

**Academic Woes Don't Have to Create Financial Woes:  
Invest in your Academic and  
Financial Future**

Presented by the Academic Achievement & Retention Center

Feb 10, 2026

The Forum—Student Center

Presented by Dr. Monique Robinson, Student Success Specialist,  
and Mr. Michael Turner, Writing Consultant and Instructor

This handout will contain scholarships mentioned during the presentation (including several not mentioned.)

Also, this handout will contain the workshop portion addressing scholarships.

**Scholarship Writing Prompts**

Envision yourself as highly intelligent. List what that would be like, what you would do, etc. (Spend about 90 seconds freewriting, listing, or mind-mapping[clustering].)

Envision yourself as hilarious. What would that be like, what would you say, etc? (Spend about 90 seconds freewriting, listing, or mind-mapping[clustering].)

Envision yourself as wealthy. What would that be like; what would you do, be, or have; etc? (Spend about 90 seconds freewriting, listing, or mind-mapping[clustering].)

You have done the writing preparation (pre-writing) for a \$10,000 scholarship.

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship>  
**\$10,000 Unigo 10K Sch, D: Dec 31, 2026**

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships>  
Other Unigo scholarships, deadlines monthly, such as the **\$1,500 Sweet and Simple Scholarship**, **\$2,500 Superpower Scholarship**, **\$2,000 Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship**, and the **\$5,000 Education Matters Scholarship**.

**First Principle of the Scholarship Mindset**

We as humans are prediction machines. We predict what will happen in the future, and we act accordingly.

While this seems to be reality, we often don't understand the bias in our perceptions.

Research has shown that people often think they know what will make them happy in the future, but . . . they are statistically wrong.

We predict the future, but we don't know the future.

First principle of the scholarship mindset is

You don't know the future, you just think you do.

*It is better to apply than not to apply at all.*

Further study:

<https://www.npr.org/2017/08/21/545097480/you-2-0-why-were-bad-at-predicting-our-own-happiness-and-how-we-can-get-better>

“You 2.0: Why We’re Bad at Predicting Our Own Happiness—and How We Can Get Better”  
An interview with Dan Gilbert, Aug 21, 2017.

Gilbert, Daniel. *Stumbling on Happiness*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

### Scholarships that Don't Require a GPA

1. <https://www.digitalresponsibility.org/scholarships>

**\$1,000 Digital Responsibility Scholarships**

140-character scholarships

2. <https://bold.org/scholarships/redefining-victory-scholarship/>

**\$2,500 Redefining Victory Scholarship, D: Apr 1, 2026, eight awarded**

Education level: Any

“[S]ubmit a 2 minute video describing what success looks like for you and how this [scholarship] will help you achieve it.”

3. <https://dosomething.org/pays-to-do-good>

**\$250-\$10,000 DoSomething Scholarships, Deadlines vary**

**\$1,500 Project STEM Heros Scholarship, D: Feb 26, 2026**

**\$500 Street Sweep Scholarship, D: Mar 31, 2026**

**\$250 Ripple Effect Scholarship, D: Mar 31, 2026**

From webpage: “Are you between the ages of 13 and 25 years old and live in the U.S. (or are a U.S. citizen, but living abroad), interested in volunteering, and looking for scholarship opportunities? Then you’re in the right spot.

Enter for the opportunity to earn a scholarship by doing community service. No essays, no GPA requirements, no recommendations, no applications...and you can enter multiple scholarships. Official rules apply.”

These scholarships can range from \$250 to \$10,000, so I would recommend checking every two weeks or so.

Other Social Action campaigns: <https://dosomething.org/act-and-lead?opportunityType=action&opportunityType=leadership&useCausesAsFilter=true&lastPublishedAt=2025-01-01T22%3A02%3A51Z&lastScore=0.017701896347584716>

### **More Scholarships and Other Opportunities that Don’t Require a GPA**

1. <https://poet.com/neversatisfied>

**\$5,000 or \$2,500 POET Never Satisfied Scholarship, D: Feb 13, 2026**

Selected criteria from website:

#### **“What are the criteria for a POET Scholarship?”**

- Must be currently enrolled at an accredited two- or four-year postsecondary school or technical institute
  - High school seniors who will be attending a two- or four-year postsecondary school the following fall are eligible
  - Graduate students are eligible to apply
  - Must be majoring/minoring in Agriculture, Finance, Accounting, Communications, Engineering, Computer Science, Human Resources, or related degrees or minors.
- Must be located in the United States
- International students attending school in the U.S. are eligible; however, there may be withholding requirements

Applications are accepted through our website and consist of three essay-formatted questions and an optional project submission. Applications for the Never Satisfied Scholarship close on February 13, 2026.”

2. <https://www.parkerdewey.com/career-launchers>

**Micro-internships** are “**short-term, paid, professional** projects are open to all college students and recent graduates of U.S.-based institutions.”

3. <https://www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm>  
**\$10,000 Create-A-Greeting Card Scholarship, D: Mar 9, 2026**

From webpage: “**\$10,000 For Best Original Artwork**

Submit your original artwork for a chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship and have your design featured by the leading publisher of premium quality cards in the United States since 1929! Start designing your greeting card today for this incredible opportunity. The winning entry will be turned into a genuine greeting card by The Gallery Collection.

Sign up for Contest Updates to be notified when voting begins and to stay informed about the latest Contest news. Also, be sure to "Like" and "Share" us on your favorite social media platform so family and friends can participate and support your entry!”

4. <https://stosselintheclassroom.org/video-contest/>  
**\$2,500 Stossel in the Classroom Video Contest, D: Mar 13, 2026**

The video contest category is open to college students, but Stossel in the Classroom has scholarships for middle school and high school students in the Video category.

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/contests/>

**Essay and Video Contests for middle school and high school students.** If you’re a middle school or high school teacher, these contests can be made into classroom assignments with several steps.

If you’re a middle school or high school student, there are several videos and helpful information to help you write an essay. And you can tell your teachers about this competition.

5. <https://bold.org/scholarships/jessie-koci-future-entrepreneurs-scholarship/>  
**\$1,500 Jessie Koci Future Entrepreneurs Scholarship, D: Mar 19, 2026**

From webpage: “**Eligibility Requirements**

Education Level: High school senior or freshman in college

Career Goal: Future entrepreneur

Any current high school senior or freshman in college who is interested in higher education to support their entrepreneurial aspirations may apply for this scholarship.

To apply, answer the below questions in a short essay.

### Essay Topic

- What higher education field are you planning to study or are currently studying and why have you chosen it?
- Why have you planned an entrepreneurial career?
- Why will you be successful in your business endeavors while so many are not? In general, what does a successful life look like to you? (400–600 words)”

### 6. <https://bold.org/scholarships/>

If undergraduate level, choose “Undergraduate” under **Education Level** and “Open” under **Any Status**.

If graduate level, choose “Graduate” under **Education Level** and “Open” under **Any Status**.

Here are some upcoming scholarships administered by Bold.org:

<https://bold.org/scholarships/redefining-victory-scholarship/>

**\$2,500 Redefining Victory Scholarship, D: Apr 1, 2026, eight awarded**

Education level: Any; “[S]ubmit a 2 minute video describing what success looks like for you and how this [scholarship] will help you achieve it.”

<https://bold.org/scholarships/lyndsey-scott-coding-plus-scholarship/>

**Total scholarships: \$10,000; Lyndsey Scott Coding+ Scholarship, D: Apr 30, 2026**

Major: Computer science; Education Level: High school senior & Undergraduate;

Identification: LGBTQIA+, Women, and/or BIPOC

<https://bold.org/scholarships/minority-bipoc-students-in-stem-scholarship/>

**\$5,000 Minority/BIPOC Students in STEM Scholarship, D: Apr 25, 2026**

Educational level: High school or undergraduate student; Field of Study: Environmental or civil engineering, geology, or environmental science; Race: BIPOC from Oregon, Idaho, or Washington

### 7. <https://www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>

**\$1,000 Scholarship for Women Writers, D: May 30, 2026**

Also, up to two \$250 honorable mentions will be awarded.

Open to women worldwide who are “pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature at a recognized post-secondary institution in 2026-2027, commencing or continuing to pursue a bachelor’s, master’s, or Ph.D degree.”

Click on the link above for 2026 guidelines.

8. <https://www.aspirehigherscholarships.com/>

**Up to \$10,000 Aspire Higher Scholarships, opens Mar 13, 2026, closes June 10, 2026**

Selected criteria from webpage:

**3 Undergraduate Scholar Awards**—for students pursuing undergraduate or vocational/technical degrees

**3 Graduate Scholar Awards**—for students pursuing graduate degrees

*You may only apply within one category. Students pursuing technical/vocational degrees or certificates may be eligible.*

**The Ortho Dermatologics ASPIRE HIGHER Scholarship Program** recognizes persons in the United States who have been diagnosed with and treated for a dermatologic condition (such as acne, rosacea, eczema, atopic dermatitis, or actinic keratosis) who are pursuing higher education.”

Click on the link above for more information.

9. <https://bold.org/scholarships/ronranglee-special-needs-teacher-literary-scholarship/>

**\$2,000 RonranGlee Special Needs Teacher Literacy Scholarship, D: June 18, 2026, five awarded**

Education level: high school senior, undergraduate, or graduate student

Field of study: Special Education

From website:

“Essay Topic:

Why are you passionate about the special education teacher profession?

"I have learned that the purpose of teaching is to bring the student to his or her sense of his or her own presence." - Professor Harold Bloom, *Possessed by Memory*. Professor Bloom was a Humanities professor at Yale, with 65 years of teaching experience.

Explain how you would guide your special needs students to experiencing a sense of their own presence by first defining this statement followed by your mission in accomplishing this task.

Optional: Create a brief Fairy Tale with you as the protagonist, as in hero or heroine, accomplishing your goal.

(400–2000 words)”

10. <https://bold.org/scholarships/stephan-l-daniels-lift-as-we-climb-scholarship/>  
**\$5,000 Stephen L. Daniels Lift As We Climb Scholarship, D: June 30, 2026**

Educational Level : High school senior or undergraduate student

Race: African American/Black

Major: STEM field

Essay Topic: Why do you want to pursue a career in STEM and how will you use the degree to help uplift the community? (400–600 words)

11. <https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/search/pen-to-paper-scholarship-for-storytellers/>  
**\$1,000 “Pen to Paper” Scholarship for Storytellers, D: Oct 31, 2026**

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Do you fancy yourself a wordsmith? If you value creative writing as a form of communication, we encourage you to apply for the Pen to Paper Scholarship for Storytellers! Whether you’re interested in poetry, short stories, novels, or screenplays, we want to hear from you.

This scholarship is open to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students who enjoy crafting stories and expressing ideas through the arrangement of words on paper. To apply for this scholarship, students must submit a 250-word piece of original creative writing.

Please note that applicants will be reviewed based on both the quality of their essay and quantity of scholarships applied for on the Scholarships360 platform. Scholarships360 users who are more active on the platform will be given higher consideration. Happy writing!

Essay prompt: [Note: Please only respond to 1 of the following 3 prompts]1. If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be? What would be your weakness? 2. Write a short story using the following three words as a foundation – (1) friendship, (2) abrupt, (3) repair 3. Describe a day in the life of an inanimate object.

Maximum 250 words”

## **Second Principle of the Scholarship Mindset**

Adopt a growth mindset vs. a fixed mindset.

If you have a fixed mindset, you believe that knowledge is innate, that you are born with certain abilities and strengths, that learning is fixed and an individual can’t improve. (Example: I am not good at math.)

If you have a growth mindset, you believe that you can learn and develop your abilities and strengths, that you can start small and build upon previous knowledge.

Become aware of your thoughts (self talk) and question them.  
Is the thought a product of a fixed mindset or a growth mindset?

Adopt a growth mindset if you find the thought is fixed (“I can never get this right.”).

Realize you can learn by taking small steps and encouraging your curiosity.

Second principle of the scholarship mindset is

Everything is an opportunity to learn and add to my knowledge and abilities.

***If an activity makes you uncomfortable, view it as an opportunity to learn and to make small improvements toward mastery (or competence).***

Further study:

<https://fs.blog/carol-dweck-mindset/>

Ward, Shane. “Carol Dweck on the Power of Mindset.” *Farnam Street*, 1 Oct. 2015.

Dweck, Carol S. *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. Updated ed., Ballantine Books, 2016.

Le Cunff, Anne-Laure. *Tiny Experiments: How to Live in a Goal-Obsessed World*. Avery, 2025.

### **Scholarships for Mid GPA (2.0-2.9)**

1. <https://www.regions.com/about-regions/inclusion-belonging-impact/supporting-communities/essay-contest-scholarship>

**\$8,000 Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest, D: Mar 31, 2026 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter**

Other deadlines: June 30, 2026 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter; Sept 30, 2026 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter; and Dec 31, 2026 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

Written Essay or Video Essay

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Their Story. Your Voice.

Your voice is your own but it’s also been shaped by others along the way. Who, we wonder, has inspired you in an extraordinary way?



For the opportunity to win an \$8,000 scholarship, submit a video or written essay about an individual you know personally (who lives in your community) who has inspired you in an extraordinary way.

#### Eligibility

For purposes of this contest:

- The “Eligible States” are defined as the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

To be eligible to enter this contest and to win an award in a Quarterly Contest, at the time of entry, you must:

- Be a legal U.S. resident of one of the Eligible States.
- Be age 16 or older.
- Have at least one (1) year (or at least 18 semester hours) remaining before your undergraduate college graduation.
- If you are not yet in college, begin your freshman year of college no later than the start of the 2027 – 2028 college academic school year.
- As of your most recent school enrollment period, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 in school (and if no GPA is provided at school, be in “good standing” or the equivalent thereof in school).”

For more details, click on the link above.

2. <https://bcbstnews.com/scholarship/>

**\$10,000 BlueCross Power of We Scholarship, D: Apr 1, 2026, six given**

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Outstanding Tennessee college students who are studying for careers in health care can earn one of six \$10,000 BlueCross Power of We Scholarships.

Each year, the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation awards \$10,000 scholarships to students based on their outstanding achievements in community service, leadership, and academics, as well as their commitment to improving health care across the state.

#### Scholarship details

Undergraduate and graduate students of all backgrounds are invited to apply. Awardees will be chosen by an internal BlueCross selection committee and must meet the following criteria:

- Graduate or undergraduate students working to obtain a degree in health care, pursue a career in the field of health care and improve health care for Tennesseans
- Classified as at least a college sophomore by application deadline
- Minimum 2.5 academic GPA (4.0 scale)

- Tennessee resident with permanent Tennessee address
- Enrolled at an accredited college/university within the state of Tennessee and planning to enroll in the 2026-2027 school year

The \$10,000 award is paid out in one lump sum and is distributed by the recipient's university."

### 3. <https://shawncartersf.com/scholarship/>

#### **Shawn Carter Foundation Scholarships, open Apr 1, deadline Apr 30, 2026**

All high school seniors, students with GED diplomas, undergraduate (2yr or 4yr) college students, and students at vocational or trade schools who meet the requirements below are eligible.

GPA: 2.0 or higher

"Requirements:

- US Citizen or Permanent Resident
- 25 years old or younger
- Minimum 2.0 GPA – *First-time scholarship recipients generally have GPAs between 2.0 and 3.0 (students with GPAs above this range are still encouraged to apply)*
- Demonstrated Financial Need – *On average, selected applicants have an annual household adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$75,000 or less*
- Students pursuing their first undergraduate degree at an accredited, degree-granting institution

...we take many factors into consideration when determining your candidacy for the scholarship. Leadership, community service, socio-economic factors, the quality of your essay and other strengths are all taken into account in the decision making process.

Our typical scholarship recipients demonstrate resilience in the face of hardship, give back to their communities, and have GPAs between 2.0 and 3.0. Students with GPAs above this range are still encouraged to apply."

### 4. <https://tmcf.org/scholarships/open-scholarships/>

#### **Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarships**

TSU is a Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) school.

**GPA: 2.75 or higher**

**Up to \$15,000, 2026-2027 TMCF/McDonald's Black and Positively Golden Scholarship, D: Apr 24, 2026**

“Eligibility Requirements:

- Be enrolled full-time as an undergraduate freshman, sophomore, junior or senior attending an HBCU during the 2026-2027 academic year
- Current cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or higher
- Must be able to demonstrate leadership abilities
- Must be able to demonstrate a financial need
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

All Applicants Must:

Answer the following essay question in 100 words:

- What values are most important to you for making a positive difference in your community and future career? How will you show those values in school and when working with others?”

**Up to \$1,500 TMCF/Enterprise Access HBCC Scholarship, D: Apr 24, 2026**

“Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a full-time enrolled student at a TMCF HBCC member school during the 2026-2027 academic year
- Open to all majors
- Current cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher
- Must have the 2026-2027 FAFSA on file at your selected university/college by the time of selection
- Must be able to demonstrate a financial need
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

All applicants must:

Create a two-minute video responding to the following:

- What core principles or values do you believe are most essential to creating positive change in your community and future career field? How do you plan to embody them in both your educational pursuits and interactions with others?”

**The Thurgood Marshall College Fund** offers more than just scholarships. Check out the whole range of programs here: <https://tmcf.org/>

**More Scholarships for Mid GPA (2.0-2.9)**

1. <https://cof.org/page/community-foundation-locator>

**First, find a Community Foundation close to you**—By using the Community Foundation locator, you can find community foundations close to your permanent residence. Some community foundations serve a large city or a section of your state.

See if the community foundation administers scholarships or other programs that might be helpful to you.

**Second, search for a community foundation close to Tennessee State University (or a college or graduate school you want to attend in the future).**

For Scholarship Tigers (current students at Tennessee State University and future TSU students), the community foundation closest to TSU is the **Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT)**.

The deadline for most CFMT scholarships is February 1, 2026, but you will now know this for the future.

2. <https://tnstate.academicworks.com/opportunities>

### **TSU Foundation Scholarships May Be Open**

The Tennessee State University Foundation Scholarships may be open, and only TSU students (and in some cases, those soon to be) can apply for Foundation scholarships.

For an overview of the different TSU scholarships, click the link above.

Once you have reviewed some of the scholarship opportunities, you can use your TSU username and password to complete the General

Application: [https://tnstate.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://tnstate.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)

You won't finish the General Application in one sitting, so save as you go along and you can come back to finish later.

Also, once you have completed the General Application, you will get notice within the database of scholarships you might be qualified for, but the system will need more information from you.

For example, the \$5,000 Amos-Leon' and Brenda Wills Otis Scholarship will have supplemental requirements, such as

1. Please upload your current resume
2. Are you a graduate of LEAD Academy in Nashville TN?
3. Did you attach a letter of recommendation from a LEAD Academy alumni, faculty, or administrator?

There are several more scholarships available, so apply!

Qualifying for a TSU Foundation scholarship does not guarantee you will receive the scholarship.

***Several TSU students have set up multiple appointments with writing consultants in the TSU Writing Center to review their applications as they build them, and some have successfully received scholarships from the TSU Foundation.***

3. <https://www.beyondtheboroughs.org/>

**\$5,000 (\$20,000 over four years total) Beyond the Boroughs Scholarship, D: Mar 15, 2026**

Eligibility: High school seniors or current college students with unmet financial need and acceptance to an accredited college. GPA of 2.5 or higher. Involvement in an extra-curricular activity or work.

### **Third Principle of the Scholarship Mindset**

Many people dream and vision the best possible outcomes (“Dream big.”).

When their lives fall short of their dreams (their vision) , they often feel like a failure.

They can’t see how they will ever get to their big dreams from where they are now.

They then give up, seeing themselves as failures.

I came across an idea from Dan Sullivan where he says use the Ideal as a place to create the vision from, but you will never reach that Ideal.

Instead use the Ideal as a way to create the vision, and then set measurable goals that get you closer to that Ideal.

Measure progress not by your Ideal, but by how much progress you made from the goal.

“Most people, especially highly ambitious people, are unhappy because of how they measure their progress. We all have an “ideal,” a moving target that is always out of reach. When we measure ourselves against that ideal, we’re in “the GAP.” However, when we measure ourselves against our previous selves, we’re in “the GAIN.”-Dan Sullivan

“The way to measure your progress is backward against where you started, not against your ideal.” – Dan Sullivan

**Third principle of the scholarship mindset is**

**While dreaming big, set small, actionable goals. Measure progress from where you start to where you end up.**

***Every step you make toward your goals is a step forward, no matter how small.***

Further Study:

<https://www.strategiccoach.com/resources/the-multiplier-mindset-blog/how-to-measure-success-in-business-effectively-with-a-proven-system-the-gap-and-the-gain>

“How To Measure Success In Business Effectively With A Proven System (The Gap And The Gain).” Blog post by Dan Sullivan

<https://alexandriastylebook.com/alexandria-stylebook/harvey-measure-achievement-backward-and-live-in-the-gain-august-3-2023>

Garstka, Johnny. “Measure Achievement Backward and Live in the Gain.” Blog post.

Sullivan, Dan, and Benjamin Hardy. *The Gap and The Gain: The High Achievers’ Guide to Happiness, Confidence, and Success*. Hay House Business, 2021.

### ***Example of the Ideal and Goals***

Your ideal may be, “I will pay for all 4 years of college through scholarships, internships, and other money and graduate completely debt-free.”

One goal may be, “Today, I will apply for three scholarships.”

However, perhaps the next day, you go, “I applied for one Digital Responsibility scholarship and only worked 20 minutes on the TSU Foundation scholarships application.”

You might go, “I failed. I didn’t apply to three scholarships. I’m a failure. I’ll never apply to enough scholarships.”

You started yesterday at zero (no scholarship entries) to having applied to a simple one and worked 20 minutes on another scholarship application.

Measuring from where you started (zero) to where you ended up (small steps toward your goal), you made progress. If you measure from the Ideal, you may never get to where you want to go.

### **Scholarships with High GPA (3.0+)**

1. <https://www.poncelaw.com/2026-perspectives-scholarship/>

**\$1,000 2026 Perspectives Scholarship, D: Feb 28, 2026**

Selected criteria from webpage:

“The Scholarship will be awarded to a student currently living in Tennessee or a student who will be going to a college or university in Tennessee.

### Eligibility

- The scholarship is open to any current high school senior, vocational student, college student or graduate student who is a legal resident of the United States residing in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia and who is enrolled in a vocational program or a two to four-year post-secondary institution.
- Candidates for this scholarship should have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher and be in good overall academic standing.
- Proof of Tennessee residence or a Tennessee College student account will be needed before the scholarship check is issued to the institution of the scholarship winner's choice.

### Application Requirements

- The candidate must submit a **750-1,000** word essay response to the prompt: What is a belief you once held but have since changed your mind about, and what caused you to change your mind?
  - Please note that all essays will be checked for AI writing. The application will be denied if AI writing is deemed present in the essay.
- The candidate must submit a professional resumé that lists their experience, both professional and academic.
- High school students can submit proof of acceptance to their college or university."

2. <https://www.sae.org/scholarships/mozley-scholarship>

**\$5,000 Donald and Barbara Mozley Scholarship for engineering undergraduate students, D: Feb 28, 2026, seven awarded**

Selected criteria from webpage:

"Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Resident
- Open to all applicants - freshman through senior
- Applicant must have a minimum *unweighted* 3.50 high school GPA for incoming freshmen; 3.0 cumulative college GPA for upperclassmen
- Pursue an engineering or related science degree through an ABET accredited program.
- Provide two (2) Letters of Recommendation - one (1) that focuses on academics and one (1) that outlines involvement in extra-curricular activities or employment
- FAFSA Form (Maximum EFC # \$15,000)
- Applicant should be able to detail the importance of their desired major in industry today and the future contributions they hope to make.
- Applicant must outline participation in a STEM activity in or out of school OR outline involvement as a STEM mentor/volunteer and what was gained from the experience."

<https://www.sae.org/scholarships>

**Other Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) scholarships**, awarding scholarship money to both undergraduate and graduate engineering students

3. <https://bold.org/scholarships/raise-me-up-to-do-good/>

**\$1,500 Raise me Up to DO GOOD Scholarship, D: Mar 15, 2026, two awarded**

Open to high school seniors, undergraduates, or trade school students with a 3.0 GPA or higher  
“who were raised in a single-parent or blended-family home”

Essay Topic: “Share how your experience being raised in a single-parent or blended family household has impacted you and your future goals. Describe a future where you're able to use your talents to do good and help people - even if you don't know what career you'll enter into yet!” (400–600 words)

### **Scholarships—Future Opportunities to Watch For**

Be on the lookout for these scholarships in the future. Projected deadlines are based on past deadlines and they may change for 2026.

These are not listed in any particular order.

1. <https://www.tylenol.com/tylenol-future-care-scholarship>

**Tylenol Future Care Scholarships, \$10,000 scholarship, award to 10 students; \$5,000 scholarship, awarded to 25 students**

Annual scholarships awarded to students pursuing careers in healthcare.

Deadline likely around Aug 1, 2026.

2. <https://www.tacobellfoundation.org/live-mas-scholarship/>

**\$25,000; \$10,000, and \$5,000 Taco Bell Live Mas Scholarship, Opens around Oct 14, 2026; possible deadline: Jan 6, 2027**

**You can sign up to receive notice when this scholarship opens.**

Video or short essay, no GPA requirement, ages 16-26 as of deadline, legal resident of the 50 U.S. States or and the District of Columbia (“D.C.”) located within the United States or D.C., or the dependent child of an active-duty member of the U.S. military

*Note: I met a student last semester attending TSU who had received the Taco Bell Live Mas Scholarship. It can be done! Apply in the future even if you have doubts.*

3. <https://www.tun.com/scholarships/the-hyundai-women-in-stem-scholarship/>

**\$10,000 Hyundai Women in STEM Scholarship, five recipients, most likely opens in Mar 2026, deadline around June 30, 2026**



A 500+ word essay on a tech project or initiative question, open to high school seniors and college undergraduates who are female or identify as female, reside in the U.S., and wish to pursue a STEM-related field of education.

The above link takes you to the 2025 question, so you can get an idea of what type of questions are asked.

***Here's an idea for a plan: make weekly appointments in the TSU Writing Center, working on strengthening your writing skills. When the question becomes available, work through several drafts with the writing consultants at TSU reviewing and offering suggestions (I would suggest not focusing on just one writing consultant but using several).***

4. <https://www.scarlettfoundation.org/students/>

**\$2,500-\$30,000 Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarships, opens Sept 15, 2026, deadline will be Dec 15, 2026: for Business, Education, and STEM major from the Middle Tennessee area**

Check the link above for more information.

### **Scholarship Coaching**

**Let's look for some scholarships for your major and your situation**

Reach out to Michael Turner at [mjturner@tnstate.edu](mailto:mjturner@tnstate.edu) if you want to set up scholarship coaching or make an appointment through EAB.

### **More Scholarships (Yes, Even More)!**

<https://www.endcyberbullying.net/scholarship>

**\$1,000 Delete Cyberbullying Scholarships, three scholarships**

“To apply, you must be a high school student (9th-12th grader), college student or graduate student attending or planning to enter an accredited U.S. college or university. Selection is based on the written statement and focused on creativity, content and commitment to the cause of deleting cyberbullying.”

<https://www.projectyellowlight.com/>

**\$8,000 and \$2,000 Project Light Video and Radio Competition, D: Apr 1, 2026**

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Who should apply?”

High school juniors and seniors between the ages of 14 and 20 who will complete graduation requirements by or before July 31, 2026 or 2027, and undergraduate college students between the ages of 15 and 25. The winning applicants will receive a scholarship toward the school of their choice (college, university, junior college or trade school, technical school) or associated school fees.

How much is the scholarship?

FOR THE VIDEO CONTEST: The first-place finishers in both the high school and college/trade school contests will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$8,000.

FOR THE RADIO CONTEST: The first-place finishers in both the high school and college/trade school contests will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

Project Yellow Light is a scholarship competition designed to bring about **change**.

People know distracted driving is dangerous, but they do it anyway. As an applicant you have one clear mission: create a PSA to encourage your friends to avoid distracted driving, specifically using your phone while driving. Whether it's sending a text, commenting on a photo, or messaging your friends in your favorite app, it's never ok to drive distracted. Together, we can spread the word and help keep our roads safer."

<https://bold.org/scholarships/isaac-yunhu-lee-memorial-arts-scholarship/>  
**\$25,250 Isaac Yunhu Lee Memorial Arts Scholarship, D: Apr 8, 2026**

From webpage:

Education Level: High school junior or senior, undergraduate

Background: Low-income

Major: Arts

Abstract artist Pablo Picasso once said, "every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Being an artist can take on many different forms, and humans are unique in their ability to create original ideas and art that contributes something to the world. The Isaac Lee Memorial Arts Scholarship looks to provide funding to a student taking the next step in their artistic journey by going to art school.

Low-income students in their junior and senior years of high school or in undergraduate school are eligible to apply if they are planning to attend or are currently attending art school. To apply, please write about a favorite piece of art you've created and what inspired its creation.

Please attach an image of a favorite piece of art you've created and write about what inspired its creation. (400-600 words)"

## **Where to Find Writing Help and Scholarship Coaching at the AARC Writing Center at TSU**

The AARC Writing Center at TSU assists students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Tennessee State University.

Appointments can be in person or online.

We can help you with scholarship essays, resumes, applications, or any other writing project.

We are temporarily located in the Brown-Daniel Library, room 229, 2nd floor, near the elevator, from 8:00 am-4:30 pm, M-Th, 8:00 am-4:00 pm F.

Our contact information (EAB links, email addresses, and phone numbers) can be found here:  
<https://www.tnstate.edu/asc/writing.aspx>

Ms. Rhonda Kavan, Writing Center coordinator; Dr. Shiloh Carroll, Writing Consultant; Ms. Lori Danley, Writing Consultant; and Mr. Mike Turner, Writing Consultant

You can also set up a scholarship coaching session (either online or in person) with Mr. Mike Turner, [mjturner@tnstate.edu](mailto:mjturner@tnstate.edu), where we look for scholarships and other money tailored to your major and your situation.

Find more scholarships to fund a more money, less college debt education at <https://scholarshiptigers.com/>

## **Addendum: How to Become a Millionaire Before You're 65**

### ***Becoming a Millionaire is Not Difficult***

While debt and the many ways to spend your money are emphasized in our culture, an alternative exists: saving money for the long term.

[https://osuokc.edu/site-files/documents/cost-aid/savings-growth-chart.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://osuokc.edu/site-files/documents/cost-aid/savings-growth-chart.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

"Savings Growth Chart." Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. Accessed 8 Feb. 2026.

The above chart shows what would happen if you save for the long term at 8% annual interest rate with weekly contributions. That rate of return is the average found in a good IRA S & P 500 index fund. (7%-8% APR is the better percentage rate that fits more within reality).

As the chart mentions, "The more money you save and the earlier you begin saving, the more your money will grow."

For example, if you save \$10 a week, starting at age 20 (\$40 a month, \$520 for the year), you will have \$228,563 by the age of 65.

If you save \$50 a week, starting at age 20 (\$200 a month, \$2,600 a year), you will have \$2,285,634 by the age of 65.

### ***Starting Early is the Key***

<https://www.eecu.org/EECU/media/pdfs/Worksheet-Save-to-be-a-Millionaire.pdf>

EECU. *Save to Be a Millionaire Worksheet*. Accessed 8 Feb. 2026.

This worksheet better explains the concepts of **compound interest** and the different saving instruments, such as an IRA or a Roth IRA.

Since the chart uses a more optimistic 12% average rate of return, Ben, who starts saving at age 19 and contributes \$2,000 a year for eight years and doesn't contribute anymore, will have \$2,288,996 at age 65.

While Arthur, who doesn't start until he is 27, contributes \$2,000 a year until he is 65, will only realize a return of \$1,532,166.

The purpose of the chart is to show the extra money you can get if you begin saving early.

Handout researched, written, and compiled by Michael Turner, [mjturner@tnstate.edu](mailto:mjturner@tnstate.edu).