

**KYB Leadership Academy  
June 12, 2026  
Brown-Daniel Library  
Tennessee State University**

**Scholarships to Aspire To  
Part 2**

Find more curated scholarship information at the Scholarship Tigers blog:  
<https://scholarshiptigers.com/>

**Scholarships for High Schools Students to Aspire To**

The following are scholarships that you can prepare yourself for now and then apply for them in your senior year of high school.

I focus on the Middle Tennessee area.

If you are already a college student, many of these can be applied for in the future.

These scholarships are not listed in any particular order.

1. <https://www.tacobellfoundation.org/live-mas-scholarship/>  
**\$25,000; \$10,000, and \$5,000 Taco Bell Live Mas Scholarship, Opens around mid-Oct of each year, deadline often in Jan of the next year.**

**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.*

2. <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 of each year, deadline is around June 30 of each year**

A 500-word or less essay open to high school seniors and college undergraduates who 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 2026 question.

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

**\$8,000 Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest, two scholarships for a written essay awarded for each quarter, two scholarships for video awarded for each 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.

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

**up to \$30,000 Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarships, opens Sept 15 of each year; closes around Dec 15 of each year.; for Business, Education, and STEM majors from the Middle Tennessee area**

“Scholarships are available to individuals who:

- Have obtained a high school diploma or GED as a resident of one of the qualifying Middle Tennessee counties
- Intend to enroll full-time as a college freshman, sophomore, junior or 4th year senior for the upcoming academic year
- Demonstrate financial need, as determined by a 1040 tax return and the cost of tuition at the college or university you plan to attend
- Plan to pursue a Business, Education or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) degree at a 4-year, not-for-profit college or university

For applicants who are seniors in high school, a minimum ACT score of 21 and a GPA of 2.5 or higher are required.

Click the link above for more information.

5. <https://shawncartersf.com/scholarship/>

**Shawn Carter Foundation Scholarships, open Apr 1 of each year, deadline Apr 30 of each year**

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.

“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.”

6. <https://www.cfmt.org/scholars/apply-for-scholarships/>

**Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee scholarships, opens Dec 1 of every year; deadline is Feb 1 of next year.**

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee administers many scholarships.

Here is the Scholarship Showcase, allowing you to plan for possible scholarships:

<https://www.cfmt.org/scholars/find-scholarships/>

7. <https://bold.org/scholarships/isaac-yunhu-lee-memorial-arts-scholarship/>

**\$25,250 Isaac Yunhu Lee Memorial Arts Scholarship, check in early every year before April**

From webpage:

Education Level: High school junior or senior, undergraduate

Background: Low-income

Major: Arts

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

**TSU Foundation Scholarships**

If you are accepted into Tennessee State University, you will be able to apply for the TSU Foundation Scholarships sometime in your senior year.

If you are a current TSU student, you can apply for TSU 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.

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

Once you are a TSU student or have applied to TSU, I would recommend you update your scholarship application every six months or so.

## Further Resources to Develop Your Process of Finding Scholarship Money

The following resources are books or podcasts, often featuring people who have been awarded **total scholarships worth more than \$85,000**. The last resource is a TSU podcast to help you create your own scholarship playbook.

<https://scholarshipworkshop.com/winningscholarshipsforcollege-6thedition/>

**WINNING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE, 6<sup>th</sup> ed** by Marianne Ragins, \$400,000 scholarship winner

<https://tinyurl.com/yxkbhc4n>

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AVERAGE STUDENTS: KEY STRATEGIES TO HELP HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIP MONEY WITHOUT TOP GRADES** by Marianne Ragins, 2025.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7rwfhh>

**SCHOLARS & DOLLARS: HOW TO GET ADMITTED, WIN SCHOLARSHIPS AND JUMP-START YOUR FUTURE** by Ben Kaplan, 2025.--Ben Kaplan, who won a little over \$90,000 to go to Harvard virtually debt free, has made his book available for 99 cents in the Kindle edition. I have a copy of this book. I don't own a Kindle; I read it on my phone using the Kindle app that I downloaded for free.

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

**Dave Peterson, known as Dave the Scholarship Coach, has a scholarship podcast called SCHOLARSHIP GPS.** Dave helped his son graduate debt-free with about \$100,000 in scholarships. I have signed up for the free version of his scholarship newsletter.

<https://tinyurl.com/mtuah32r>

**THE "C" STUDENTS GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS** by Felecia Hatcher, Winner of \$100,000 in scholarships to go to college even though she was a C student in high school (2.1-2.7 GPA) and was advised by her high school counselor to not attend college. This resource was published in 2012; while the websites may be out of date, the techniques can still be valid.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-life-designers-podcast/id1666605404>

**The Life Designers' Podcast: The You First Project at TSU**

On whatever podcast platform you prefer, look for The Life Designers' Podcast to find this show. The latest episode is **The Scholarship Playbook: Winning Strategies with Mr. Turner and Ms. Williams.**

## **More Information about the Scholarship Mindset**

This handout will be posted at the Scholarship Tigers Blog: <https://scholarshiptigers.com/>

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Mike Turner, Writing Consultant/Instructor and Scholarship Coach, [mjturner@tnstate.edu](mailto:mjturner@tnstate.edu)

For a deep dive into the components of the Scholarship Mindset, please refer to the 20-page PDF handout, “Academic Woes Don’t Have to Create Financial Woes: Invest in your Academic and Financial Future,” found here: <https://scholarshiptigers.com/2026/02/10/over-50000-in-scholarships-and-more-a-handout-to-propel-you-forward/>