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#### College Steps for the Spring Semester

Now that Spring semester is here, what should your college timeline look like?

#### Q: What is the college application deadline?

A: Different schools have different application deadlines. If you have not yet, make sure to check each school you plan to apply to and add that deadline in your calendar. A lot of deadlines begin in January. Also, read about the differences between <u>Early Action, Early Decision, and Rolling</u> <u>Admissions.</u>

#### Q: What is financial aid season?

A: Financial Aid season is here! By now, you should have completed most of your college applications, which means it is time to start focusing on applying for financial aid. This means you not only need to complete your FAFSA (See Page 4), but also to apply for other scholarships including ones from the schools you have been accepted to and ones from private organizations or donors (See Page 7).

### Give Yourself Plenty of Time

Do not wait until a deadline to start on a task. If a college application is due on the 15th of February, plan to start completing it a month earlier to give yourself plenty of time to work on a personal statement, send in test scores and transcripts, and review your application with a parent/guardian or with your College and Career Readiness Coordinator (See Below).

## Rodeo Time

We are coming up on this year's Tucson Rodeo and its not only the cowboys going for a wild ride. Searching for scholarships and jobs can feel a lot like riding a bucking bronco and just trying to hold on. Hopefully, this newsletter will give you useful help with your college and career adventures.

> "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

-Queen Elizabeth II

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!''' -Audrey Hepburn

#### CONTACT YOUR COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR

Palo Verde—<u>Email Andrea Vasquez</u> Sabino—<u>Email Alex Karaman</u> Sahuaro—<u>Email Sean Haynes</u> Santa Rita—<u>Email Lauren Peralta</u>

## **Important Dates and Deadlines**

The following list of dates and deadlines can help you with college and career planning. Make sure to read this list through and mark anything that applies to your personal college or career plan. School specific dates for your high school can be found on the next page.

### **February Dates**

- February 8—ACT: If you need to take or retake the ACT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. <u>Click Here to Register</u>
- February 20-21—Rodeo Break: Use this time to rest and relax, maybe even visit the rodeo or the parade. Enjoy the four day weekend and come back ready to power through midterms before break.
- February 21—Registration Deadline for the SAT: This registration deadline applies to the SAT that will be held on March 8th. If you need to take or retake the SAT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. <u>Click Here to Register</u>
- February 25—Late Registration Deadline for the SAT: This late registration deadline applies to the SAT that will be held on March 8th. If you need to take or retake the SAT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. <u>Click Here to Register</u>

### March Dates

- ◊ March 7—Grading Day: No School
- March 10-14: Spring Break: This is a wonderful time to wrap up and submit any remaining financial aid applications you have, including FAFSA (which you should have done by now) and other scholarship applications. You should enjoy the time off, but take advantage of the free time to stay productive and work towards your future. You should also be thinking about making your final decision about what college you will attend next year if you have not done so yet.
- March 26—Professional Learning Day: No School







## School Specific Dates and Deadlines

The following list of dates and deadlines are unique to specific schools in the East Region. Look below to see what is happening at your high school and see Page 1 to find out how to email your College and Career Counselor if you have questions.

### Palo Verde Info

- February 18th: UA Next Steps Workshop for Seniors—Conference Period in Room 101
- March 4th: College Fair During Lunch
- March 18th: UA Next Steps Workshop—Conference Period in Room 101
- March 19th: Pima Ed Ready for Seniors—Conference Period in Room 101

## Sabino Info

- **February 13th: Marines Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard**
- **February 19th: Coast Guard Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard**
- February 20th: Navy Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- ♦ February 25th: ASVAB—Cafeteria
- **February 27th: National Guard Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard**
- March 19th: Coast Guard Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- March 20th: Navy Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- March 24th: Marines Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- March 25th: Army Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- March 27th: National Guard Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard

## Sahuaro Info

- Every Friday: FAFSA Fridays in the College and Career Center Room 122—Get Help on Your FAFSA
- February 26th: ASVAB
- March 18th: UA Next Steps

### Santa Rita Info

- February 26th: ASVAB
- February 26th: SRHS Career Fair in the AUX Gym
- 6 Feb. 27th Whittier College (CA) During Lunch in the Cafeteria
- March 5th Miami University-Oxford during WIN
- March 19th Pima Community College during WIN









## FAFSA ALERT—OPEN NOW

The Federal Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA) is an essential part of the college process. This federal form is used to determine your eligibility for need-based financial aid. Make sure to have your parents or legal guardians with you to provide household financial information. The FAFSA opened on December 1st and should be completed by you as soon as possible.



### **Q: Where can I complete the FAFSA?** A: Go to StudentAid.gov to complete the FAFSA or <u>Click Here.</u>

## Q: If my parents make a lot of money, should I still complete the FAFSA?

A: Yes. The FAFSA is often a requirement for other scholarships, not just scholarships based on financial need. You do not want to miss out on a scholarship because you did not fill it out.

## Q: If I am an undocumented or DACA student, can I complete the FAFSA?

A: It depends. DACA students with a Social Security Number are eligible to complete the FAFSA. For non-DACA undocumented students, you cannot complete the FAFSA. However, there is a ton of financial aid out there so contact your school's college counselor (See page 1) to learn more in a confidential setting. You can also <u>Click</u> <u>Here</u> to learn more about the FAFSA for undocumented and DACA students.

**Q: Where can I find other FAFSA FAQs?** A: <u>Click Here</u> to see more popular questions people have about the FAFSA.

### FAFSA Prize Incentives

Your school might be offering prize giveaways or other incentives for completing the FAFSA beginning in January. Talk to your school's College and Career Counselor (See Page 1) to find out if your school participates. Scholarship Search Engines

- ⇒ <u>Fastweb</u>
- ⇒ <u>Scholar-</u> <u>ships.com</u>
- ⇒ <u>Cappex</u>
- ⇒ <u>Petersons</u>
- ⇒ <u>College</u> <u>Board</u>
- $\Rightarrow$  <u>Niche</u>
- ⇒ <u>Chegg</u>
- ⇒ <u>Scholly</u>
- \*Click To Follow Links\*

### College Fairs and Tours: In-Person and Virtual

College fairs offer a wonderful opportunity for students to meet college admissions advisors from many universities in a single setting. When the COVID-19 pandemic affected in-person events, many virtual college fairs popped up, allowing students to explore myriad colleges from home and to meet college representatives who might not travel to Tucson for an in-person fair, including those from East Coast, Southern, and Midwest schools. Below you will find information about virtual college tours and information on virtual college fairs offered by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC).



## The College Tour ▶

The College Tour is an amazing website that provides multiple, detailed, and engaging video tours of colleges all over the country. Not only do the videos help you tour campus from the comfort of your home, but they also highlight the fun aspects of student life cinluding dorms and eateries, student events, recreation centers, and so much more. If you cannot make a campus visit, use The College Tour to check out schools outside of Tucson. <u>Click Here to Start Exploring Virtual College Tours</u>

### NACAC Virtual College Fairs

NACAC Virtual College Fairs are online, remote and for students fairs to attend parents from home. They typically have between 200-300 schools represented at each fair, so you need to register and indicate which schools you plan to meet with during All NACAČ the event. Virtual Fairs take place in the middle of the day on a Saturday or Sunday.

#### NACAC Fair Schedule:

February 16th March 23rd April 27th

<u>Click Here to Register</u> <u>for NACAC Virtual</u> <u>College Fairs</u>



### **Requesting Letters of Recommendation**

Letters of recommendation are often required for college and scholarship applications. In some cases, they are optional, but submitting a good letter of recommendation is always a safe bet. Consider all the information below when requesting letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors:

- Make a formal request to your recommender at least three weeks before a recommendation letter is due. Teachers and counselors are very busy and writing a letter of recommendation takes time. Ask early to give them plenty of time to write you a good letter.
- Be ready to provide a resume to your recommender. School staff do not have your whole list of achievements and interests memorized, so provide a resume that includes your extracurriculars, major accomplishments and awards, volunteer or community service experience, employment experience if applicable, and additional skills to make the letter writing process easier.
- Make sure you are requesting the right recommender. Some colleges want a letter from a teacher, others from a counselor, and some from both. Make sure you know who the school wants a letter.
- Know that you might not be able to read a letter of recommendation. Students have a legal right to see letters of recommendation written for them, but a lot of colleges and the CommonApp ask students to waive that right to ensure they do not have influence over the letter writing process and that the letter is honest and true. It is recommended that you do waive your rights to see a letter, so make sure you are confident that your recommender will write a good letter.
- Write a thank you letter. It is proper to provide a formal thank you to whoever writes a letter for you. Don't forget!

### College Spotlight

The University of New Mexico is a public research university in Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States. Founded in 1889 by the New Mexico Territorial Legislature, it is the state's second oldest university, a flagship university in the state and the largest by enrollment, with 22,630 students in 2023. UNM's Motto is "Individuals Together" and that's the way they see themselves. They're a community of unique perspectives embracing divergence - unafraid to let their colors run and blend letting the very things that divide people become the

things that connect them to each other. What makes people different makes UNM strong – and a force to be reckoned with.

Click to Learn More About The University of New Mexico



### Understanding Financial Aid: The Big Picture

The world of financial aid can be confusing, so you can use this general overview to gain some basic understanding of how to get money for college:

#### Q: What types of scholarships are out there?

A: Financial aid comes in a few forms. Scholarships are free money that can be given by the college you attend (called internal scholarships) or by private organizations and donors (called external scholarships). Normally, you will find out about potential scholarships a specific college once you are accepted for admission, either in your acceptance letter or shortly after. Scholarships can be merit-based, given for your academic record, need-based, given for those in financial need, or diversity and leadership-based, given to students from marginalized communities or students who have a history of volunteering and leadership.

#### Q: What else is required for scholarships?

A: Did you take the ACT? The SAT? Both? Although not all scholarships require an SAT/ACT score, it is good to have one. Check the requirements for scholarships before you apply to make sure you qualify. Additional requirements might include a personal statement, a letter of recommendation, and/or transcripts.

#### Q: What other types of financial aid exist?

A: Besides scholarships, students can be eligible for grants and loans. Grants are free money you can get, like scholarships, that does not need to be repaid. The most common grant is the Federal Pell Grant, given to students with financial need who complete the FAFSA. You can read about your Pell Eligibility on the email you receive when you submit the FAFSA. Loans, however, need to be repaid. For most student loans, you do not need to make payments until you graduate from college. The most common loan students use is the Direct Safford Loan, a federal student loan that is also mentioned in your FAFSA submission email (See page 3 for FAFSA info).

#### Q. What is the order of tasks for getting financial aid?

A. While there is no perfect approach, you should 1. Complete the FAFSA and list colleges you plan to apply to on your FAFSA (See Page 3). Check if you are eligible to receive a Pell Grant. 2. Apply to colleges and read about any potential scholarships you are awarded. 3. Calculate the remaining cost of college by subtracting any scholarships and grants you have been offered from the cost of attendance. 4. Search for and apply to additional scholarships to bring you total cost of attendance as close to zero as possible (See Page 3 for scholarship search engines).

DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOLARSHIPS 101 PRESENTATION FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Note: Open the Scholarships 101 presentation in PowerPoint and start the slideshow with your speakers turned up to hear the live narration of each slide.

## **ACT Re-Testing Preparation**

If you are looking to re-take the ACT to boost your score and help with college applications or scholarship eligibility, we have something for you. Revolution Prep, a well known and respected company in the test prep industry, has graciously offered to provide a suite of free test prep services to TUSD students. One of the best ways to prepare for an ACT test is to do practice tests in the same setting and with the same time restrictions as the real thing.

From your own home, you can do a real ACT practice test and get feedback on what areas you need to improve on. The test is real-world accurate, with the same amount of time and number of questions as the real ACT.

#### CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE PRACTICE ACT

## Unique Scholarship Opportunities



## **ART SCHOLARSHIPS**

## from

<sup>30<sup>0</sup></sup>SA <sup>34</sup> The Southern Arizona <sup>WG</sup> Watercolor Guild (SAWG)

# Who may apply for a SAWG SCHOLARSHIP?

High school seniors from schools in Pima and Santa Cruz counties who have been accepted by a college or university and who are planning to study fine arts in the fall are eligible to apply. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Read the Application Requirements carefully and complete and submit the Application Form no later than midnight, April 1st.

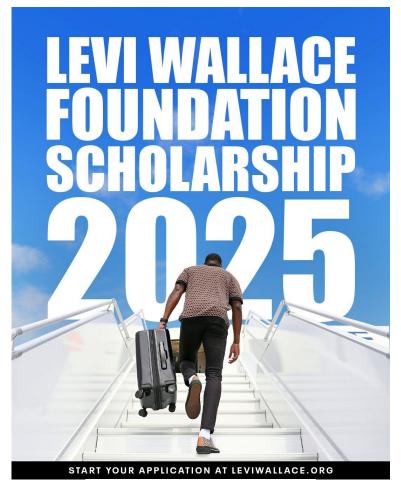
Full details are available at: southernazwatercolorguild.com/scholarships.php

We look forward to hearing from YOU!

## Unique Scholarship Opportunities



## Unique Scholarship Opportunities





#### ABOUT OUR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Trico Foundation awards scholarships to Trico Members and their families to attend a university, community or vocational college. Since 1985, the Trico Foundation has awarded over \$4.7 million – benefiting over 778 students – in scholarships to Members and their families.

#### WHO CAN APPLY

To be eligible to receive a Trico Foundation Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a Trico Member, spouse of a Member or dependent child who is claimed as a dependent on the Member's federal tax return.
- Be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college, university, vocational school or other post high school educational institution, or will be a full-time student in the fall.
- Carry a minimum course load of 12 credit hours.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater.

#### APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Trico is now accepting applications for the 2025-26 academic year. Some things to keep in mind before applying:

- The name on the application must be the name of the student applying.
- Please use an email that you check regularly as email is the easiest way for us to contact students.
- There are TWO parts to the application. Once you complete the General Information portion of the application, you
  must click "Submit Application." You will have to go to your Dashboard to complete "follow-ups" for the scholarship
  you qualify for. If you don't see any scholarships, it means you didn't meet the requirements of the scholarship.
- Students must submit their official transcripts and a letter of recommendation. Please allow plenty of time to
  complete this follow-up work. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their official transcript and letter of
  recommendation have been uploaded to their application. Only applications that include these documents will be
  accepted.
- The deadline to apply is March 6, 2025.
- Students who already have bachelor's degrees are NOT eligible for the Trico Foundation scholarship.

#### CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR A TRICO SCHOLARSHIP

## Unique Scholarship Opportunities



HSF<sup>®</sup>Empowering Courageous Leaders

The 2025 HSF Scholar Program Application is now open and closes on February 15, 2025, 2:00 PM PT. We encourage you to share this opportunity with students in your network.

#### Apply Now!

- Every year, HSF selects 10,000 outstanding students as HSF Scholars from a broad and talented pool of applicants
- HSF Scholars have access to a full range of invaluable Scholar Support Services, including career services, mentorship, leadership development, knowledge building, and wellness training
- Career services include access to select internship and job opportunities with HSF corporate partners
- HSF Scholars are eligible to apply for all Scholar Conferences including, the STEM Summit, Finance Conference, and Media & Entertainment Summit
- Exclusive access to the HSF Insider which shares invaluable information and career opportunities
- Finally, and importantly, HSF awards more than \$30 million in Scholarships annually and, depending upon available funds, HSF Scholars may also be eligible to receive a scholarship, which range from \$500-\$5,000 and are awarded directly to students

#### Deadline: February 15, 2025, 2:00 PM PT

#### Eligibility:

- Must be of Hispanic heritage
- U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, or DACA
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for high school students; minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for college and graduate students
- Plan to enroll full-time in an accredited, public or not-for-profit, four-year university, or graduate school, in the U.S., for the 2025-2026 academic year
- Submit the FAFSA or state-based financial aid forms (if applicable)

#### About HSF:

HSF empowers families with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete a higher education, while providing scholarships and support services to as many exceptional students as possible.

Founded in 1975, HSF has awarded over \$756 million in scholarships. HSF Scholars have access to valuable Scholar Support Services and, as funding permits, scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

#### Additional Important Information:

It takes an average of 30 minutes for students to complete Phase I of the 2025 HSF Scholar Program Application

- No essays, recommendations, or document uploads are required in Phase I
- To get started, visit HSF.net and log into or create your myHSF profile to access the HSF Scholar Program Application

## Scholarships for Undocumented Students **WHAT IS PROP 308?**



Prop 308 provides in-state tuition for Undocumented high school graduates in Arizona if theu meet a set of qualifications.



#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

**IF I DO NOT MEET THE** 

**PROP 308,** WHAT ARE MY

**OPTIONS?** 

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REQUIREMENTS FOR 🧍

#### FOR SOME CONTEXT

**FEDERAL AID** 

FASFA and the Pell Grant. We

**do not** recommend Undocumented or DACAmented students apply unless a

4.

STATE AID aid is **now** 

available to even if they don't meet the **Prop 308 residency** requirements. This requirements. This Includes fee waivers, scholarships, and grants given by colleges or organizations. Each opportunity will have its own requirements.

#### PRIVATE INSTITUIONS

🔆 All students pay the same tuition at private institutions. Private institutions are able to offer financial aid to students regardless of immigration status. Some examples in AZ are Grand Canyon University and Prescott College 1



**SCHOLARSHIPS** <u>den Door Scholarship</u> k Kent Cooke College Scholarship

**EXAMPLES OF** 

under Prop 308, you can still receive state aid if you meet the requirements of the specific opportunity. You can

also apply to private scholarships.

- ogram ne DREAM.US Scholarship Tenesa Arias Memorial Foundation
- ollars for <u>Scholars</u> targe Christensen Gould Memorial



alify for in-state tuition 🛛 😤





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## After Hours FAFSA Workshops



## The 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid is now open!

Every year, students in Pima County leave millions of dollars in federal aid unclaimed. Our program, the Pima College Access Network, is hosting community workshops to help families navigate the process and claim there own

Register for a workshop

Tues., Dec. 10 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM Quincie Douglas Library 1585 E 36th St

Mon., Dec. 16 | 3:30 - 6:00 PM Community Foundation for Southern Arizona 5049 E Broadway Blvd

Thurs., Dec. 19 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library 10931 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way Mon., Jan. 6 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM Miller-Golf Links Library 9640 E Golf Links Rd

Wed., Jan. 15 | 3:30 - 6:00 PM Flowing Wells Library 3725 N Flowing Wells Rd

Mon., Jan. 27 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM Sahuarita Library 670 W Sahuarita Rd

#### Learn more about workshops from Feb. 2025 to May 2025 hosted by Pima Community College

Wed., Feb 12 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM West Campus Library C Building, 2nd floor

Thurs., March 13 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM Northwest Campus Computer Commons B Building, 2nd floor

Wed., April 9 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM East Campus Library L Building Sat., May 3 | 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM Downtown Campus Library LB Building

Register now at https://www.pima.edu/paying-for -college/financial-aid/events.html



## Career Help from Pima County

