

July 2023

The NASNTI Scholarships Bulletin Board!

The NASNTI Program has created a bulletin board full of scholarship information. Located in the Boren Library, down the hall from the Virtual Lounge and Food Pantry, the board lists an array of top Native and disability organizations that specializes in awarding college scholarships. From AISES, NativeVision, CHADD, and OK-AHEAD, these establishments give insight and tips on how to search, apply, and complete a scholarship with a competitive advantage! Below, *Scholarships.com* lists strategies when searching and applying for a scholarship. For additional information, visit the *Scholarship.com* website!

One of the best things about scholarships is that for the most part, they reward the applicants who put forth the most effort. Like teachers who can instantly spot a sloppy homework assignment, scholarship judges can identify poorly composed applications without lifting a finger. Depending upon the award and how many students participate, the process of eliminating underqualified students can be competitive at best...and downright ruthless at worst. You may already be thinking "They won't pick me, so why waste my time?" Not true: The financial assistance obtainable through scholarships is worth it, even if you don't receive an award from each and every scholarship that you apply to.

Most of the students who succeeded in earning scholarships did so for two reasons: 1.) They met the criteria outlined by the scholarship sponsor, 2.) They approached the application process strategically and were selective in their pursuit of scholarship opportunities. It's that simple. There is no magic recipe that will help you win a scholarship. What there is, however, is a time-tested strategy that many students find incredibly helpful in organizing their scholarship search. The students who apply these techniques usually come out ahead in the end.

Make a list. *Gather the information for all of the scholarship offers that you are qualified to apply for. The latter part of this suggestion is essential — do not spend valuable time applying for scholarships for which your GPA, major, community involvement requirement or any other criteria does not meet the standard. There are likely hundreds of awards for which you specifically qualify, so focus your attention on those. Read through your list and eliminate all awards that you are not qualified for.*

Access each individual opportunity. *This will take time but your investment will pay off. After narrowing down your list so that it only includes the scholarships that are most relevant, consider the following categories: Deadlines. How long do you have to complete the scholarship? Difficulty of preparation. Considering the deadline, do you have time to thoroughly prepare for this award? Award amount. How much is the award worth? If it is only worth a few hundred bucks, consider whether or not you are willing to spend your time on it. Keep in mind that every little bit does help and that you have a greater chance at receiving slightly smaller awards as opposed to full tuition grants simply because they are less competitive. (Scholarships.com, 2023)*

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