SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TIPS

- There are many scholarship opportunities available, so never limit yourself to applying for just one. Research as many funding sources as you can, and learn which ones you may qualify for, then apply promptly.
- Find at least two search engines with which you're comfortable – use both to search for scholarship opportunities. Two good examples include www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com. Remember to check the schools that you are applying to. Many schools offer scholarships to students that seek them.
- If receiving lots of e-mail from a search engine bothers you, set up a scholarship only e-mail account. This will keep all of your scholarship information in one place, your regular in-box won't be overflowing, and when you use your scholarship e-mail, you are more focused on searching for scholarship information.
- Organize the information in a way that makes sense to you. For example, when using Fastweb, click on the "deadline" heading to sort the scholarships according to deadline.
- Look where you are going! If you are headed for a specific field, look at the leaders in that field or industry, check their websites for scholarship opportunities. For example, a pre-nursing or pre-med student should check out websites for drug manufacturers or companies that do medical research. Most company's websites are searchable. Try searching "scholarships". If that doesn't yield results, try "foundation" or "philanthropy".
- Look at local organizations/groups such as community foundations, religious organizations, Parks and Recreation, fraternities or sororities, town or city clubs, civic groups such as the American Legion, YMCA, 4-H Club, Elks, Kiwanis, Jaycees and the Girl or Boy Scouts.
- Beware of scams and services that will search for financial aid money for you for a fee. You should not have to pay for this information.
- Visit local public libraries for scholarship books – often near "jobs and careers" section, good for exploration – don't use books that are more than one year old.

TIPS TO FILLING OUT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- When you are requested to send a photograph this must be a business-like photo. One you would submit for a job interview. This means no prom photos, no photos on the beach, no cleavage, no eyebrow, nose or lip rings, showing tattoos, no extreme haircuts, etc. Look professional.
- Don't wait until the last minute to request your transcript be sent – you are not the only student requesting and sometimes there is a 10-30 day back-up at your high school or college. It is up to you to make sure it gets to our office by the deadline.
- Remember, due to limited funding, not all applicants receive scholarships. The process is competitive and you should be careful and thorough when filling out your application to give yourself the best possible advantage.
- Do not assume that because you received a scholarship previously that you will automatically receive another award. Be aware that there are always new students competing for awards.
- If you want to be taken seriously, consider getting a generic email address rather than a cutesy one like "jellybean07", "pimpstress", "superman" or "lopezlover". Email is used as a form of contact with applicants.
- Don't let a parent fill out the application, it is your responsibility
- Proofread your application