

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Did you know that the **Scholarship Fund office is OPEN ALL SUMMER?** Please call (703) 824-6685 or email college@acps.k12.va.us throughout the summer if you'd like to come by for help with college, career, or financial aid planning! If you wish to visit in person, please note that you must wear a mask at all times and present an ID upon entrance. My office is located in A-115. If you are an SFA scholarship recipient with questions about your scholarship, Jaime Wheaton, SFA's Scholarship Program Manager, is also available in-person for support on Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 3 PM and virtually all other days. Please reach out to her at (703)-828-4807 or scholarships@acps.k12.va.us or by making an appointment with her at [this link](#). We at SFA look forward to meeting with you and supporting your college dreams!

RISING SENIORS:

- **Not sure where to start with the college process?** – Feel free to make an appointment with me this summer by clicking [this link](#). I'd be glad to answer any questions, help you finalize your list of colleges, and work with you to brainstorm and perfect your college essays.
- **It's time to finalize your list of colleges.** – The Scholarship Fund would be happy to talk through your list of potential colleges with you and help you choose 6-8 schools that:
 - **Offer your major of interest:** Not sure what you want to study? Take your career and personality assessments in [Naviance](#).
 - **Match your GPA & SAT/ACT scores (2 safety, 2 match, 2 reach):** Check out the scattergrams in [Naviance](#) and make a free account with [Princeton Review](#).
 - **Will be affordable for your family:** Use the [Net Price Calculator](#) to get a personalized price for each college on your list. The Net Price Calculator will take into account your family size, income, and grades and calculate how much your family is eligible for in financial aid and scholarships at that particular school. You'll find that each college has a different starting price (or "sticker price") and will award you a different amount of financial aid, but the Net Price Calculator will give you the information you need to make sure that the schools on your list will be affordable.
- **Consider whether you would be a good candidate to apply Early Action/Early Decision or to apply for the QuestBridge or Gates scholarship.** – Not sure? I'd be happy to help you evaluate your options. Please see me ASAP if you think you may be interested, as there are steps you should take now to get started on your applications.
 - **Early Action/Early Decision:** Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges have historically accepted a large portion of their freshman class through Early Action/Early Decision. Students who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses may want to consider applying early.
 - **QuestBridge:** Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 or less for a typical family of four) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge, a 4-year, full-

ride scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Applications are due in September of senior year.

- **Gates:** Students with high financial need (Pell-eligible) who have a 3.3+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Gates, a highly selective, 4-year, full-ride scholarship for high school students of color. Applications are due in September of senior year.
- **Looking for all-expense paid college visits?** - Many colleges sponsor high achieving students from traditionally underrepresented groups, students who are the first generation in their family to attend college, and/or students from families with limited financial resources. Some of these programs are also open to undocumented or DACA students. Many of these programs will take place in the summer or fall. Some colleges have not yet determined if their programming will be in-person or virtual. Participation in these visits often gives you a competitive edge in the admissions process, so check out this sampling of opportunities and contact Ms. Samuel at college@acps.k12.va.us to learn more.
 - **Swarthmore College:** Apply for Discover Swarthmore by July 7th
 - **Williams College:** Apply for Windows on Williams by Deadline 1 (July 10th) or Deadline 2 (August 31st)
 - **MIT:** Apply for Weekend Immersion in Science & Engineering (WISE) by August 6th
 - **Washington & Lee University:** Apply for the virtual Diversity and Inclusion Visit Experience (DIVE) by August 8th
 - **Amherst College:** Apply for Diversity Open House by 1 PM (EST) on September 1st
 - **Middlebury College:** Apply for Discover Middlebury (Virtual Program) by September 10th

TITAN ALUMNI:

- **Just now decided you want to pursue college?** - It's not too late to submit the FAFSA, apply to NOVA, and make college a reality. I'd be happy to help!
- **Receiving my scholarship email at your ACPS email address?** - Your ACPS account will soon be deactivated. Go ahead and [sign up here](#) with your personal email address, and I will keep sending your scholarship opportunities throughout your time in college.
- **Scholarship Fund of Alexandria renewal application is due on Monday, July 15th.** - The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria [renewal application](#) is due by July 15th for SFA awardees enrolled in college. Please contact scholarships@acps.k12.va.us with any questions.

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

July

1. [SFA Renewal Application](#) – July 15, 2021 (*Priority Deadline*) – Open to current college students who received an SFA scholarship during their senior year at TC.
2. [Horatio Alger Career & Technical Scholarship](#) – July 15, 2021 (*Priority deadline, application will remain open until all awards have been claimed.*) – Open to high school graduates or students who have earned a GED and will be enrolled in a career and technical program in the Fall of 2021. Applicants must be a Pell-eligible US citizen under the age of 30 who have demonstrated perseverance in overcoming adversity and exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a CTE program at an accredited non-profit institution.
3. [2021 MAC Scholarship for College Students](#) – July 15, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship available to undergraduate students majoring in chemical engineering during the 2021-2022 academic year. Applicants must have a 3.0+ GPA and be members of a minority group that is underrepresented in chemical engineering, i.e. African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander.
4. [Corban Gunn Scholarship](#) – July 16, 2021 – \$1,000 essay scholarship available to any student planning to attend any college or graduate school in the United States. The student must be in their first-year of school in the Fall 2021 semester (transfer students are permitted to apply). Applicants will need to answer the question of “What would be the most surprising scientific discovery imaginable?” in a 500+ word essay.
5. [Bey & Associates, LLC Scholarship](#) – July 16, 2021 – \$1,000 essay scholarship available to any student planning to attend any college or graduate school in the United States. The student must be in their first-year of school in the Fall 2021 semester. Applicants will need to answer the questions “What’s the oddest family tradition you have? Who started it and when? What does it entail? Why is this tradition special to you and your family? Do you plan to continue it, why or why not?” in a 500+ word essay.
6. [Bachus and Schanker Scholarship](#) – July 30, 2021 – \$2,000 essay scholarship about the importance of the 7th Amendment. Open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students with 3.0+ GPA.
7. [First Step Scholarship](#) – July 30, 2021 – \$2,500 essay contest on preventing distracted driving. Open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students.
8. [Virginia TAG Application](#) – July 31, 2021 – \$4,000 maximum grant for VA residents attending a private university within the state of Virginia. Applicants must apply through their institution’s financial aid office.
9. [Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship](#) – July 31, 2021 – \$1,000 essay scholarship open to 9th-12th graders and college students.

August

1. [Nurses Make a Difference Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$1,000 nursing student scholarship open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students with 3.0+ GPA. All applicants must be a legal resident of the USA or hold a valid student visa.
2. [Patsy Takemoto Mink Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$5,000 financial need-based scholarship for a female college student with one or more minor children. Applicants must be pursuing a first degree at a postsecondary level of education (e.g. Vocational, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral).
3. [USRA Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$5,000 scholarships for college students within two years of earning a B.S. or B.A. in a field of science and engineering (including life science and science education).
4. [Marvel Optics Scholarship](#) – August 15, 2021 – \$1,500 short essay or video contest. Open to current, full-time college students at an accredited two-year or four-year American college or university. Applicants must write a short essay (which must be a maximum of 300 words) or video (of 1-minute in length) in response to the following prompt: Helen Keller said, “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” What does that mean to you?
5. [Hackard Law Scholarship](#) – August 15, 2021 – \$2,500 video contest on how you can improve the lives of the elderly. Open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students.
6. [iVein Health and Wellness Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$2,500 essay contest on maintaining a healthy lifestyle during college. Open to current, full-time undergraduate or graduate students with 3.7+ GPA.
7. [Arnold M Miller “Find-a-Way” Cosmetology Student Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – This scholarship covers tuition up to \$15,000 and is available to new or current students in a cosmetology program. Applicants must include three photos of your artistic work on a mannequin, client, or friends and family, as well as a three-minute YouTube video.
8. [College is Power Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship available to students aged 17 years or older who plan to start a program of higher education within the next 12 months. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
9. [Greg Baumgartner Annual Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship available both to high school and college students within the United States. Applicants must write a short essay (no more than 200 words) about themselves, their educational goals, and the reasons for needing a scholarship.
10. [MoolahSPOT Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 essay scholarship available to students aged 16 years or older attending or planning to attend college or graduate school. Applicants must submit an essay scholarship of 400 words or less.

Additional Scholarship Sources

- **United Negro College Fund:** Various scholarships available for college-bound African-American students
- **FastWeb:** Scholarship search engine
- **Scholarship Sharing:** Virginia-based scholarship search engine

As usual, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Please feel free to make an appointment using [this link](#) to discuss any of the topics below.

- Scholarships and financial aid
- Analyzing financial aid award letters
- Writing college and scholarship essays
- Building a résumé
- Financial aid options for undocumented students

Best,

Ms. Samuel