



## Local Scholarship Opportunities

So, ideally, by the end of February your applications for admission are submitted, the FAFSA is filed and the CSS Profile is complete.\* What should you do with all of your free time? Search for scholarships of course! As you wait for your acceptance letters and financial aid award packages, now is the time to focus your efforts on searching for additional college funding. A good place to start is by applying for local scholarships. Here are some FAQ's about scholarships to help you get started.

*\*(Note: If this doesn't describe your status, don't fear! There are still options and support to help you get to this stage quickly. Keep reading, but check in with you school counselor and call our office anytime to get on track. We're here to help.)*

### What are "Outside Scholarships"?

"Outside" scholarship funding includes awards to students from various organizations or charities outside of a college's financial aid program intended to help students manage college costs. These programs are intended to help students pay tuition and other costs associated with higher education like room and board, fees or books and supplies.

If you are fortunate enough to be awarded outside scholarship dollars, the funds are typically sent directly to the college you have chosen on your behalf. Once you are notified of your award, contact the college's financial aid office to determine how the college will treat outside scholarships. In many instances, the funds will be applied directly towards your balance. In other cases, such as if you receive more scholarship funding than you require to pay the cost of attendance, a college may reduce the amount of financial aid they have offered. This depends on a number of factors including your EFC (Expected Family Contribution), your initial award package, and the college's policy. Do not let this possibility discourage you from searching and applying for outside scholarships and grants. If receiving an outside scholarship reduces your need to work or borrow, it is still well worth the effort.

### Should I apply for national scholarships or just stick with the local opportunities?

A few of the largest databases of national scholarships can be found online at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), and [www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com). Scholarships are free money; so, why not apply to as many as you can? But, it is important to remember that these are national opportunities that will have much bigger applicant pools. Still, if your credentials or background fits the program, go for it! Somebody has to win, why not you?

## Center for College Planning at the NHHEAF Network Organizations

The Center for College Planning at the NHHEAF Network Organizations is dedicated to providing students and families with valuable information about the college planning process—from savings options and college admissions requirements, to applying for financial aid and scholarships. We serve all student populations: traditional, continuing education, graduate and adult learner. We offer college planning materials and coordinate speakers for schools, businesses and community organizations free of charge. We provide dynamic small group workshops in our Concord, New Hampshire office. We also provide a toll free college planning hotline and comprehensive Web site. Our goal is to promote higher education as the means to achieving personal, career and life goals.

## The NHHEAF Network Organizations

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four independent nonprofit organizations dedicated to streamlining the student loan process: New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) guarantees, originates and disburses your loan.

New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation (NHHELCO) funds your loan.

Granite State Management & Resources (GSM&R) services your loan.

NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation (NNEF) administers charitable giving.



The NHHEAF Network Organizations  
Center for College Planning  
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119  
[collegeplanning@nhheaf.org](mailto:collegeplanning@nhheaf.org)

Upcoming:  
March –  
Award Letters and  
Funding Options

Some students will use their talents or skills to compete in competitions such as the Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year contest from [www.bodybymilk.com](http://www.bodybymilk.com) or Duck Tape's **Stuck at Prom** contest.

Often students report that a majority of scholarship dollars came from local opportunities which presented a much higher chance of award.

### Where can I find local scholarship opportunities?

**New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF)** is one of the country's largest community foundations and the largest source of independent student aid in the state. The NHCF offers an online application portal requiring applicants to fill out only one application to be eligible for most programs offered by the foundation. While only New Hampshire residents are eligible to apply, recipients can take funding to out-of-state colleges. Check out the NHCF Web site for more information on various local scholarship opportunities.



Also, be sure to check out [www.nh93.com](http://www.nh93.com). The NHHEAF Network Organizations created the site to help students search for scholarships. Using this free web tool, students create personalized profiles, which will be matched against a database of local scholarship opportunities for New Hampshire students. The site also provides students links to other scholarship sources and national search engines. Visit [www.nh93.com](http://www.nh93.com) to create your profile.

Another great resource for local scholarship information is your school counseling office. There you will find scholarship opportunity information from your local Rotary or Kiwanis Club, your local flower or garden club, and scholarships offered through your high school.

### Does it take a lot of time to apply?

Many scholarship applications can be downloaded right from the Web. The applications may require a copy of your transcript, a letter of reference or a personal essay, similar to those you have written for college applications. Many will ask for a copy of your Student Aid Report from the FAFSA. Whether you complete a paper version or submit online, remember to complete the application fully and accurately. As with your college applications and financial aid documents, deadlines are critical. Get your application in by the stated deadline to ensure your eligibility.

### How Do I Ask If An Organization Offers Scholarships?

The *Sample Scholarship Inquiry* letter (right) is a great way to gain information about scholarships. The first step is to identify foundations and organizations that are sources of scholarship aid and the next step is to actually send the letter of inquiry. You can get help finding the names and addresses of scholarship sources from your guidance office, a reference librarian in your public library or by browsing the Internet. Once you have obtained the information you will need to customize the letter to fit your own background and needs by replacing the text printed in boldface with your personal information.

#### Your complete mailing address

Date

**Mr. B. Sample, Director  
ABC Organization  
Moneyville, USA 00000**

Dear Mr. Sample:

I am writing to inquire about any student assistance that the **ABC Organization** may offer to college bound students.

**(Enter a concise paragraph about your background and goals. Try to show how you meet the requirements of the organization's financial aid program. If this is a letter to find out if the organization offers aid, write a short paragraph about how your background and ambitions coincide with the mission of the organization.)**

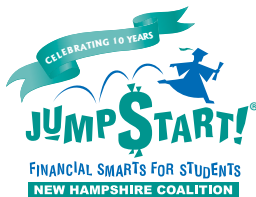
I would greatly appreciate information about any student financial assistance available through the **ABC Organization**, including how I can apply for this assistance. Information about application deadlines for the 2009-2010 academic year would also be greatly appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at **(your area code and phone number)** or via e-mail at **(your e-mail address)**.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

**Your Name**

**Sample  
Scholarship  
Inquiry  
Letter**



## Take the Quest!

To commemorate NH Jump\$Tart Coalition's Ten Year Anniversary, you are invited to play the **Get 10 Virtual Quest** - a fun, easy, and interactive online scavenger hunt designed to test your consumer savvy!

You get one chance to answer all ten questions correctly, and if you do, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of TEN MacBooks (the amazing new Mac that offers iPhoto, iMovie, browsing the web, checking e-mail and more)! The drawing will take place in April as part of our celebration of Youth Financial Literacy Month.



### Scholarship Corner:

#### **\$5,000 Verizon Wireless/UNCF Scholarships for High School Seniors**

In honor of Black History Month, the United Negro College Fund and Verizon Wireless (VZNV) have partnered to support high school seniors who are college-bound. The **2010 UNCF/VZNV Black History Month Essay** contest is designed to allow 25 qualified high school seniors the opportunity to earn college scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. The winners will receive scholarships of up to \$5,000 and select students will also receive a personal technology make-over including an HP Netbook, a Motorola DROID cell phone and/or Verizon Wireless gift cards. Seniors must apply by March 15, 2010.

#### **Red Sox Foundation Scholarships!**

The Red Sox Foundation has announced that it will award a \$1,000 scholarship to one student at ten different public high schools in New Hampshire. Eligibility criteria include demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to community service, as well as having financial need. The eligible high schools are:

**Concord High School  
Dover High School  
Keene High School  
Londonderry High School  
Manchester Central High School  
Merrimack Valley  
Pinkerton Academy  
Portsmouth High School  
Salem High School  
Spaulding High School**

**Click here** for additional information. The deadline to apply is March 19, 2010.

### **Concord Hospital Offers Nursing Scholarships for Concord Students**

The Concord Hospital Trust Scholarship Fund is awarding deserving nursing students up to \$5,000 in scholarship money. Funds are also available for students studying various other allied health care fields. Eligible candidates must be residents of the Concord Hospital service area for at least one year, pursuing the field of nursing or other qualifying health care fields and accepted into a nursing program in an accredited institution. Multiple awards of \$5,000 will be awarded annually based on academic merit, financial need and personal character. Applications should be received no later than May 1, 2010. To apply online and check eligibility qualifications, visit [www.ch-trust.org](http://www.ch-trust.org).



## News Around the Nation

### **New England Produces Top Volunteers**

The Peace Corps recently announced its annual **rankings** of the top 25 Peace Corps volunteer-producing colleges and universities. Among those on the list were several New England schools. The medium-sized school list included the University of Vermont at 13<sup>th</sup> with the University of New Hampshire ranking 15<sup>th</sup>. Among smaller schools in New England, Middlebury in Vermont ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dartmouth came in 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently, there are 7,671 Peace Corps volunteers around the world. In 2009, the Peace Corps received over 15,000 applications. Learn about the Peace Corps, in existence since 1960, at [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).

## Campus Spotlight

### SNHU Announces Tuition Freeze

In response to the struggling economy and the interest of student needs, **Southern New Hampshire University** announced plans for a tuition freeze for undergraduate day tuition for the 2010-2011 academic year. SNHU President Paul LeBlanc hopes the freeze will help keep college dreams within reach for working families. To learn more, visit [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).



### Need Help Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letters?

After you have been accepted to a college, the school's Financial Aid Office will send you a financial aid award letter. This letter outlines the different grants, scholarships, loans or work-study the college is offering you to attend their institution. Award packages will differ from college to college based on different resources and the family's need level at each campus.

Your family may have questions on what these offers from different colleges and universities mean, and how they compare. Our "Understanding the Award Letter" workshop helps families understand and compare offers of financial aid and evaluate funding options. We will present this workshop at many high schools throughout the state during March and April, but are also pleased to offer the same information as a **webinar and as a library workshop**.

- Join a Center for College Planning counselor for a webinar on Wednesday, March 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Register today.**
- A library workshop will be held at our Concord, NH campus on March 29 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. **Register today.**

For a complete list of all library workshops and webinars offered by the Center For College Planning please **click here**.



**Your next Dean's List will be sent in March. We will break down the Award Letter and detail various options to help you fill any unmet need. In the meantime, continue to search for local scholarship opportunities!**

*The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that provide students and families with the resources and funding to pursue higher education aspirations. Funds generated by the Organizations make their charitable mission possible as student loan earnings are reinvested in programs and services that benefit citizens of New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org).*