



## Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors 'Steps to Your Future'

with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



### Scholarship Tips

Welcome back to Steps to Your Future. Today I will be giving you tips on how to find and apply for Scholarships. A Scholarship is money awarded to a student by a school, organization, or business to help pay for their education. Scholarships take time to find and apply for, but it can be worth the effort.

#### **Scholarship Sources**

There are thousands of scholarships; finding the ones you qualify for is not easy. Scholarships are given for academics, heritage, athletics, volunteer service, leadership, talent, organizations you belong to, religion, etc. Most scholarships open in January and are due in March and April.

The College Scholarships is usually the largest scholarship you will receive. The college will be award scholarships based on academic record, sports, low income, or other unique criteria. A good example is the Alumni Scholarship. If a parent graduated from a college their student could be eligible for the alumni scholarship. Go to the college website or call the Financial Aid office for more information. It is important to know the deadlines.

Alaska has two major scholarships. The **UA Scholars Award** is a \$12,000 scholarship awarded to Alaska high school students who are in the top 10% of their class at the end of their junior year as determined by their school. The **Alaska Performance Scholarship** is awarded to high school students who take a more rigorous curriculum, get good grades, and score well on college placement or work ready exams. These scholarships can only be used in Alaska.

Local Scholarships are the next excellent source for awards. – Local Scholarships can be used at colleges in state or out of state. These scholarships can be found at the the Anchorage Schools District, high school counseling department, other sources and various local websites.

Students should check: Credit Unions and Banks, Phone Company, Electric Company, Native Associations, Parent's Employment, Military, Running Club, Sports Organizations and Community Clubs like the Lions, Rotary, Sororities.

The competition can be high. Many times, these scholarships are need-based and only for the freshman year.

Community Foundations: Foundations host many scholarships.

The Alaska Community Foundation - [alaskacf.org/scholarships/](http://alaskacf.org/scholarships/) - Hosts many scholarships for students around the state. Scholarship applications start in late January. You can go to this website to view more information and tips on applying.

Mat-Su Health Foundation – [healthymatsu.org](http://healthymatsu.org) - Offers scholarships for students going into all types of medicine and social work. You must be a resident of the Mat-Su Valley.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council - <http://thecirifoundation.org> - The CIRI Foundation (TCF) offers general scholarships to full-time and part-time degree-seeking students of Alaska Native decent.

Other types of Scholarships include:

Athletic or Talent – There are the typical sports like basketball and football and there are unique sports like tennis and golf, etc., There are scholarships for the Sports Manager. Talent can include dance, debate, theatre, etc.

\* **Word of Caution** – Understand the agreement with the college. What are the extra expenses, especially when traveling with the team? What if you are injured, when does the scholarship go away? I have done a lot of research in this area and would be more than happy to share more information.

Military – Students can be eligible for scholarships if they are Descendants of parents and grandparents who served in the military, Military Wives offer a scholarship, ROTC and others.

Unique Research – Large businesses offer scholarships, Tylenol has a scholarship program, as does church groups, clothing businesses, toy makers, etc. Think of the businesses whose products you use and check their websites. The competition is not as great and some of the scholarships are generous.

Career Specific – If you know you want to be a teacher, check out teacher associations, teacher unions and businesses that sell products to teachers like apple computers, if you are majoring in political science research political organizations, interior design check with textile companies. The goal is be creative.

Websites – Proceed with caution, I do not recommend using websites where you have to provide personal information. Also, I feel this is the least effective of all ways to find a scholarship. It is a lengthy process, your personal information is shared with advertisers and the results are low.

Excellent sources to find scholarships:

**Anchorage School District – asdk12.org**

Go to the Students heading, scroll down to Counseling and Guidance, tap on Scholarships. This site is updated often.

**High School Counseling Websites**

Many high schools have a specific website with scholarship information. Go to each high school website to see what information they have to offer.

**What to Have Ready for Scholarship Applications**

- 1) Every Scholarship requires completion of an Essay – This is one of the most important steps in receiving the scholarship. Pre-writing 3 to 5 essays is very helpful in being ready to apply, then adapt the essay for that particular scholarship. Prompts will be discussed in next week's Zoom seminar.
- 2) You will need 3 to 5 Letters of Recommendation from a teacher, coach, activity sponsor, volunteer coordinator, employer, and people who know you and can write a strong letter.
- 3) A Resume that includes your educational, scholastic, activities, volunteer work and achievements.
- 4) Transcripts – Some scholarships will accept an open transcript; others want a sealed transcript. Ask your school counselor or registrar for at least 3 of each.
- 5) Financial Plan – Many scholarships have a form. They will want the following information: Sources of Assistance: Savings, Summer Job/Work Income, Parents/Guardians Contribution, Scholarships Applied For, Scholarships Awarded, Grants/Loans eligibility and the PFD. College Expenses: Tuition, (Use the most expensive school you are applying to), Books/Fees, Room & Board, Personal Expenses, Travel

Finding and winning scholarships is hard work, but it can really pay off. To view my presentation on Scholarships you may e-mail Teresa Hintze - [Hintze\\_Teresa@asdk12.org](mailto:Hintze_Teresa@asdk12.org) for access to watch.

For more information about scholarships and other college preparation information feel free to contact me at [future.inc1@gmail.com](mailto:future.inc1@gmail.com).

Our next seminar is Essay Writing on Thursday, November 5 at 6:00. Hope to see you on Zoom.

Have a great week! *Mari Jo*