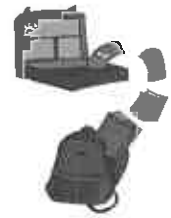




FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015



A monthly guide listing available scholarships/grants for Seniors planning to attend post-secondary institutions, (trade/technical/business schools, two and four-year colleges and apprenticeship programs).

Also posted on school website

Information regarding the Scholarships listed may be obtained in the Career Resource Center located in the Counseling Office.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS SPECIFICALLY FOR GRADUATING SENIORS OF CONRAD WEISER HIGH SCHOOL

JACK FROST SCHOLARSHIP

Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia is offering a scholarship to a male & female student in their senior year of high school, with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Applications are available in the Counseling Office. Deadline to apply is September 30, 2015.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

AES ENGINEERS

AES Engineering is pleased to offer this \$500 award to motivated high school seniors planning to attend a post-secondary educational facility in the fall of 2014. Engineering courses are not required for eligibility. Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of character. Visit www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm to apply. Essay required. Application deadline is October 7, 2015.

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) believes that the country prospers when all Americans have access to the opportunities a college education can afford. HSF supports students' financial needs by offering scholarship opportunities for deserving Latino High School seniors in addition to various scholarships for students of all heritages. Visit www.hsf.net and click on scholarship programs for graduating high school students for a complete listing of available scholarships and deadline dates.

HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION

If integrity, determination and courage describe you—then, you have what it takes to be a Horatio Alger Scholar. The Horatio Alger Association rewards students who possess the character to succeed in life. These awards, ranging in value from \$5,000 to \$20,000, help students overcome the financial barriers of pursuing higher education. You must have at least a 2.0 GPA and require financial assistance to go to college. An online application at scholars.horatioalger.org must be submitted, along with all other required documentation, by October 25, 2015. Flyer available in the Career Resource Center.

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

Seniors who have made a difference by serving the community and distinguishing themselves through volunteer work will be considered for this \$1,000 scholarship opportunity. Applications must be completed online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> by November 3, 2015 and to your principal by that same date. The most qualified nominees will be selected and nominated for state-level judging. Informational flyer available in the Career Resource Center.

WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN AWARD

Seniors who hold a "B" average or higher and participate in at least one school-sponsored sport, are eligible to apply for this award at www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com. The Wendy's High School Heisman recognizes outstanding male and female student-athletes who work hard, show community leadership and have become role models for their school's underclassmen. Application deadline is October 2, 2015.

**Check out the following websites for free scholarship information:
www.scholarships.com, www.ScholarshipExperts.com and
www.studentscholarships.org**

SCHOOL SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

***** Remember to login to the College/University sites that you apply to in order to get the most current information on Scholarships/Grants and Financial Aid offered through that specific institution! *****

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE – ENVIRONMENTALLY-ORIENTED SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Albright College is offering an environmentally Oriented Science (ACES) Scholarship Program to freshmen in the fall of 2016. Each recipient will receive a total of up to \$22,500 over 4 years. Requirements include: a minimum HS GPA of 3.5 (with a science & math GPA of 3.5), 4 science & 4 math courses completed by HS graduation, be a US or permanent resident, essay, letter from a high school science teacher, guidance counselor reference, and declaring a STEM major. Additional information can be found on the Albright College website. Please call the Albright Admission Office at 1-800-252-1856 with further questions.

UPCOMING COLLEGE FAIRS

**Monday, October 26, 2015
The Berks County College Regional Fair at Albright College
6-8 PM**

FINANCIAL AID TIPS OF THE MONTH

SAT Testing: October 3, 2015

Registration deadline: September 3, 2015

ACT Testing: October 24, 2015

Registration deadline: September 18, 2015

**Keep checking the Café Bulletin Board for Open House Information and
scheduled College Representative Visits to our school!**

**AS YOU START SEARCHING FOR MONEY FOR COLLEGE, BE AWARE OF
SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS...IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS!
NEVER PAY TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP!**

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WEIRD Scholarships

Avoid Scholarship Scams

Scholarships are incredibly popular these days. So popular, that there are over 750,000 searches for “scholarship” and “scholarships” each month. Unfortunately, not all of the websites that you find on the internet are reputable. In recent years a number of companies have started to take advantage of all the students looking for scholarship awards.

Scholarship scams are a big problem on the internet. At WeirdScholarships.net I do my best to steer clear of shady scholarship programs. But a lot of the time, the differences between legitimate scholarships and scams are small. You need to know what to look for to spot and avoid scholarship scammers.

I put together this guide to help you avoid scholarship scams on the internet.

Avoid Paid Scholarship Offers & Searches

if you've ever searched for scholarships, you know that there are plenty of scholarship searches available on the internet. Scholarship searches are excellent tools to help you find potential scholarship awards. I even have my own scholarship search that I got permission to use!

Don't ever pay to use a scholarship search. Any company charging you to use a scholarship search is likely a scam. In fact, they are probably using the exact same scholarship search from another

website. For example, they might be trying to charge you money to use a free scholarship search. Whatever you do, don't pay to find scholarship awards!

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Nothing is Guaranteed

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Any website promising that you will receive a scholarship is lying. Don't pay a scammer a fee for a guaranteed scholarship award. Even if the website offers a "money back guarantee", don't pay them. You are probably paying them to submit a scholarship application on your behalf. You could likely submit the same application on your own for free.

Avoid Scholarship Lotteries

Scholarship lotteries aren't all scams. That being said, you will receive quite a bit of spam. Any website promising a "\$20,000 scholarship award. No application. Takes only 2 minutes to apply!" is not a reputable website. There may in fact be a \$20,000 award, but usually only one out of a million people will get it. When you fill out one of these scholarship lottery forms you are essentially signing yourself up to receive daily phone calls and emails from online colleges.

Don't Pay for Financial Aid

Don't pay to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or for private student loans. Any website offering to get you financial aid, scholarships, or loans for an advanced fee is a scam. It is free to file the FAFSA, you can do it in under 30 minutes online. And, it is always free to apply for student loans and scholarship awards.

Avoid Unsolicited Email Offers

If you get an email for a shady looking scholarship award it is probably not legitimate. Scholarship scammers send out millions of

emails a day promising awards. Ignore unsolicited email offers and you will save yourself a lot of time and headache.

Protect Your Information Online

Don't ever provide sensitive personal information on a scholarship application. Don't provide bank information or your social security number on a scholarship application. Any legitimate scholarship award won't require this information. Moreover, you would not be asked this information until you've already won the award.

Scammers are looking to steal your personal information for sale. Don't give out any information that may be used against you.

Investigate the Scholarship Award

Most scholarships featured on WeirdScholarships.net are sponsored by a professional organization, industry, or large company. Make sure that you research the award before applying. Who is offering the scholarship? How long has the scholarship been offered? Can you find someone who has won the scholarship previously? Does the organization have contact information?

All reputable scholarships will have some type of contact information. Especially if the award is sponsored by a large organization or company. If the scholarship's website doesn't have a contact section, or looks shady, do more research. Please note, just because the website might be ugly, that doesn't mean the award is a scam.

If you are in doubt or if you suspect a scholarship scam be proactive. You should contact government and consumer protection organizations to report the fishy looking scholarship. You may want to contact the Federal Trade Commission, the Better Business Bureau, and your state's department of consumer protection.

If you follow the tips outlined in this guide you can avoid scholarship scams and save yourself quite a bit of time. Just

remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.

Weird Scholarships was created by Pyper Barnes in 2015.

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