

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria [February 2021](#) Newsletter

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! The Scholarship Fund office staff are available 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday! Please reach out to Ms. Samuel, Ms. Harrington, or Mr. Waters at the contact information listed below. We look forward to meeting you and supporting your college dreams!

- Ms. Samuel: college@acps.k12.va.us; (703)-705-2464
- Ms. Harrington: melissa.harrington@acps.k12.va.us; (571)-409-6186
- Mr. Waters: darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us; (703)-688-2670

IT IS SCHOLARSHIP SEASON! While scholarships have varying deadlines, February/March are HUGE months for scholarship deadlines. The SFA monthly scholarship email contains many scholarship opportunities but the list is not exhaustive. There are thousands of scholarships out there, so try to carve out some time to do additional scholarship searches.

TC ALUMNI:

- **Renew your FAFSA!** - It is time to submit your FAFSA for next school year! Feel free to reach out to the Scholarship Fund adviser for assistance. We'd love to hear about your fall semester & help you renew your financial aid.
- **Transferring?** - For many of you it is time to start thinking about transferring from NOVA to a 4-year school. We would be more than happy to assist with narrowing down your list of schools, editing essays, navigating the Guaranteed Admissions Agreements with Virginia colleges, etc.
- **Graduating?** - Class of 2017, can you believe your college graduation is almost here? If you need help brushing up your resume, writing cover letters, preparing for job interviews, or completing grad school applications, please know that you can still reach out to us for help!

SENIORS:

- **Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible!** - It is critical that every senior submit the FAFSA immediately to qualify for free money from the federal government, the state of Virginia, and colleges. Even if you are not sure you will go to college after graduation, you should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible to keep their options open!

Some priority financial aid deadlines have already passed- submit the FAFSA ASAP to maximize the financial aid you will receive!

FAFSA does not require essays or consider your grades. **Most students receiving free or reduced price lunch will qualify for the Pell Grant – the maximum Pell grant award is**

\$6,495. This is FREE money to help you pay for school! Even if you do not receive free or reduced price lunch, you may still be eligible to receive thousands in state and institutional aid. Every family should spend 45 minutes filling out the FAFSA to see what they might qualify for! If you need assistance or have questions, please email college@acps.k12.va.us for support.

- **The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Application is now open!** - The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria is just for TC Williams seniors! The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria awarded over \$500,000 to T.C. Williams' Class of 2020. All current T.C. Williams seniors are encouraged to apply. Our application is due by February 3rd!
 - To learn more about the **SFA first time applicant process**, please go [here](#).

JUNIORS & SOPHOMORES:

- **RIISING SENIORS (Current Juniors)-QuestBridge College Prep Scholars** - The 2021 College Prep Scholars Program application will open in early February 2020 and will be due on March 24th. Students can join the QuestBridge mailing list by submitting the form at the bottom of their website (www.questbridge.org). QuestBridge will notify students when the application is available. Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 per year or less) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to **QuestBridge College Prep Scholars summer program (including undocumented or DACA students)**. This all-expense-paid summer program will give students a leg-up in applying for **QuestBridge College Match, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to top ranked partner colleges**. Applications are typically due in mid-March for the summer program and late September for the college scholarship. *If interested, please email college@acps.k12.va.us for assistance!*
- **Rising TCW Juniors and Seniors** (current Juniors and Sophomores) who are interested in attending Virginia Tech should consider **Virginia Tech's Virtual Black College Institute**. This is a FREE program that takes place over the summer. The program is designed to attract underrepresented or first-generation students but is open to any student with an interest in Virginia Tech. Applications for 2021 are being taken **RIGHT NOW**, so *please* take the time to check out the details. The deadline to apply is April 1st.
- **The YouVisit Foundation offers students and families FREE Virtual Campus Tours**. YouVisit offers more than 600 virtual tours with an immersive web experience that allows students to learn more about the college's programs, campus culture, and an opportunity to listen to students' experiences. Tours are also available via Virtual Reality. For more info please contact info@youvisit.com OR <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch>

Below is a list of upcoming scholarships. Local scholarships are indicated by pink text.

February

1. [Dream Project VA - February 1, 2021 - Open to Virginia high school seniors and college students who were born outside of the United States and whose immigration status \(undocumented, DACA, TPS, Asylum Applicant\) creates barriers to access and success in college](#)
2. [Stacey Scholarship - February 1, 2021 - \\$500 - \\$5,000 scholarship open to students age 18-35 pursuing a profession in the arts in the classical or conservative tradition](#)
3. [Significant Challenge Scholarship - February 1, 2021 - Open to high school seniors with 3.4+ GPA who have taken challenging courses and exhibited leadership](#)
4. [Wings Over America Scholarship – February 1, 2021 – Open to current high school and college students whose parents served \(or are currently serving\) in the US Navy in an aviation command \(squadron, naval air station, carrier, etc.\)](#)
5. [Bart Kamen FIRST Robotics Competition Scholarship - February 1, 2021 - \\$10,000 scholarship open to high school seniors who have participated in FRC for at least one year and who plan to take biomedical engineering or pre-med courses in college](#)
6. [Sunflower Initiative - February 1, 2021 - \\$10,000 scholarship open to high school seniors with 3.7+ GPA desiring to attend a women's college](#)
7. [Jackie Robinson Foundation – February 1, 2021 – Open to minority high school seniors with financial need, leadership potential, and community service experience. Submission of test scores are optional](#)
8. [Scholarship Fund of Alexandria - February 3, 2021 - Renewable scholarship just for TC Williams seniors! Financial need-based and non-need based awards available, ranging from \\$500 - \\$6,000 per year of college. About 50% of applicants win!](#)
9. [McDonald's HACER National Scholarship - February 3, 2021 - Open to high school seniors with 2.8+ GPA who have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage](#)
10. [AMS Freshman Undergraduate Scholarship - February 5, 2021 - \\$5,000 scholarship awarded \\$2,500 for each year \(freshman and sophomore years\). Open to students who will be freshmen in the Fall of 2021 pursuing a career in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. Applicants must have a minimum of GPA of 3.0 of 4.0 scale](#)
11. [Women in Science Scholarship - February 5, 2021 – A \\$10,000 scholarship open to women in their final year of undergraduate study in the Fall of 2021. Applicants must have a minimum of GPA of 3.0 of 4.0 scale and be pursuing a career in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences](#)
12. [AMS Minority Scholarship - February 12, 2021 - \\$6,000 scholarship awarded \\$3,000 for each year \(freshman and sophomore years\). Open to students who will be freshmen in the Fall of 2021 pursuing a career in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. Applicants must have a minimum of GPA of 3.0 of 4.0 scale](#)
13. [Hispanic Scholarship Fund - February 15, 2021 - \\$500 - 5,000 scholarship open to high school seniors with a 3.0+ GPA and current college/graduate students with a 2.5+ GPA of Hispanic heritage. Open to U.S. citizens, permanent legal residents, eligible non-citizens, and DACA students](#)
14. [Jashemski Scholarship - February 15, 2021 - Open to students in the DC area, age 17-25, with 3.5+ GPA and significant religious commitment as evidenced by formal membership in a religious body, regular participation in its worship life, and active involvement in its service ministry. Financial need based award up to \\$10,000](#)

15. [Virginia PEO Scholarship - February 15, 2021 - \\$1,500 scholarship open to female residents of Virginia with 3.0+ GPA who plan to attend an in-state college](#)
16. [Virginia State Golf Association Scholarship - February 17, 2021 - Open to Virginia high school seniors who play golf](#)
17. [Dream US National Scholarship - February 25, 2021 – Scholarship worth up to \\$16,500 towards an Associate’s Degree and \\$33,000 towards a Bachelor’s Degree to. Scholarship for DACA and TPS high school and college students](#) applying to a Dream US partner college (NOVA, Marymount, or GMU)
18. [Goya Culinary Arts - February 26, 2021 - \\$5,000 scholarship open to high school seniors \(including DACA students\)](#) with 3.0+ GPA planning to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree in culinary arts or food sciences

March

1. [Air Force Officers’ Spouses’ Club Scholarship - March 1, 2021](#) - Merit-based scholarships for eligible US Air Force dependent children who are either graduating high school seniors with a 3.25+ GPA or are current college students with a 3.0+ GPA
2. [American Chemistry Society – March 1, 2021 – \\$2,500 renewable scholarships for underrepresented minority students who want to enter chemistry-related fields; open to current high school seniors as well as college students](#)
3. [Virginia PTA/PTSA Scholarship – March 1, 2021 – \\$1,000 scholarship open to high school seniors with 2.5+ GPA, commitment to community service, and financial need. Students must be a member of a local unit PTA/PTSA in good standing](#)
4. [National Press Club Scholarship for Journalism Diversity – March 1, 2021 – \\$2,500 renewable scholarship \(with an additional \\$500 book stipend\) open to high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA and plans to pursue a career bringing diversity to journalism](#)
5. [Zimmerman Journalism Scholarship – March 1, 2021 – \\$5,000 non-renewable scholarship open to high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA and plans to pursue a career in journalism](#)
6. [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - March 12, 2021 - Local scholarship for graduating seniors with 2.5+ GPA](#)
7. [Zeta Phi Beta Sorority - March 12, 2019 - Three \\$500 book scholarships for 1\) female high school senior who plans to study STEM, 2\) female high school senior who plans to study visual or performing arts, and 3\) female college student with 3.0+ GPA](#)
8. [Jewel College Scholarship - March 12, 2021 - \\$2,000 scholarship available to graduating high school seniors residing in the greater Washington D.C. area who plan to enroll in college for the Fall 2021 semester](#)
9. [Blacks In Government-Department of Labor Chapter – March 15, 2021 - Open to graduating high school seniors from the DC area with 2.0+ GPA](#)
10. [QuestBridge College Prep Scholars - March 24, 2021 - Students with high financial need \(household income of \\$65,000 per year or less\) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge College Prep Scholars summer program \(including undocumented or DACA students\).](#) This all-expense-paid summer program will give students a leg-up in applying for QuestBridge College Match, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to top ranked partner colleges. Applications

are due **March 24th** for the summer program and late September for the college scholarship. ***If interested, please contact Ms. Samuel at college@acps.k12.va.us***

11. **Religious Liberty Essay Contest** - March 26, 2021 - \$2,000 essay contest open to high school juniors and seniors answering the following prompt: "Does a religious leader, such as a rabbi, imam, priest, or any other clergy in a religious tradition, have the right to run for public office? What if any, steps should a religious leader running for public office take to acknowledge the bedrock American principle of the separation of church and state?"
12. **Legacy of Life Scholarship** – March 31, 2021 - Write a 1,000 word essay or produce a video persuading the audience to become registered organ donors; \$5,000 first prize, \$3,000 second prize, and \$1,000 third prize in both categories
13. **Boule' Foundation Scholarship** - March 31, 2021 - \$4,000 merit based scholarship for African American high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA
14. **CommonWealth One Kathryn Coleman Scholarships** - March 31, 2021 - Two \$2,500 scholarships open to current college students and high school seniors who are members of CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union
15. **Foster Care 2 Success** - March 31, 2021 - \$2,500 - \$5,000 renewable scholarship open to students who have been in public or private foster care for the 12 consecutive months leading up to and including their 18th birthday; OR have been adopted or placed into legal guardianship after their 16th birthday; OR have been orphaned for at least one year at the time of their 18th birthday and not subsequently adopted
16. **Automotive Aftermarket Scholarship** - March 31, 2021 - Scholarship for high school seniors and current college students planning a career in the automotive industry

Monthly Drawings

- \$2,000 No Essay Scholarship
- \$1,000 Cappex Easy Money Scholarship

Have a wonderful start to the new year, and please feel free to contact me with any questions! Please feel free to make an appointment with me using [this link](#) to discuss any of the topics below.

- Scholarships and financial aid
- Finding a good college fit
- Writing college and scholarship essays
- SAT/ACT preparation
- Building a résumé
- Financial aid options for undocumented students
- Completing the Scholarship Fund Application

Best,

Ms. Samuel