



THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

A Publication of Future Focus Educational Services

February 2018

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

MAKING USE OF YOUR FINAL SEMESTER

The humorist Garrison Keillor once said, “Going to college doesn’t make you educated any more than standing in a garage makes you a car”. 2018 graduating seniors may begin to feel that once they have completed the college application process, the task of preparing themselves for higher education can be put on the back burner. Among the best lessons offered by college freshmen returning home for holiday break are heartfelt stories about their sudden immersion in the deep end of the academic swimming pool. Many have related harrowing tales of near-drowning before grasping the life-saving concepts of time management and study organization. Use the final semester of high school to develop or sharpen the kinds of survival skills that will allow you to hit the ground running, once those feet touch the campus of your choice. Education does not happen by osmosis. Make your journey of self-discovery (and academic mistakes) now while your high school teachers care about your personal growth. For excellent ideas on getting ready for the rigors of college academics, go to: <http://www.gavilan.edu/student/tutoring/handouts.php>. Of course, there are still some nuts and bolts issues remaining in the college admissions process. Be attentive in responding quickly to all college communications. Although some admissions decisions may be currently arriving, the financial aid award letters, which will eventually help determine college choices, generally won’t be sent until late March or April. However, since families have now been able to apply for the FAFSA beginning October 1, instead of January 1, some colleges are attempting to expedite award letter dates for announcing need-based aid packages. Check with your schools.

Wealthy Private Colleges’ Net Investment Income to Be Taxed What Does It Mean?

(“*InsideHigherEd.com*”, by Rick Seltzer, 1/02/18)

The new congressional tax reform package places an annual 1.4% excise tax on net investment income at an estimated several dozen colleges and universities with at least 500 students and net assets of \$500,000 per student. That includes some of the nation’s wealthiest colleges, such as **Harvard, Stanford and Princeton Universities**, but also some that fall under the tax in large part because they have relatively small student bodies, such as **Claremont McKenna College**. Taxing university earnings is new territory for the federal government, and tax planning is a new subject for much of private, nonprofit higher education. There is widespread disagreement over just how deeply a 1.4 percent excise tax on net investment income will cut into budgets at wealthy colleges and universities. Take a theoretical \$1 billion endowment and assume an annual return of 8%. The tax bill would come out to about \$1.1 million. Adding \$1 million in costs could cause some institutions to cut back on student aid. Debby Kuenstner, who has managed **Wellesley College’s** \$2 billion endowment since 2009, has said that a third of the college’s endowment income goes toward scholarships. “A million dollars is serious money to us. This is a tax bill that says, let’s invest less as a country in education, and let’s hope that those corporations that we give a big tax cut to are going to invest as wisely.” Some analysts believe taxing endowments could actually push wealthy colleges and universities to invest more in education instead of competing for prestige by stashing funds away in ever-growing endowments. “The tax at the margin shifts the incentive away from saving and toward spending,” said Thomas Gilbert, a professor of finance at the **University of Washington**. The provision is estimated to raise about \$1.8 billion in revenue over 10 years.

Quote of the Month

“The most important choice you make in choosing a college is where you choose to be your best self. If you’re prepared to bring your best self to college, then it hardly matters where you go to college. On the other hand, if you choose not to be very motivated, not to be very responsible, not to be prepared to work very hard, it doesn’t matter where you go; you probably won’t get a good education.” (Douglas Bennett, President, Earlham College, Richmond IN)

The College Connection Newsletter

Listing More than 10 Schools on the FAFSA

You are allowed to list up to 10 colleges on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you may want to exceed the 10 college limit by applying to other schools which have rolling admissions or deadlines in February and March, any new school codes that you add will replace one or more of the school codes already listed. When this change is made, any college removed from the list will not have automatic access to any new information you provide after you've removed that college. However, the college will still have the data you submitted when you listed that college on your FAFSA form. You are not deleting your FAFSA information from the college's system. You can make the information available to more than 10 colleges through one of the options listed below. There are three options that allow your added school(s) to receive an electronic copy of your SAR and you to receive an updated SAR: 1) Click Login on the home page and log in to FAFSA on the Web. You will be given the option to Make FAFSA Corrections. Remove some of the colleges listed on your FAFSA, add the additional school codes, and submit the corrections for processing; 2) Give your additional colleges your Social Security Number, name, and the Data Release Number (DRN) from your SAR so that they can add their school code to your FAFSA and receive an electronic copy of your SAR; 3) Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 and have them add the colleges for you. They will need your DRN in order to do this.

Cutting College Costs

("College, Quicker: 24 Practical Ways to Save Money and Get Your Degree Faster" by Kate Stephens)

- Save money in your parents' names. Student assets are assessed at 20 percent vs. parent assets at 5.64 percent. Instead of having your parents contribute college money to your own personal account, have them invest in a 529 plan or Coverdell Education Savings Account which is treated as parental assets regardless of whether they are held in a child or parent's name.
- Reduce liquid assets. Liquid assets include money in checking, savings, stocks, and bonds. All of this money is factored into the need analysis process, ultimately determining your financial aid package.
- Discuss any unusual financial circumstances with your college. Unexpected hardships such as a recent job loss, divorce of parents, or family illness can severely impact your family finances, but might not be evident on your FAFSA. If this is the case, make an appointment with a financial aid administrator at your college. Explain your situation and possibly provide documentation. Your college may be able to adjust your financial aid package through an appeal process called professional judgement.
- If your school charges the same tuition rate for a range of credits (i.e. 12 to 18 credits), register for 18. It's as though you are getting an extra six credits free.
- Test out of classes. Potentially earn between 3 and 12 credits simply by showing up to a testing center and taking a CLEP (<https://clep.collegeboard.org>).
- Make sure you know your college's transfer credit policy. This policy details how much credit a school will accept from an outside source. A generous transfer credit policy accepts at least one or two years of credit from traditional sources and one year from nontraditional sources like CLEP exams and prior learning portfolios.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ED OR EA DEFERRED APPLICANTS

("College Confidential")

Most schools only accept 10-20% of applicants off the deferral list after they evaluate students from regular decision. If you have been deferred, contact the school admission officer assigned to your region. You the student should make the contact, not a parent. Try to get a sense of where your application is weak and if there is any advice that the admission professional would suggest. Ask your guidance counselor to make a call since sometimes admission officers will be more candid with the guidance counselor. If the admission officer starts quoting average test scores, your test scores are likely low for that school. If you are told that the college wants to wait to see your semester grades, you may have a good shot if you are having a stellar senior year. Send one new letter of recommendation from a senior-year teacher. Do not constantly call or e-mail the admission rep or send reams of updates and new material. Annoying the admission rep will only make him/her less likely to choose you from the deferral pile. Vary the type of correspondence using the phone, e-mail and snail mail. Make sure you are applying to other schools where you have a good chance of getting in.

UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE CLAIMS OF:

“We Meet 100% of Need” OR “We are Need Blind”

Colleges get to decide what constitutes a financial aid award. Meeting 100% of need with grant or scholarship support looks a lot different than meeting it with a combination of student and parents loans from a range of government, institutional and private sources. You can be sure that the composition of your financial aid awards will vary according to the manner in which you are valued by the institution.

“Need blind” admission is a noble intention. This means: to look only at your application for admission, not your family’s financial status. In reality, funds are not unlimited and exceptions must often be made to ensure that the financial aid budget is not overspent. Each college will treat you in a manner reflective of its desire to invest in your enrollment. When you speak with college financial aid officers, don’t expect to negotiate. Rather, present an appeal that is based on new information—and hope for the best!

SUGGESTIONS FOR ED OR EA DEFERRED APPLICANTS

(“College Confidential”)

Most schools only accept 10-20% of applicants off the deferral list after they evaluate students from regular decision. If you have been deferred, contact the school admission officer assigned to your region. You the student should make the contact, not a parent. Try to get a sense of where your application is weak and if there is any advice that the admission professional would suggest. Ask your guidance counselor to make a call since sometimes admission officers will be more candid with the guidance counselor. If the admission officer starts quoting average test scores, your test scores are likely low for that school. If you are told that the college wants to wait to see your semester grades, you may have a good shot if you are having a stellar senior year. Send one new letter of recommendation from a senior-year teacher. Do not constantly call or e-mail the admission rep or send reams of updates and new material. Annoying the admission rep will only make him/her less likely to choose you from the deferral pile. Vary the type of correspondence using the phone, e-mail and snail mail. Make sure you apply to other schools where you have a good chance of getting in.

Making Changes to the CSS Profile

Once you have submitted your CSS application, you can’t change your answers electronically. If you need to correct your CSS Profile after you’ve submitted it, print out a copy of your online PROFILE Acknowledgment that includes all the information provided on your PROFILE Application and use the printed, paper version of the Acknowledgment to make corrections. Then fax, email or post-mail copies directly to the colleges and programs to which you are applying. To print your Acknowledgment, go to the PROFILE Home Page, click on “Check Status of Application,” then click on “Acknowledgment.” If you send your PROFILE information to additional colleges and programs that you have added through the ‘Add Colleges to Submitted Application’ process, you will have the opportunity to update your application responses. However, your updated data will only be reported to the added colleges or programs.

COLLEGE NEWS

+++ **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** (FL) has launched a bachelor’s degree program in aerospace physiology, which is the first of its kind in the United States. Students in the program will study how flight affects astronauts, pilots, flight crew members, and others who travel in spacecraft and aircraft.

+++ **Oregon State University** has announced a \$50 million gift from an alumnus for the university’s *College of Veterinary Medicine*. The gift, the largest ever to the veterinary college, will pay for a doubling in size of Oregon State’s Small Animal Hospital and numerous other improvements in teaching and research programs.

+++ **Turning Point USA**, a conservative nonprofit, based outside of Chicago, has a stated aim to foment a political revolution on America’s college campuses, in part by funneling money into student government elections across the country to elect right-leaning candidates. *Turning Point* touts its close relationship with the President’s family. The group may have skirted campaign-finance laws that bar charitable organizations from participating in political activity.

+++ According to the Pew Research Center, one-third of black immigrants from Africa have a college degree (35%), a higher share than the U.S. population (30%). 19% of U.S.-born blacks have college degrees.

+++ Community colleges across the country are examining possible new requirements for occupational therapy assistants to obtain bachelor’s degrees, which could result in the elimination of occupational therapy programs on their campuses. The change doesn’t affect current occupational therapists or assistants, or even students, for the next 10 years.

+++ After President Trump’s denigrating statement about people from Africa, Haiti and elsewhere, the *College Board* announced a donation of \$100,000 to the *African Leadership Academy*, which educates top students from throughout Africa to prepare them for the best colleges around the world.

COLLEGE NEWS

+++ An agreement reached in the first phase of Brexit negotiations would allow European citizens living in the United Kingdom as of the date it withdraws from the E.U. to retain their residency rights even if they leave the U.K. for up to five years. It would also allow the U.K. to continue to participate in E.U. science and student exchange programs through the end of the current budget cycle in 2020.

+++ The Department of Education said in a court filing that it had awarded contracts to collect on defaulted student loans to only two firms: *Performant Recovery Inc.* and *Windham Professionals*. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, before becoming secretary, had once invested in *Performant Recovery*. She was required to divest from holdings in the firm within 90 days of her Senate confirmation.

+++ NY Governor Cuomo has introduced legislation that would require all campuses in the State University and City University of New York systems to create their own food pantries or ensure another "stigma-free" way to give hungry students access to food. Only about half of the state's public colleges currently have food banks.

+++ A Mississippi law that allows businesses to deny services to same-sex couples has caused a ripple effect and shaved three home games from the **University of Southern Mississippi's** baseball schedule. **Stony Brook University** (NY), scheduled to play Southern Mississippi in February, has cancelled because NY Governor Cuomo banned all nonessential travel to Mississippi following the passage of the new state law. An appeal to have it struck down will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

+++ The restaurant chain *Hooters* is opening a franchise in Abilene, Tex., near the campus of **Abilene Christian University**. The university is urging students not to take jobs at the restaurant, known for waitresses in revealing uniforms.

+++ Richard Spencer, the inflammatory white supremacist who has unsettled college campuses with his appearances, will speak at **Michigan State University** in March. Spencer had initially been denied a venue at Michigan State, but his representatives sued the institution. The legal dispute ended with an agreement to let Spencer speak on March 5, the university's first day of spring break.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.discovernursing.com - A comprehensive tool for aspiring nurses. It provides information on more than 100 nursing specialties and the academic steps to prepare for these jobs; offers an overview of entry and graduate level educational requirements for nursing students; provides a database of nearly 400 nursing scholarships (searchable by state, GPA, gender, ethnicity, and academic level). Also features [video profiles](#) of nurses in a variety of practice areas.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> - Offers a wealth of articles about paying for college, investigating and choosing a college major, and more than 100 videos providing advice on financial aid, what to do on a college visit, and college students talking about college life.

www.byf.org - The Build Your Future website has many useful resources such as videos featuring workers in various construction careers, information on scholarships and career paths, and a database of accredited training programs.

<http://www.healthcare-administration-degree.net> - A great Rankings Site for Health Science Degrees. Includes such rankings as: 50 Best Schools for a Healthcare Administration Degree 2016; 15 Great Small Colleges for a Bachelor's in Healthcare Administration 2015; 15 Top Cost-No-Object and 15 Top Affordable Master's in Public Health (MPH) Degree Programs; 30 Top Healthcare Administration Degree Programs: Comparing the Top Affordable and Cost-No-Object Schools.

GOOGLE COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE – IT'S FREE!

Open only to high school seniors who plan to attend university in 2018-2019. Kick start your university studies in computer science with an unforgettable summer program at Google. Google's Computer Science Summer Institute (CSSI) is a three-week introduction to computer science for graduating high school seniors with a passion for technology — especially students from historically underrepresented groups in the field. During the last three weeks of July, you'll attend the program at one of our 10 Google office locations and experience firsthand Google's unique and innovative office culture. Students who live too far to commute to a local Google office will attend a residential program in Seattle, WA, Cambridge, MA, Kirkland, WA, or Pittsburgh, PA where they'll live in dorm-style housing. Google covers and organizes your round-trip flight within the US and Canada. Must be able to demonstrate an interest in and motivation for studying computer science. **Application Deadline: March 2, 2018 at 11:59 pm PT. Website: g.co/cssi.**

Official AP/IB/A-Level Exam Scores

Official AP score reports are not required until after an offer of admission is accepted; the deadline for submission is usually July 15th. Most colleges from which a student accepts an offer of admission will provide additional information with the offer of admission.

Tips on Beating the College Wait-list

Each year schools are putting more and more applicants on waiting lists as a means of protecting themselves from falling short of admissions goals. High school seniors are supposed to commit to a college by May 1. But with colleges taking up to two months to determine how many students they'll select from these wait lists, students are at a disadvantage. Wait-listed students risk not being admitted to any college or having to rush to enroll at a local college that is not selective. Here are a few tips for students to help them get off the wait-list and get accepted to their chosen college:

1. Create a backup plan. Roughly 16% of applicants received a wait-list invitation during the 2015-2016 admission season and 41% accepted the offer. Among applicants who landed on wait lists, about 32% ultimately were admitted. It's a good idea to make sure you are accepted to at least one backup college to ensure that you'll be able to start your education in the fall. This might involve paying a nonrefundable deposit to the school, but it will be worth it if you don't get accepted by schools that have wait-listed you.
2. Demonstrate interest. If you are really committed to a particular school, let the admissions officers know that you'll jump at the chance to be accepted and taken off the wait-list if given the chance.
3. Keep the school updated on your status. Be sure to update the college about your grades and achievements, but don't overwhelm schools with too much information. Don't inundate admissions officials with multiple emails, phone calls, visits, and letters that ask about your acceptance status or detail every minor achievement that you have made since last contact.
4. Learn how the school's wait-list works. Every school handles its wait-list differently. Some rank students in order of possible acceptance; others reassess the entire group when it comes time to fill vacant spots. Some schools cherry pick students from the wait-list to fill unexpectedly empty spots in the school's orchestra or sports team. Other schools only take students from wait-lists who do not need financial aid. Knowing how the wait-list works will help you gauge your chances of acceptance and, if necessary, encourage you to move on to other colleges.
5. Handle correspondence on your own. The college wants to talk to—and enroll—you, not your parents.

COLLEGE NEWS

+++ *Amazon.com* founder Jeff Bezos and his wife have made a \$33 million gift to the TheDream.US for college scholarships for immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, known as Dreamers. The gift will fund 1,000 scholarships for undocumented immigrants who graduate from American high schools with protected status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA).

+++ California Governor Jerry Brown has announced a proposal to increase the two-year Community College System's funding by \$570 million, or roughly 4%. The proposed budget includes \$120 million for a new online community college, which will be competency based and issue short-term credentials.

+++ **Emory University** (GA) has announced that the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation has pledged \$400 million to the university for research to cure diseases and to develop new models of patient care. The gift is the largest ever received by the university.

NOTIFYING SCHOOLS OF MID-YEAR CHANGES *(NACAC Listserve)*

You need to address an email to the admissions office of every college you have applied to indicating the changes made in courses and reasons for the changes. Follow up with a call to the admissions office(s) to verify if this will affect their decision. The email should include the fact that your parent has knowledge of the change. It should also include a statement or outline about what you plan to do with any extra time in the schedule (i.e. internship after school, volunteer work, etc.).

How to Answer: "What Is Your Top Choice School?"

When someone asks you this question, a realistic answer would be, "How would I know since I haven't received all my college decisions yet." In your mind be careful of ranking a "reach" or "dream" school as number one. It will be less of an emotional adjustment for you if you make friends with the idea of attending one of your more realistic options.

Good Jobs Without a Bachelor's Degree

(Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce)

Applications and Systems Software Developers; Computer and Information Systems Managers; Computer Support Specialists; Diagnostic-Related Technologists and Technicians; Engineering Technicians; Firefighters; Food Service Managers; Human Resources Managers; Industrial Production Managers; Licensed Practical and Registered Nurses; Marketing and Sales Managers; Police Officers; Sales Representatives; Automotive Service Technicians; Carpenters; Computer and Automated Teller Machine Repairers; Construction Equipment Operators; Electricians; Heating and Air-Conditioning Mechanics; Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters, and Pipelayers; Truck Drivers; Welders. **Wealth of additional info at: <https://goodjobsdata.org>.**

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

GENERATION GOOGLE SCHOLARSHIP Open to HS underrepresented (in computer science) seniors aspiring to earn a computer science or computer engineering degree or in a closely related technical field. Must be African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Filipino/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, female, or a person with a disability. Selected students will receive \$10,000. As part of the scholarship, recipients will be required to attend Google's 3-week Computer Science Summer Institute in summer 2018. <https://edu.google.com/scholarships/the-generation-google-scholarship>. **Application Deadline: March 2, 2018 at 11:59 pm PT.**

TREKKING POLE REVIEWS SCHOLARSHIP An essay contest which awards two \$1250 scholarships each semester. Submit a 500-1,000-word essay on: "How do you see technology impacting the world around us in the future and where do you see yourself in this future?" **Emailed Deadlines are 3/31/18 and 8/31/18.** <https://trekkingpolereviews.com/scholarship/>

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP 25-35 need-based, renewable awards up to \$2500 for superior young students preparing to enter as full-time incoming freshmen in one of the 60+ participating Presbyterian colleges listed on the website. Must be member of a Presbyterian Church. Requires recommendation of pastor and high school counselor. Must write a 500-1000 word essay on: "What is Christian vocation?" **Application Postmark Deadline: May 15, 2018.** <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/financialaid>. Click on "Undergraduate Opportunities", then on "National Presbyterian College Scholarship".

ROBERT LEHMAN SCHOLARSHIP Awards \$2,000 renewable scholarships to high school seniors and college freshmen. Based on academic achievement, leadership, community service and financial need. Requires a 500-1000 word essay on racial justice OR racial disparity. Must have a combined family income of \$65,000 or less. Must download a "fillable" PDF application, and required items must be attached to one email. **Application Deadline: April 1, 2018.** Website: <http://www.naacpldf.org/herbert-lehman-education-fund-scholarship>

SURETYBONDS SMALL BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP Awards three \$1500 scholarships based on a 500-1,000 word essay "about how small business ownership (personal, parent, grandparent, or legal guardian) has shaped you into the person you are today." <https://www.suretybonds.com/scholarships>. **Essay email submission deadline: March 31, 2018.**

MAUREEN L & HOWARD N. BLITMAN ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP This non-renewable \$5000 scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university. Details at: <http://www.nspe.org/resources/students/scholarships>. Click on name of scholarship. **Postmailed Application Deadline: Must be received by March 1, 2018**

SEGF SCHOLARSHIPS Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation offers merit scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 USD per academic year; average awards are approximately \$3,700, for HS seniors intending to pursue a career in applied geophysics, geosciences, physics, geology, or earth and environmental sciences. Requires a 200 word essay describing how you will use geophysics and/or geoscience in your future career. **Deadline is March 1, 2018.** <http://seg.org/scholarships>

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ESSAY CONTEST Open to gr. 9-12 high school and home schooled students whose parents are NOT in the U.S. Foreign Service. Requires an essay of 1,000-1,250 words: "Identify two cases—one you deem successful and one you deem unsuccessful—where the U.S. pursued an integrated approach to build peace in a conflict-affected country." Winner earns \$2,500, an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, including parents, and an all-expense paid educational voyage via the *Semester at Sea* program. Runner-up receives \$1,250 and full tuition for the *National Student Leadership Conference's International Diplomacy* summer program. **Submit essay online by 11:59 p.m. EDT March 15, 2018.** www.afsa.org/essay_contest.aspx

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS A variety of corporate-sponsored scholarships for graduating high school seniors are offered, ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$10,000. All scholarships are contingent upon the applicant's enrollment in an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). <http://students.sae.org/scholarships/freshman> **Applications must be postmarked by March 15 2018.**

CELEBRASIAN SCHOLARSHIPS A number of scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 are awarded to high school seniors of Asian Pacific Island heritage (Except for Bruce Lee Scholarship), with financial need. Requires a 3.3 GPA, leadership and community service. **Postmarked Deadline: March 30, 2018.** <http://celebrasianconference.com/scholarships>

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

LIGHTHOUSE GUILD SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE BLIND Offers 20 non-renewable merit scholarships of up to \$10,000 each to high school seniors who can document legal blindness. Must submit three letters of recommendation, including two that attest to academic skills, and two personal statements of 500 words or less: one describing educational and personal goals, and one detailing the influence of an outstanding teacher on the student's education. www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/scholarships. **Deadline: March 31, 2018**

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS A variety of scholarships not requiring attendance at the *International Thespian Festival* are available, with an **Application Deadline of April 1, 2018**. Participation in the *International Thespian Festival* is required for other scholarships, with an **Application Deadline of May 1, 2018**. Must plan to major or minor in communicative arts and most require active membership in the International Thespian Society. <https://www.schooltheatre.org/programs/ags/scholarships>

NATAS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) is awarding five \$10,000 scholarships to college-bound, outstanding high school seniors planning to pursue a career in any aspect of the television industry. Requires examples of creative work, recent work experience and two written essays. **Deadline: 5 pm EST, February 26, 2018**. <http://emmyonline.org/scholarship>

PHI DELTA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS Open to seniors planning on *pursuing a career in education*. Awards more than 30 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Given yearly by local PDK chapters to high school seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA. Requires an essay relating to career goals submitted to your local PDK chapter (contacts on website). **Application Deadline: April 2, 2018**. <http://pdkintl.org/programs-resources/scholarships-awards/prospective-educator-scholarships/>

PRINT GRAPHICS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION Approximately 200 scholarships awarded each year ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000, renewable up to four years if the student maintains a 3.0+. Available to high school seniors who plan to major in graphic communications, printing technology, printing management or publishing. Scholarship is based on Academic Achievement, Extracurricular Activities, work experience, Recommendations and 3 brief essay questions. **Application deadline: March 1, 2018**. <https://pgsf.org/pgsf-scholarship-application>

28th ANNUAL VOICE FOR ANIMALS CONTEST Prizes totaling \$5900 will be awarded to high school students whose entries best promote the humane treatment of animals. There are 11 prizes for 16-18 and 6 for 14-15 in areas for essay and video. Prizes vary for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, prizes from \$500-\$200. All details at: <http://www.hennet.org/contest.php> **Application deadline: April 30, 2018**.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE FUND Offers more than 400, non-renewable merit awards ranging between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Open to seniors who are dependents of current civilian federal and postal employees with at least three years federal service by August 31, 2018. Requires 500 word essay on "What do you consider to be the single most important societal problem in the world today and why?" <http://www.feea.org>. **Deadline: 3 p.m. EST, March 21, 2018**.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS ESSAY CONTEST National scholarships for 1st place: \$1,000, 2nd place: \$500, 3rd place: \$300 are available for 9-12 grade students who submit 300-500 word essay. Topic: "Why do we — as consumers of media — need to obtain news from multiple feeds and not just one or two outlets?" **Postmarked Application Deadline: February 23, 2018**. Website: <http://www.spj.org/a-hs.asp>

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST Open to all high school juniors and seniors. Theme of 800-1200 word essay: "Discuss whether public school calendars should accommodate religious holidays." Scholarship Prizes: First – \$2000 and travel and lodging for two to Washington, D.C.; Second – \$1000; Third – \$500. <http://www.bjconline.org> **Post-marked Deadline: March 9, 2018**. Click on "Essay Contest" under "Learn".

USING YOUR H.S. NAVIANCE ACCOUNT for SCHOLARSHIPS

If your school uses the Naviance system, logon to your Naviance account at: <https://succeed.naviance.com> for a listing of scholarships. Once you are logged in, click on the family connection link. Then click on the colleges tab on the top, scroll down to the "Scholarships and Money" section and select "Scholarship List." This list is continuously being updated and you can check it frequently. In addition to the Naviance scholarship database, students can search thousands of national scholarships directly from Naviance. To start your search, follow the steps above and click on "National Scholarship Search." You will then answer a short series of questions and a list of scholarship opportunities that match your profile will be generated.

The College Connection Newsletter

+++ Pluses of Majoring in Philosophy +++

(“College Spotlight”, January 2018)

How do you get a philosophy major off your porch? Answer: Pay for your pizza. While the joke is humorous, the message it conveys is not true. A bachelor’s degree in philosophy provides good preparation for careers in government and politics, activism, business, academia, religion, writing, news and journalism, and arts and entertainment. Many well-known people have degrees in philosophy, including Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn; Tamara Keith, journalist and National Public Radio White House correspondent; Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard and presidential candidate; Bill Clinton, US President; Stewart Butterfield, co-founder of Flickr; Kazuo Ishiguro, Nobel Prize-winning author; and Jesús López-Cobos, conductor emeritus of the Cincinnati Symphony. The editors of *College Spotlight* talked with Amy E. Ferrer, the Executive Director of The American Philosophical Association (APA).

Q.What is one thing young people may not know about a career in philosophy?

A. There is no one particular career in philosophy. Whether you want to be a professor, a CEO, an artist, a writer, a politician, or just about anything else, philosophy is great preparation.

Q.What advice would you give to young people who are considering majoring in philosophy, but who worry that it may not prepare them effectively for the workforce?

A. Philosophy students are very well prepared for the workforce. Philosophy teaches skills that employers value—critical thinking, analysis, effective written and verbal communication, problem-solving, moral and ethical reasoning, and more. A number of news articles in recent years point out that philosophy and other humanities majors are successful and sought-after, especially in the business and technology sectors. Philosophy is a particularly good major for graduate school, as philosophy majors consistently outperform nearly all other majors on graduate entrance exams such as the GRE and LSAT. The skills philosophy teaches are especially valuable in today’s workforce because they prepare you to adapt to changing circumstances. Many people now have not just one career, but several, over the course of a lifetime, and philosophy gives you the tools you need to excel right out of school and throughout your working life.

Q.What is the job outlook for philosophy majors?

A. Philosophy ties with mathematics for the highest percentage increase from starting to mid-career salary for degree holders. Because students of philosophy have learned such versatile and valuable skills, they can succeed in any field they pursue. Check out the following websites for more information: www.apaonline.org/page/whostudiesphilosophy; www.philosophy.umd.edu/undergraduate/careers; www.apaonline.org/?page=undergraduates

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FUTURE FOCUS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

145 Brooks Lane
Ashland, OR 97520

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFO, CONTACT NEWSLETTER STAFF:
futurefocus@jeffnet.org