second Prize - \$ 2,500, Third Prize - \$1,500, and Two Honorable Mentions - \$ 500 Each
- » **Eligibility:** The contest is open to registered undergraduate full-time Juniors or Seniors at accredited four-year colleges or universities in the United States during the Fall 2013 Semester. The essay must be the original, unpublished work of one student. Only one essay per student per year may be submitted.
- » **Region:** National

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

<http://hsf.net/en/scholarships/programs/>

- » **Year:** High school seniors, community college students, and college undergrads
- » **Due:** From October 2013- February 2014 (most due in December and January)
- » **Award:** Various awards ranging from \$1,000-\$20,000
- » **Eligibility:** Specific eligibility varies by scholarship. Have plans to enroll full-time at a two- or four-year U.S. accredited institution.
- » **Notes:** Hispanic Scholarship Fund "is in the midst of finalizing [a] policy for young people who have had their deportations temporarily suspended through an executive order of the President." Read more here: <http://nbclatino.com/2013/10/25/hispanic-scholarship-fund-to-aid-immigrants-with-suspended-deportations/>. Please visit their website frequently to determine updated eligibility requirements for undocumented applicants. Most scholarships administered by HSF are due December and January 2013.
- » **Region:** National

JANUARY

Point Foundation: College Scholarships for LGBT Students

<http://www.pointfoundation.org/apply.html>

- » **Year:** High school senior and current college, including graduate and post-graduate work, excludes current community college students
- » **Due:** January
- » **Eligibility:** No citizenship requirements. History of leadership and/or allyship in issues that affect the LGBT/Queer community. Must plan to continue this leadership/allyship in the future. No specific GPA but seeking candidates with high academic performance.
- » **Notes:** Application available in November. Consists of a 2-part scholarship application.
- » **Region:** National

Microsoft Minority Scholarship

<http://www.microsoft.com/university/scholarships>

- » **Year:** Currently attending 4-year college
 - » **Due:** January 31
 - » **Award:** Full or partial tuition
 - » **Eligibility:** Attend a 4-year university in United States, Canada, or Mexico. Be completing an undergraduate degree in computer science, computer engineering, or a related technical discipline such as electrical engineering, math, or physics and demonstrate an interest in computer science. Because the scholarship is merit based, you must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average out of a possible 4.0, or a 4.0 cumulative grade point average out of a possible 5.0.
 - » **Notes:** Can apply regardless of citizenship status. All recipients of the scholarship will be required to apply for, and complete if offered, a salaried summer internship of 12 weeks or more at Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington. Online Application to the Microsoft Internship Program - Apply online at <http://www.microsoft.com/university> for a summer internship. Only students who have applied online for an internship will be considered for a Microsoft Scholarship.
 - » **Contact:** scholars@microsoft.com
 - » **Region:** North America
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FEBRUARY

La Unidad Latina Foundation Scholarship

<http://www.lulfoundation.org>

- » **Year:** Current undergrad and grad students
- » **Due:** February (also due in October)
- » **Award:** \$250-\$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** Hispanic undergraduate applicants who have a cumulative GPA of 2.80 out of a 4.0 GPA scale. No GPA mentioned for graduate applicants. Eligible degrees include: all Bachelor degrees, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Public Administration/Policy, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, and Master of Divinity.
- » **Notes:** Must have completed at least one full-time year of study for undergraduate applicants, and at least one full-time semester of study for graduate applicants.
- » **Region:** National

Frank Kazmierczak Memorial Migrant Scholarship

<http://www.migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/kazmierczak.htm>

- » **Year:** Current college student
- » **Due:** February 1
- » **Award:** \$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** Must have recent history of migration for agricultural employment, have teaching as a career goal, demonstrate scholastic achievement, and have financial need.
- » **Notes:** Each applicant must include in application his/her current or most recent Migrant Education Certificate of Eligibility (COE).
- » **Region:** National

National Association of Hispanic Journalists

<http://www.nahj12.com/scholarships/>

- » **Year:** Undergraduate or Graduate Students
- » **Due:** February
- » **Award:** \$1,000-\$5,000
- » **Eligibility:** Each of the following criteria is weighed equally when NAHJ considers which students to select as scholarship recipients: commitment to the field of journalism; academic achievement; financial

need; and awareness of the Latino community.

- » **Region:** National

Que Llueva Cafe Scholarship – Chicano Organizing & Research in Education

http://www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe

- » **Year:** High school senior
- » **Due:** February
- » **Award:** \$500 – \$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** College-bound, undocumented, Latino student
- » **Notes:** Applications available in December
- » **Contact:** jdelrazo@ca-core.org
- » **Region:** National, Including Puerto Rico

MARCH

Chin: Shui Kuen and Allen Chin Scholarship

www.asianpacificfund.org

- » **Year:** Incoming freshman or current undergraduate
- » **Due:** March
- » **Award:** \$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** Be an incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university in 2013-14, have parent or self currently or formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant, demonstrate community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian and/or other progressive causes, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have financial need. No citizenship status requirement.
- » **Region:** National

Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals High School Essay Contest

<http://www.hennet.org/contest.php>

- » **Year:** High school students (or home schooled)
 - » **Due:** March of every year
 - » **Award:** \$300-\$600 (\$6,500 total)
 - » **Eligibility:** Must be currently attending high school or be home schooled; Ages 14 to 19
 - » **Notes:** The rules and requirements for each contest may vary from year to year.
 - » **Contact:** contest@hennet.org
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Power Through Knowledge Scholarship

<http://osl.sa.ucsb.edu/org/ptk/news>

- » **Year:** Graduating high school seniors
- » **Due:** March
- » **Award:** Multiple award of \$500 and \$1,000
- » **Eligibility:** Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following criteria: scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, and financial need. *NO proof of citizenship status required.
- » **Notes:** Failure to attend ceremony will disqualify your award.
- » **Region:** National

QuestBridge College Prep Scholarship

<http://www.questbridge.org/for-students/students-start-here>

- » **Year:** High school junior
- » **Due:** March
- » **Award:** Scholarship for summer programs, workshops, and/or admissions counseling and mentoring, all-expense-paid visits to college campuses, and opportunities to win a Quest for Excellence Award
- » **Eligibility:** Strong academic record, family income less than \$60,000. Open to all: U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents and students, regardless of citizenship, currently attending a high school in the United States.
- » **Notes:** The College Prep Scholarship online application is completely free and opens in mid-February.
- » **Region:** National

APRIL

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

<http://www.chci.org/scholarships/page/chci-scholarship-program>

- » **Year:** Full-time enrollment in a United States Department of Education accredited community college or four-year university during the period for which scholarship is requested
- » **Due:** April 16
- » **Award:** \$1,000 for community college students and

\$2,500 for students attending a 4-year academic institution

- » **Eligibility:** Applicants must demonstrate financial need, have consistent, active participation in public and/or community service activities, have strong writing skills, and must be U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, asylees, or individuals who are lawfully authorized to work full-time without restriction for any U.S. employer and who, at the time of application, possess lawful evidence of employment authorization. There is no GPA or academic major requirement. Students with excellent leadership potential are encouraged to apply.
- » **Notes:** Individuals who are seeking consideration under the “*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*” (DACA) policy must possess an Employment Authorization Document at the time of application. In an effort to ensure the progress of scholarship recipients and encourage completion of the postsecondary program, each associate and undergraduate level scholarship award is divided over the number of years required for graduation (i.e. a \$2,500 scholarship for a college freshman will be distributed in four equal installments of \$625 a year).
- » **Region:** National

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

<http://dpsf.davisputter.org/>

- » **Year:** Undergraduate and Graduate
 - » **Award:** Up to \$10,000
 - » **Due:** April 1 of each year
 - » **Eligibility:** Must be living in the U. S. and planning to enroll in an accredited school. Grantees must receive college credits for the time period covered by their grant.
 - » **Notes:** Applications available January through March 31. US Citizenship is not required for this scholarship but applicants must attend a college within the U.S. Applicants who are not eligible for US federal financial aid should completely fill out a FAFSA and attach it to the application. Applications which do not include a copy of the SAR, or a completed FAFSA if not eligible for US federal aid, will not be considered. Early recipients worked for civil rights, against McCarthyism and for peace in Vietnam. Recent grantees have been active in the struggle against racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of oppression; building the movement
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for economic justice; and creating peace through international anti-imperialist solidarity.

» **Region:** National

Gloria and Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children

<http://www.migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/mattera.htm>

» **Year:** Entering or enrolled in college or other types of post-secondary programs, high school dropouts or potential dropouts

» **Due:** April 15

» **Award:** 100 awards of \$150-\$500

» **Eligibility:** Migrant youth who have the potential and the desire to further their education to achieve their personal and career goals. Recent history of movement for agricultural employment - priority will be given to currently interstate migrant youth. Have scholastic potential, financial need, enrolled in or accepted at an accredited public or private college, technical or vocational school, or a dropout or a potential dropout from high school who shows promise of ability to continue schooling.

» **Notes:** Applicants must submit a copy of their current or most recent Migrant Education Program Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Students may reapply annually but are limited to one award per 12 month period.

» **Contact:** (585) 658-7960

» **Region:** National

Great Minds in Stem Heenaac Awards

<http://www.greatmindsinstem.org/college/henaac-scholarship-application-guidelines>

» **Year:** Current college students

» **Due:** April 30

» **Award:** \$500 to \$10,000

» **Eligibility:** Applicants must demonstrate leadership through academic achievements and campus/community activities, be Science, Technology, Engineering or Math related majors, must have an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program for the preceding fall semester, at an accredited 2-yr or 4-yr college/university in the U.S. or its territories, and be of Hispanic origin and/or must significantly

participate in and promote organizations and activities in the Hispanic community.

» **Notes:** Recipients must attend the HENAAC Conference to receive the scholarship. Scholarships will be presented at the conference alongside the sponsor.

» **Contact:** Dr. Gary Cruz gcruz@greatmindsinstem.org

» **Region:** National

SHPE Foundation Scholarship Program

<http://www.shpefoundation.org/scholarships/>

» **Year:** High school senior or current college student

» **Award:** \$1,000-\$5,000

» **Due:** April

» **Eligibility:** Latino/a students who demonstrate both significant motivation and aptitude for a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Minimum GPA: 3.00 on a 4.0 for high school seniors and undergraduates; 3.25 on a 4.0 scale for graduate students; must be a full-time student.

» **Notes:** Scholarship opens in January. All Latino students that meet such requirements are eligible to apply, regardless of citizenship, but residency requirements can vary depending on scholarship sponsor. Be pursuing your first bachelors, masters or doctoral degree. (Students pursuing a second bachelors, etc. are not eligible).

» **Region:** National

MAY

Center for Student Opportunity (CSO) Scholarship

www.imfirst.org/scholarship

» **Year:** High School Senior, or current college student at CSO partner schools. College partner list can be found at http://csopportunity.org/college_partners/coll_partners.aspx

» **Due:** May

» **Award:** \$2000, renewable for 4 years

» **Eligibility:** First-generation college, limited financial resources. Ideal candidates will display the following qualities: seeking financial aid and scholarship support for college, strong writing skills and unique perspective, strong capacity for reflection for blogging, experience with or commitment

to community service, leadership experience, and commitment to helping expand educational opportunities for other first-generation students. Scholarship winners are not selected based on academic qualifications such as GPA, SAT/ACT scores, or intended majors. Undocumented students are eligible to apply.

- » **Region:** National

Health Careers Scholarship Program

<https://www.gallagherkoster.com/scholarship/>

- » **Year:** Entering their Junior or Senior year of their undergraduate study in the Fall of 2014.
- » **Due:** May
- » **Award:** Unspecified
- » **Eligibility:** The Scholarship Program is open to all full-time undergraduate students who are entering their Junior or Senior Year of their undergraduate study in the Fall of 2014. If the student is in a program that is not a 4-year program, they are eligible if they will be entering either their final year of undergraduate study or their second-to-last year of undergraduate study in the Fall of 2014. Additionally, students must be enrolled in an accredited institution in a program of study that prepares them for a career in health care. Examples of qualifying degree programs include, but are not limited to pre-medicine, nursing, public/community health, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, biology, chemistry, psychology, social work, dentistry, and optometry. Students eligible to be considered for the award must demonstrate financial need. Financial need will be determined using information provided by the school's Financial Aid office on the form provided in the scholarship application materials. Students must also meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards set by their institution and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale).
- » **Notes:** A student is eligible for receiving an award for no more than two academic years.
- » **Region:** National

Nordstrom Scholarship Program

<http://shop.nordstrom.com/c/nordstrom-cares-scholarship>

- » **Year:** High school junior
- » **Due:** May
- » **Award:** \$10,000 to over 80 students over four years paid directly to the college
- » **Eligibility:** Live and attend school in a state with a Nordstrom or Nordstrom Rack store. (Not sure if there's a store in your state? See store locations at <http://shop.nordstrom.com/c/stores/>.) Have at least a 2.7 GPA. Volunteer or participate in community service or extracurricular activities. Plan on attending an accredited college or university during all four years over which the scholarship is distributed. (The scholarship is paid out in equal installments of \$2,500.) Plan on applying for financial assistance in order to attend college.
- » **Notes:** Application available at Nordstrom early in the year.
- » **Region:** National

Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarship – Positive Coaching Alliance

<http://www.positivecoach.org/our-programs/triple-impact-competitor-scholarships/>

- » **Year:** High school junior
 - » **Due:** May
 - » **Award:** \$1,000-\$2,000
 - » **Eligibility:** Any student-athlete who is currently a junior (class of 2014) with a grade point average of 2.5 or above in eligible geographic regions (see below).
 - » **Notes:** Application opens in January. A completed application comprises: a Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarship application, one testimonial from a school administrator (athletic director, teacher, counselor, etc.), one testimonial from a coach, and at least one testimonial (and up to three) by individuals who are familiar with the student-athlete and able to speak to his/her embodiment of the Triple-Impact Competitor principles (for example fellow teammates, competitors, referees etc.).
 - » **Contact:** 831-475-4522, sonja@positivecoach.org
 - » **Region:** Boston/Eastern Massachusetts, Chicago Area, Colorado, Greater New York Metropolitan
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Area, Houston Area, North Texas, San Francisco Bay Area/Sacramento Area, Washington, DC Area (see website for specific counties in each area).

JUNE

Tylenol Future Care Scholarship

<http://www.tylenol.com/news/subptyschol>

- » **Year:** Must have completed at least one year of graduate or undergraduate by the Spring of 2013 at an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- » **Due:** June
- » **Award:** 10 applicants will receive \$10,000 and 30 applicants will receive \$5,000.
- » **Eligibility:** Student must be pursuing a healthcare-related degree. Scholarships are awarded based on leadership qualities, academic excellence and community involvement. Students can apply electronically.
- » **Region:** National

Western Union Foundation Family Scholarship

http://foundation.westernunion.com/education_programs.html

- » **Year:** Age 18 or older
- » **Due:** June
- » **Award:** \$1,000-\$5,000 per family (2 awards given per family)
- » **Eligibility:** The Family Scholarship Program is intended to help two members of the same family move up the economic development ladder through education. Applicants must be two members of the same family. All applicants must be age 18 or older. Country of origin for at least one of the applicants must be outside the United States. Application must include educational providers for primary and secondary award recipients (must be 2 family
- » **Notes:** Scholarships may be used for tuition for college/university education language acquisition classes, technical/skill training, and/or financial literacy. For example, one family member may request assistance to attend college and the other family member may request assistance to attend English as a Second Language (ESL) course. Scholarships will only be made to nonprofit accredited higher

education institutions and nonprofit training/educational providers. Western Union employees, Western Union Agents and dependents are not eligible to apply for these scholarships.

- » **Region:** National

JULY

MALDEF's DREAM Act Student Activist Scholarship

<http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html>

- » **Year:** Current college student
- » **Due:** July
- » **Award:** Up to \$5,000
- » **Eligibility:** Applicants are evaluated for their academic achievements, for their background and financial need, and, most importantly, for their demonstrated commitment to advancing the DREAM Act and the civil rights of DREAM Act students.
- » **Notes:** MALDEF now offers a scholarship to support the nation's college and graduate student leaders who have been outstanding advocates for the DREAM Act and all immigrant rights.
- » **Contact:** acampos@maldef.org
- » **Region:** National

Migrant Farmworker Baccalaureate Scholarship

<http://www.migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/mfb.htm>

- » **Year:** At least completed one year of college
 - » **Due:** July 1st
 - » **Award:** Up to \$2,000 per year, maximum of three years
 - » **Eligibility:** Recent history of movement for agricultural employment. Demonstrate scholastic achievement, financial need, and successful completion of at least one year at an accredited post-secondary institution.
 - » **Notes:** Must include in application a copy of current or most recent Migrant Education Certificate of Eligibility (COE).
 - » **Contact:** (585) 658-7960
 - » **Region:** National
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Stan Beck Fellowship

<http://www.entsoc.org/awards/student/beck>

- » **Year:** Undergraduate students in entomology or related disciplines
- » **Award:** \$300; based on earnings from Foundation's investments
- » **Due:** July 1
- » **Eligibility:** Applicants must be studying entomology or related discipline. Nominees/candidates will be judged using the following criteria for a total of 60 points: An undergraduate student majoring in entomology or related discipline at a college or university in the United States, Canada or Mexico (10), have need based on physical limitation, economic, minority or environmental condition (10), recommendation of professors, advisors, etc. (10), enthusiasm, interest and achievement in entomology or related disciplines (10), notable academic plans (10), and impact of need (10).
- » **Notes:** Application/nomination packages must be received by the awards administrator by July 1. This deadline refers to receipt of a complete package in a readable format. Therefore, early submission is highly recommended. The awards administrator will confirm receipt of nomination packages within two business days, and also notify nominators of any problems with nomination package files within that time.
- » **Region:** United States, Mexico or Canada

APPLYING TO SCHOLARSHIPS

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- >> HOW TO BE A COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT
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APPLYING TO SCHOLARSHIPS

Why are scholarships important? Scholarships are the most common way that undocumented students pay for college.

Please be aware that many scholarships are open only to US Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents and won't be available to you, but some will.

GENERAL ADVICE ON SCHOLARSHIPS

Find as many scholarships as possible (especially local ones) that do not require citizenship. Local scholarships are less competitive because they limit the pool of applicants.

Make sure to research and apply to scholarships EARLY – ideally starting in the spring of junior year in high school. Many scholarships are exclusively available to high school seniors and not for college students, so make sure to start building a college fund with these high school-specific scholarships. Note: If you have good grades in high school, you should take advantage of them and apply to scholarships that are focused on academics. In general, when going on to college, even stellar students' GPAs drop dramatically, which affects their level of competitiveness.

Apply to every single scholarship you can. Scholarships are very competitive, especially ones that award large amounts of money. Focus on throwing your net wide and applying to as many scholarships as you can. Plus, once you have created a solid personal statement and gathered all the documents that scholarship applications require, you will be able to use the same materials over and over.

Put A LOT of time and energy into scholarship applications. Revise your personal statement multiple times, get feedback about your essays from multiple people, gather transcripts, income statements, etc. The more effort you put in, the better your scholarship packet will be and the higher the likelihood of winning the award.

Research the particular organization offering the scholarship to understand what they are looking for in applicants. If you clearly articulate why you're a good fit for a particular organization, you help the selection

committee in choosing you as the right candidate. Make sure to use concrete examples when you write about your strengths, but never write in an arrogant manner. Don't act like you know what's best for the scholarship organization.

Be very explicit in talking about your story. The personal statement is what will set you apart from all other applicants. Don't hesitate to talk about your immigration status. Tips for how to share your story can be found in the "Writing Your Personal Statement" section.

Answer questions clearly and directly. Type and proofread essays. Spelling mistakes and bad grammar turn readers off. Express yourself clearly and concisely. Adhere to the word and page limits. Have at least two people look over your personal statements. More than three people will give you too many opinions to juggle. If English is not your first language, ask for your English teacher's help.

State your financial needs – Don't be shy about it. Even scholarships that are not need-based should know your financial needs. If you are high-need and high-merit, you have been able to persevere despite numerous challenges and should highlight this in your essay. Here's how you might talk about your situation: Are you expecting family assistance to pay for college? What would happen if you did not get this scholarship? How would your financial limitations impact your academics and/or your chance to finish your education? Caution: there is a fine line between begging and showing that you are worth funding. Do not cross the begging line. It does not make you look good to the scholarship committee; it makes you look like you are a risk not worth taking and that you don't have a solid plan for achieving your academic goals.

It's all about the package. As soon as you're about to finish the scholarship application, read over all the application materials to see if they reflect who you are as a whole. Materials should complement one another. Do a final checklist to ensure that you have enclosed all necessary documents needed. Make sure your scholarship application is signed.

HOW TO BE A COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

Private scholarships are very competitive. If you're applying to them, it's crucial that you do as much as possible to stand out. You must be doing community service EVERY year of high school. Do not wait until junior or senior year to start. Your counselors could also work with you starting in 9th grade to identify your interests and passions and connect you with activities that have to do with these interests. If there are no opportunities, then start your own club at your school.

Do community service or special programs such as internships, youth boards, and community college classes during the summer EVERY summer.

Maintain the highest GPA you can. To get the few full scholarships colleges offer to AB540 students, you must be the best of the best.

Take leadership roles. You don't have to be the class president, but you could try to be captain or co-captain of the sports team and/or take on a leadership role in clubs.

Start getting comfortable with interviews, since many private scholarships require a face-to-face interview. You should practice public speaking before senior year. Practice questions that may be asked and practice telling "your story" to others before senior year. Ask your counselors to do workshops on interviewing and sharing testimonials.

HOW TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

Start with E4FC's lists of scholarships: <http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html>. There you'll find E4FC's own "List of Scholarships that Don't Require U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency."

Find school-specific scholarships, which are generally less competitive and more tailored to you. Look for scholarships specific to your high school, school district, community college, and/or the college you're attending. Ask your high school counselor, the financial aid office staff, the admissions office, and even teachers and professors who are sympathetic to you if they know of any resources.

HOW TO INQUIRE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

If you find scholarships that require a social security number or have residency requirements, you might want to ask them for more information about their requirements. If you are a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient, see specific "Advice for DACA Recipients" below.

Consider asking:

"Are residency requirements fixed?" or

"Can students who do not meet the

residency requirement still apply?" Note:

Students with pending family petitions usually have a form called I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative). Although it might take years for this petition to become current, some scholarships have accepted the I-130 as proof of residency.

"Can students use an ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) instead of a SSN

(Social Security Number)?" Scholarship awards

can be processed with just the student's name and address. If a scholarship specifically requests a SSN, ask if it is possible to submit an ITIN instead.

Find an advocate to help you. If you're uncomfortable, ask your counselor or teacher to inquire on your behalf. Make sure that whoever calls is knowledgeable about your immigration status.

Don't lie about your status. If it turns out that the scholarship has specific residency requirements, just move on and look for another scholarship. If the scholarship catches you lying, your award will likely be revoked.

ADVICE FOR DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) RECIPIENTS

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012, has widened the number of scholarships available to undocumented students. DACA is a renewable government program that, among other benefits, gives eligible undocumented youth work authorization, a social security number, and permission

to stay in the country for two years. For more information about the program, check out E4FC's Deferred Action Resources on our website: <http://e4fc.org/legalservices/deferredactionresources.html>.

Historically, many scholarships have excluded undocumented students because they do not have valid social security numbers, work authorization, and/or lawful presence in the United States. DACA offers an opportunity for scholarship providers to re-evaluate their policies regarding undocumented students. Nationwide we have already seen some scholarship providers change their policies and allow DACA recipients to apply. However, most scholarship providers do not know about the program yet and/or have not re-evaluated their policies. Because DACA is a new program, it is important for DACA recipients to educate scholarship providers about the DACA program and the opportunities it affords to recipients. While some scholarship providers may continue to restrict their eligibility to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, we hope that many will decide to allow DACA recipients to apply.

To help DACA recipients determine whether a scholarship might consider them for their award, we have created the following guidelines:

Investigate whether the scholarship is government-funded. Scholarships that are funded by government dollars have very strict eligibility criteria limiting their scholarships to legal U.S. residents. If you find that a scholarship is government funded, we recommend you save your time and energy and not apply for the scholarship. Some examples of government-funded organizations include the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). To investigate if a scholarship is funded through the government, you can do a quick web search of the scholarship by looking up the organization's website, scanning their homepage and looking for an "About Us" section. This section should describe if the organization/scholarship is privately or publicly (government) funded. Privately funded non-profit organizations are often described as 501(c)(3) organizations – they include private or family foundations, community foundations and civic or charitable organizations. Some privately-owned businesses and corporations also offer scholarships.

Ask the scholarship provider if there is a U.S. citizenship or permanent residency requirement for their scholarship. If the scholarship appears

to be privately funded, we recommend you carefully review the eligibility criteria for the scholarship. If the scholarship criteria include a U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency requirement, we suggest you send an email to the scholarship provider. Search for a "Contact us" section on their website. You can ask a question such as, *"I would like to apply for your scholarship, but I am not a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Is there any possibility that I can be considered for your scholarship?"* (Please see "How to Inquire about Scholarship Requirements" for additional tips).

Ask the scholarship provider why there is a U.S. citizenship or permanent residency requirement.

If the scholarship provider responds that they do have a residency requirement, carefully investigate why this is the case. They might provide a response such as "scholarship recipients must be eligible to work after graduation" or "we don't want international students applying to our scholarship" or "students need a SSN for tax purposes". If their response falls along these lines, we strongly advise you to educate the provider about the DACA program, the benefits to DACA recipients, and your particular situation. You might try writing something like, *"While I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, I am a recipient of the federal government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. This grants me lawful presence, a social security number, and the ability to work legally in this country. Furthermore, I have lived and attended school here in _____ since I was _____ years old and fully intend to remain here after I graduate from college. Is there any possibility that I can be considered for your scholarship?"*

If, however, the scholarship provider responds with something such as "our donors have set the eligibility requirements" or "we have a firm stance on this policy" or "at this moment we do not support undocumented applicants", then it is unlikely you will be able to apply to their scholarship this year and we advise you to look elsewhere. However, do not let these negative responses discourage you! Simply by making inquiries and sharing your story, you are making scholarship organizations aware of the DACA program and DACA recipients' need for financial support. The more inquiries from DACA recipients that scholarship providers receive, the more likely they will be to re-evaluate their policies. You are making a difference just by courageously making the ask!

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT: TELLING YOUR STORY

The personal statement is the opportunity to make yourself stand out from other applicants. Make sure your essay tells readers something they would not have otherwise found out in your application.

Usually instructions are very general, such as “Tell us a little bit about yourself,” or “What is important for us to know about you?” The broadness of this topic can be overwhelming. Here are some questions to help you brainstorm some ideas:

- » **What is special, unique, and/or impressive about you or your life stories?**
- » **Have you ever had to overcome unusual obstacles or hardships (economical, familial, physical)? What have you learned from these challenges?**
- » **What details of your life will help the reader better understand you and set you apart from others? You might include personal challenges, personal history, people or events that have shaped and influenced you and your life goals.**
- » **How are you the best fit for the scholarship? What have you done to prove that you are worth this scholarship’s funding?**
- » **What are your personal, academic, and professional goals? What has led you to pursue these goals?**
- » **How have you contributed to the community (extracurricular activities, community involvement, family responsibilities, employment)? What have you learned from these experiences?**
- » **Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain?**
- » **Why might you be a stronger candidate or more successful in your chosen profession or field than other applicants?**
- » **What are the most compelling reasons you can give to the scholarship committee to be interested in you?**
- » **How do you plan to give back to your community once you finish your education?**

Note: Follow the directions carefully and adhere to word and page limits, formatting requirements and

subject guidelines. Please keep in mind that selection committees will be reading multiple applications, and you do not want to be penalized because you went over the page limit. That being said, make sure to use all the available space they give you.

WRITING TIPS

Tell a story. Show or demonstrate an experience through concrete examples. If your statement is fresh, lively and different, the selection committee will remember you and put you on the top of the pile.

The most memorable paragraph is the opening one, so focus on that one. The opening paragraph is where you can grab the reader’s attention. Or you can make the reader yawn and say “What’s this applicant’s name again?” Distinguish yourself from other applicants right away.

Topic-Specific Essay Tips: Some scholarships might ask you to write an essay, rather than a personal statement. Make sure that your essay directly addresses the topic and that you aren’t simply pasting on a new topic sentence to an old essay. By all means, use sections of your personal statement, but don’t just copy and paste it.

HOW AND WHETHER TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Think carefully about HOW you talk about your status. You do not want to sound like a victim but rather like someone who has overcome challenges and succeeded.

Don’t have it be the main topic (unless you know that the scholarship specifically is looking for undocumented students). You not want your status to overshadow your academic accomplishments and aspirations.

PROS & CONS TO REVEALING YOUR STATUS TO A SCHOLARSHIP

PROS

You want people to be aware of the challenges you've faced and how you've overcome them

You want people to be aware of your financial need

You want people to be aware of your motivations

CONS

You don't want this to define you

You don't want this to overshadow your accomplishments

You don't want to sound like a victim

You don't want to alienate someone who isn't familiar with immigration issues

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Emphasize that you've grown up here, it wasn't your decision to come to the United States, you want to remain in the United States, you want to become a US citizen, etc.

LEAST DIRECT

Even though I was not eligible for federal or state financial aid because of my immigration status, I don't want money to impede my future education goals. I might not have enough economical resources to pay for all the expenses a university requires, but I do have the hunger for learning and for getting the higher education a university can offer.

MORE DIRECT

I was always aware of my status, even as a young boy my parents had told me about it. They explained their reasoning for coming here and what our goals and aspirations as a family were. So I grew up always knowing, however it was only until junior year in high school that I really understood the gravity of our situation. And with that understanding came a downward spiral during which I practically gave up all efforts in school; my reasoning was, why bother with all this work if it's not going to amount to anything.

I managed to better my grades and keep my hopes somewhat up during my last year in school, and even flirted with the idea of applying to some universities,

but with out status and with no money it was a difficult journey ahead.

In order for one to understand who I am, it is critical that one knows my history. My name is Victor and I was born in Santa Gertrudis, Oaxaca, Mexico: a poor village where residents walk on sun-beaten, unpaved streets, and walk in night's darkness due to the lack of streetlights. My childhood is filled with memories of dirt-streets, no potable water, and acres of corn and alfalfa fields. Unfortunately, my family and I were forced to leave Santa Gertrudis, Oaxaca due to a traumatized event, and immigrate into the U.S. illegally.

VERY DIRECT

Ten years ago, I was dragged to the United States from Fiji against my will as a consequence of a U.S.-supported coup d'état. I adjusted to high school here but in the post 9-11 crackdown on international students, I was denied a student visa because my parents had filed for adjustment of status and I could not prove adequate ties to my home country. Life came to a standstill—I could not attend colleges or universities of my choice without financial aid, and all the lawyers we approached told us to 'wait.'

Fast-forward six years and I am still waiting-in-line for my 'authorization' documents, now equipped with a Masters degree that means little without a nine-digit number and fighting the immigration battle in court. But I have refused to play the waiting game all over again.

HOW TO GET A WINNING LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Identify and speak to potential recommenders EARLY in the process. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

Notes on Timing:

- » **Arrange talks with potential recommenders**
- » **Decide on best recommenders for you**
- » **Ask for a letter of recommendation (ideally 2 months before due date)**
- » **Give recommendation forms (at least 1 month before)**
- » **Politely remind recommenders about the letter (at least one week before due date)**
- » **Thank recommenders**
- » **Update them on the scholarship selection process – if you have been selected for an interview, if you have been awarded the scholarship, etc.**

Teachers are very busy. Make their jobs as easy as possible. Give them a copy of your personal statement (even if it's just a draft), a list of your accomplishments/achievements/awards/extra-curriculars. Let them know what you'd like them to highlight/emphasize about you. This is not being overbearing; this is being helpful.

Make information clear to recommenders.

Pull together all scholarship info (scholarship name, your full name, due date, address to be mailed). Add information about the scholarship and its requirements and priorities.

Make sure they are addressing

recommendations correctly. Don't use a recommendation written for a different scholarship without changing the name of the scholarship throughout!

Make sure your recommender is knowledgeable

about you and can speak highly of your academic accomplishments, strengths, interests, academic and professional goals. Have an open talk with recommenders about your need for money and your immigration status. This is especially important if you are not comfortable talking about your status, since your recommenders can do so for you. *It is important for them to fully understand your situation so they*

can advocate for you effectively. If you think your recommender is not supportive of you because of your immigration status, *find a new one.*

Don't be afraid to ask recommenders to submit recommendations for multiple scholarships.

Once they've written on recommendation, it's easy for them to modify it. Update them on your progress (whether or not you've been awarded scholarships).

Ask recommenders if they will share a copy of their recommendation with you. If so, ask them for a "generic" recommendation (not addressed to any particular scholarship fund) that you can have on file and use if necessary.

I'm a college student. Is it okay for me to ask my high school teacher to recommend me?

Ideally you should have a current instructor write you a recommendation, but it is better to have a former teacher who knows you well rather than someone who doesn't know you very well. If you are going to ask a former teacher, make sure to talk to that teacher about your current activities and progress in school, so they can update their old recommendation letter. Stay in touch with your former mentors and teachers!

DIFFERENT WAYS FOR RECOMMENDERS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

LEAST DIRECT

Yoshi works harder than any student I have ever taught. She is more determined than any student I have ever taught. Her heart is filled with positive energy. Her mind races to accumulate and assimilate new information. And she faces heart-braking obstacles—poverty, immigration status, financial independence since was sixteen, an utter lack of local family support and an almost untenable living situation with a generally uninterested aunt. She works so hard for herself because she feels she has no choice but to continually learn and grow so that one day she may be of great service to others. As difficult as her path has been and will continue to be, it is her goal to ease the path for those who come after her.

MORE DIRECT

Julio is a first generation college student. He is a second year student majoring in Civil Engineering at San Jose State University...Julio is considered a

minority at San Jose State University because of his ethnic background and low-income status, yet he has been able to compete and excel with students who have no economic needs or better educational resources than him before starting their college career....Unlike most San Jose State University students who do not need to worry about finances, Julio has to. He faces financial struggles on an ongoing basis due to his legal status which does not grant him any source of government financial aid.

VERY DIRECT

Luis is a non-native English speaker and an undocumented immigrant who will also be the first in his family to graduate from high school and attend a four-year college. And he will graduate—that's the type of person Luis is. Luis turned his back on the drugs and violence in his community to face the challenges of preparing for a post-secondary education. More aware and introspective than most young adults, Luis has realized that competing with more privileged students at the college level requires him to compensate for the inequities of life in East Palo Alto by preparing better and working harder.

BEFORE MAILING: DO A FINAL CHECK!

1. **Is your application filled out completely? Have you signed your application?**
2. **Do you have all required documents, including transcripts and proof of income?**
3. **Have you proofread and edited your essays? Did you follow the essay guidelines?**
4. **Re-read the whole package**
5. **Send it in before deadline - WAY BEFORE THE DEADLINE**

SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS

Getting ready for the Interview

- » **Make sure you know the interview time and location, and how to get there**
- » **Do a mock interview with a teacher, counselor, or mentor**
- » **Dress nicely**
- » **Learn about the scholarship (background of funders, key people involved, activities required of recipients)**

- » **Have questions ready to ask interviewers (you can ask them about one of the organization's programs that you might be interested in or other specific questions about the organization)**
- » **Think of three things you definitely want to tell your interviewers (make sure you talk about these three things)**
- » **Prepare your resume, bring it to the interview (in case they want to look at it) and read through it so you remember what your experiences/responsibilities were**
- » **If you can, prepare a budget with your academic and personal expenses, committed/pending funds, and unmet need and bring copies of it to the interview**

DURING THE INTERVIEW

- » **Be early (know the location ahead of time)**
- » **Shake hands with every person**
- » **Say thank you (at LEAST once)**
- » **Look them in the eyes**
- » **Be prepared to ASK questions if it is appropriate and if you are invited to do so**

SAMPLE QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ASKED DURING THE INTERVIEW

- » **Why did you apply to this scholarship?**
- » **What makes you stand out from all other candidates?**
- » **How will you be able to contribute to our community?**
- » **Tell us about one event or person in your life that has shaped you.**
- » **Talk about your academic achievements/aspirations.**
- » **Talk about your community involvement.**

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

Send a thank-you note -- preferably by mail, but email is better than no thank-you note at all.

IF YOU ARE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP...

- » **Send a thank-you note to all your recommenders**
 - » **Follow-up regularly with donors**
-

ABOUT THE EDITORS

DENISSE ROJAS (2013 Co-editor)

Denisse was born in Mexico City and immigrated to Fremont, California as an infant. With the support of her family and community, Denisse graduated from UC Berkeley in 2012 with majors in Sociology and Integrative Biology. While at Cal she was a member of Rising Immigrant Scholars Through Education, the Biology Scholars Program, the UndocuAlly Training Project and the Haas Scholars Program. Through the Haas Scholars Program, she conducted a yearlong research project in UC Berkeley's Department of Plant and Microbial Biology. Denisse then worked at UCSF's Pediatrics Department participating in a childhood obesity project. After graduating from college, Denisse worked at Laney College mentoring low-income and first-generation students pursuing science careers. As co-founder of Pre-Health Dreamers (www.phdreamers.org), an organization that supports undocumented students pursuing health and science careers, she believes every student has the right to pursue their career ambitions, regardless of their status. Denisse aspires to be an emergency physician that provides care to underserved communities.

NADIA ROJAS (2013 Co-editor)

Nadia was born in Mexico D.F., Mexico and came to the United States with her family when she was two years old. After graduating with honors from high school, she attended UC Berkeley and was part of the Biology Scholars Program. With the unwavering support of her parents and her two siblings, she graduated with a B.A. in ethnic studies and integrative biology in 2009. Nadia also received an A.A. degree in French at Chabot College in 2012. Nadia joined E4FC as part of the 2011-2012 Student Outreach Team where she conducted numerous presentations to undocumented youth about attending and financing a college education. Currently, she is doing similar work with Graduates Reaching a Dream Deferred Northern California (GRADD) (facebook.com/graddnocal), an organization whose aim is to advocate and support for undocumented students pursuing graduate or professional school. Nadia recently graduated with a Master of Public Health (MPH) from UC Davis. She hopes to research health disparities within underrepresented groups and work towards eliminating the disparities. Her ultimate goal is to promote health and social justice.

LAURA LOPEZ (2012 Editor)

Laura was born in Valle de Santiago, Guanajuato and has lived in Napa Valley, California since she was one year old. With the support of her family, she graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz in 2009, with a major in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) and a minor in Legal Studies. Laura co-founded Students Informing Now (S.I.N., pronounced s n), the first AB540 undocumented student support group at UCSC. In 2010, she devoted herself to passage of the D.R.E.A.M. Act through national and statewide efforts. Laura is currently a member of the Napa Valley Dream Team. She also serves as E4FC's Scholarship Coordinator and an intern on the Legal Services Team. She believes that all immigrants have the right to higher education, regardless of status, and looks forward to helping students pursue their dreams through administrative policies like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and permanent legislative change.

ILIANA PEREZ (2011 Editor)

Iliana was born in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico and immigrated to the US when she was eight years old. With the support and encouragement from her parents, family and friends, she graduated with academic and university honors from California State University, Fresno with a degree in Mathematics and minors in Economics and Business. While at Fresno State, Iliana participated in the Aztec Dance Club, Peace and Dignity Journeys, MEChA, The Hispanic Business Student Association, the Salsa Club and Associated Students Inc. Upon graduation, Iliana went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Global Political Economy and Finance at the New School for Social Research in New York City. She believes that every student deserves the right to an education regardless of legal status. She hopes to return to Mexico one day to help alleviate the many socio-economic problems that exist and, in turn, create better living conditions so that people do not have to leave their home country.

BELEZA CHAN (2009 and 2010 Editor)

Beleza was a Graduate Advisor with Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC). She was born and raised in Brazil and lived in the Bay Area for almost eight years. As the daughter of Chinese immigrants in Brazil and an immigrant herself in the United States, she has witnessed the struggles and difficulties of newcomers. She has seen how cultural and language barriers prevent even the most hardworking from successfully adapting, and how broken immigration laws also prevent high-achieving students from becoming active members in society. Beleza has worked towards social justice as a teacher of at-risk youth in San Francisco, a writer with ethnic media such as AsianWeek.com and New America Media, and a community organizer. She graduated with Phi Beta Kappa and Highest Honors from UC Berkeley. Beleza left the United States and returned to Brazil in 2010.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The original version of this list was created in collaboration with Mission Graduates. It would not have been possible without the tremendous dedication and hard work of Maddy Russell-Shapiro and Calvin Ho.

Thank you also to Inés Barbosa (First Graduate), Joni Bissell (Summer Search), Alice Kleeman (Menlo-Atherton High School), Jennifer Pence (Academic Springboard), Jazmin Reyes, Jessica Samples (College Track), Anna Takahashi (Eastside College Preparatory School), and Joshua Weintraub (Lighthouse Community Charter School).

ABOUT US

EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION (E4FC)

Founded in 2006, Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC) empowers undocumented young people to pursue their dreams of college, career, and citizenship in the United States. We address the holistic needs of undocumented young people through direct support, leadership development, community outreach, and advocacy. Our programming is designed by and for undocumented young people with support from committed allies. We are a fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives.

For more information, please visit us online at www.e4fc.org.
