

Galena Seniors:

Want to know all about **SCHOLARSHIPS?** Here's some info. on finding, applying for, and hopefully receiving them:

The students who tend to get the most scholarships spend time applying for a variety of scholarships. It is not always about having the highest grades or best test scores. It is about putting together excellent application packets and BEATING DEADLINES.

The highest scholarship awards tend to come **directly from the colleges and universities** to which students apply. Private schools especially have the most leeway when it comes to awarding students money. **TALK TO YOUR FAMILY** about money for college. Find out what the plan is for financing your college. If there is no family money for college, you need to know that now and narrow your college search. This is not unusual. STAYING LOCAL is an option most students need to consider. **If UNR is a possibility, APPLY EARLY; it will make you first on the list for their scholarships.** The **Millennium Scholarship** is GREAT, but even that **won't cover all your costs each semester**. Colleges, especially with out of state tuition, cost a LOT of money. \$40,000 per year is not unusual; few students can afford this without scholarships from the school itself, but most of those are partial scholarships, perhaps \$10,000. So where do you get the additional \$30,000? The biggest scholarships awarded come directly from the colleges themselves, so if you can only go away to school if you get enough scholarships to cover the entire cost of school, you need to do some serious research on which schools give full-ride scholarships for academics and, of those, which is the right one for you. I am adamantly AGAINST using loans to finance an undergraduate college degree when a student can go to school locally, UNR or UNLV, for nearly free (on Millennium)!

There are **NATIONAL Scholarships** that can award large amounts. Galena has had a national winner for AXA Achievement, for example; she won \$10,000!!! This is **very rare** though. Most scholarships are \$1000 or less. It is good to apply for national scholarships because they can lead to state-level recognition which can open other doors; however, if you have a choice to apply for one national or three local scholarships, I'd **go for the local ones!** It's much more logical to get in the smaller pool of applicants and to shine with local stores, groups, etc. National scholarships can involve BIG money; however, they are very difficult to get. Go LOCAL instead! Look around, many local stores, businesses, and perhaps your parent's employer may offer scholarships.

You will **find great information ONLINE**. Programs through www.collegeboard.com, www.scholarships.com, www.fastweb.com and many others are a great starting point to search for scholarships (you probably only want to use one or two), and many also have excellent "how to find the right college for you" searches too. Just start with a Google search on "money for college" or "scholarships" and you will find tons of options. Essentially what you do is go on to the website and complete an "interest inventory" which will ask you for a lot of personal information. The idea is, once you tell them your career interests and community service experience, etc., **the search program will e-mail you every scholarship application you qualify for.** Then it is up to you to GET IT DONE! You will probably get more scholarship postings than you have time to apply for, so **you will have to prioritize.** The great thing about this system is you can do it **any time of day from home**. One caution: many of these scholarships are ESSAY contests. Most students don't bother because they don't want to work that hard. Therefore, I suggest you **enter the essay contests**, for the pool of applicants will be relatively small. **Most scholarships you find online do not involve Galena**; they are totally self-directed: you have to find them, apply for them, get your letters of recommendations or whatever else is required, and mail (or e-mail) them to meet the posted deadlines. Late materials are categorically thrown in the trash, so BEAT the deadline.

GALENA POSTED SCHOLARSHIPS

Every single scholarship mailed to Galena High School is posted for all Galena students. To get the information to the most students possible, a summary of each scholarship, covering the qualifications, amount of award, and deadline date, is listed in a one-page posting and sent to all English and Social Studies teachers at the appropriate grade-level. These should be available for you to see in your classes. Since most scholarships are for seniors, information is sent to senior teachers. If it is a science scholarship, a copy will also be sent to science teachers. **All postings are also in a binder in the Galena Library Career Center**, in the Counseling Department, and in room 116. Whenever application information can be accessed online, the web address will be given on the posting. It is your job to write down that web address and search for the scholarship online from home. MOST scholarships posted at Galena require the student to mail the application (or submit it online) by posted deadline. If this is the case, Galena is really not involved from that point on. If there is no web address or no way to apply online, copies of the applications will be available IN THE **GALENA LIBRARY CAREER CENTER. This is the main scholarship location at Galena High** School. I am available SECOND PERIOD and you may be able to track me down 1* and 6* (otherwise I am teaching and am not available during those classes except perhaps during Enrichments). If you want my one-on-one help, please make an appointment with me so I don't wander off to the copy room or something. Best bet: e-mail me to set up that appointment: mcampbell@washoeschools.net.

Many scholarships **posted at Galena require you to TURN THEM IN TO GALENA LIBRARY**. Since the library closes at 3:15 p.m. daily (Wed's at 3:00 p.m.), it is imperative that you BEAT the deadline for turning in materials. There is NO OTHER LOCATION for turning in scholarships to Galena, so get your application there on time if you want it to be considered. This fall semester there are more than a dozen scholarships to apply for at Galena and probably 100 to apply for online in the fall. Another 100 or so scholarships will be posted in the spring at Galena...98% of scholarships I know about are due February-March-early April, so if you are starting your search then, you will be too late. **The main scholarship you need to apply for at Galena is THE GALENA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP which is due FEBRUARY 17, 2012**. This is the one application we use for awards directly from Galena High. It will be available on Galena website no later than 1 December 2011.

The **Galena Scholarship Committee** consists of one faculty member from each department in the school as well as a couple parents (who do NOT have students who are seniors). We meet throughout the year, whenever scholarship applications are due to Galena, and we meet regularly in the spring to read, discuss, and select recipients from the Galena General Scholarship Applications. Our committee has two priorities that sometimes come in conflict: (1) We have to select the BEST and most deserving applicants for each individual scholarship (especially for "school nominee" selections because such nominees will go on to represent our school and compete with others in larger contests), and (2) we want to recognize as many deserving students as is possible (this is our focus with the Galena Scholarships). Being on this committee is an honor and a privilege but is also requires a great deal of time and effort. We take the job very seriously and are proud to help recognize deserving students!

Most scholarships require various versions of:

- A resume with test scores, honors classes, and awards received (example resume in library)
- A listing of community service activities
- A personal essay

You should **work on these now** so you have them in place and ready to go. Don't forget: it is perfectly acceptable to modify your "personal essay" to fit each scholarship application. You can re-use old essays for different college and scholarship applications, but each will probably need to be modified for each specific application.

- Most applications also ask for **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** from teachers, work supervisors, volunteer leaders, etc. To get the best letters of recommendation possible, here's what you need to do. 1.) Finalize your resume of accomplishments, awards, and community service work. 2.) Write a letter to the person(s) you are asking to write a letter of recommendation for you. In this letter tell the recommender to whom to address the letter; you should also ask for generic "To Whom It May Concern" copies to use for whatever comes up. Also tell the recommender, in your letter, when you need the letter by (and how many copies). Be sure to include a copy of your resume, and to thank your recommender for giving of their time. You might want to remind them of individual projects or accomplishments you had so that the recommender can include interesting and informative specific details about you. 3.) Give the recommender at least a week or two to complete a good letter of recommendation for you. 4) Make several copies so you can use them for other applications. Decide now who knows you best and ask for these letters AS SOON AS POSSIBLE this semester.

A few suggestions:

- Never pay for scholarship applications or entry fees.
- Make sure all pages you submit are typed, are NEAT, well edited, and that all the information you include is true and verifiable.
- Always try to **BEAT the deadline posted**; lots of scholarships give out awards AS APPLICATIONS ARRIVE, so by the deadline date, all the money may already be gone if you wait until the last minute.
- Your education is your responsibility. While you will probably not win every scholarship for which you apply, the only guarantee is this: **IF YOU DON'T APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, YOU CANNOT BE AWARDED ANY SCHOLARSHIPS.**
- There are hundreds of scholarships out there—for tall people, short people, for religions, races, clubs, community service, interests, hobbies, accomplishments, writing, etc.—and every year, thousands of dollars of scholarship money is NOT awarded for lack of applicants. Please apply for something!! Don't give up just because you don't win the first one you apply for.

Your GALENA SENIOR COUNSELOR is Ms. Marisa Dunne at mdunne@washoeschools.net. She can work with you on selecting the right college for you. You really need to spend some time online looking at colleges and, whenever possible, visiting college campuses you are interested in attending. Also, for scholarship questions please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at mcampbell@washoeschools.net or drop by my room SECOND period or during Enrichment periods.

Ms. Mandy Campbell
Galena Scholarship Director