

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Believe it or not — summer will soon come to an end and a new school year will begin. Whether you are a student at the newly-named Alexandria City High School, a Titan graduate, or an ACPS parent, we are here to support you with post-secondary planning. Please use [this link](#) to sign up for an appointment with me during the summer. If you wish to visit in person, please note that you must wear a mask at all times and present an ID upon entrance. My office is located in A-115. If you are an SFA scholarship recipient with questions about your scholarship, Jaime Wheaton, SFA's Scholarship Program Manager, is also available in-person for support on Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 3 PM and virtually all other days. Please reach out to her at (703)-828-4807 or scholarships@acps.k12.va.us or by making an appointment with her at [this link](#).

And once school begins, please feel free to stop by to visit my office in A-115. Shalita Kenney, SFA's new college adviser, will also be available for support in A-114. We would love to help with college, career, or financial aid planning and look forward to supporting you!

RISING SENIORS:

- **Save the date for “Is Applying to College Early Right for Me?” What about Scholarships?” on Wednesday, September 1st.** Please stop by the auditorium lecture hall during your lunch block for an informational meeting. We'll help you think through whether you might be a good candidate to apply Early Action / Early Decision and provide information on scholarship opportunities.
- **Save the date for Senior College Planning Meeting on the week of September 13th.** All seniors will be pulled down by academy during lunch to the auditorium for a college planning presentation from Tuesday, September 14th to Friday, September 17th. Students will be pulled by academy. Please stay tuned for further details. **Parents/families are invited to attend an identical presentation on Thursday, September 16th from 5:30 – 6:30 PM in the ACHS auditorium.**
- **Save the date for the SFA FAFSA Workshop on October 6th from 4 – 7:30 PM:** More details to follow.
- **Not sure where to start with the college process?** – Feel free to make an appointment with me this summer by clicking [this link](#). I'd be glad to answer any questions, help you finalize your list of colleges, and work with you to brainstorm and perfect your college essays.
- **It's time to finalize your list of colleges.** – The Scholarship Fund would be happy to talk through your list of potential colleges with you and help you choose 6-8 schools that:
 - **Offer your major of interest:** Not sure what you want to study? Take your career and personality assessments in [Naviance](#).
 - **Match your GPA & SAT/ACT scores (2 safety, 2 match, 2 reach):** Check out the scattergrams in [Naviance](#) and make a free account with [Princeton Review](#).

- **Will be affordable for your family:** Use the [Net Price Calculator](#) to get a personalized price for each college on your list. The Net Price Calculator will take into account your family size, income, and grades and calculate how much your family is eligible for in financial aid and scholarships at that particular school. You'll find that each college has a different starting price (or "sticker price") and will award you a different amount of financial aid, but the Net Price Calculator will give you the information you need to make sure that the schools on your list will be affordable.
- **Consider whether you would be a good candidate to apply Early Action/Early Decision or to apply for the QuestBridge or Gates scholarship.** – Not sure? I'd be happy to help you evaluate your options. Please see me ASAP if you think you may be interested as there are steps you should take now to get started on your applications.
 - **Early Action/Early Decision:** Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges have historically accepted a large portion of their freshman class through Early Action/Early Decision. Students who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses may want to consider applying early.
 - **QuestBridge:** Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 or less for a typical family of four) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge, a 4-year, full-ride scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Applications are due in September of senior year.
 - **Gates:** Students with high financial need (Pell-eligible) who have a 3.3+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Gates, a highly selective, 4-year, full-ride scholarship for high school students of color. Applications are due in September of senior year.
- **Looking for all-expense paid college visits?** - Many colleges sponsor high achieving students from traditionally underrepresented groups, students who are the first generation in their family to attend college, and/or students from families with limited financial resources. Some of these programs are also open to undocumented or DACA students. Many of these programs will take place in the summer or fall. Some colleges have not yet determined if their programming will be in-person or virtual. Participation in these visits often gives you a competitive edge in the admissions process, so check out this sampling of opportunities and contact Ms. Samuel at college@acps.k12.va.us to learn more.
 - **MIT:** Apply for Weekend Immersion in Science & Engineering (WISE) by August 6th
 - **Washington & Lee University:** Apply for the virtual Diversity and Inclusion Visit Experience (DIVE) by August 8th
 - **Williams College:** Apply for Windows on Williams by August 31st
 - **Amherst College:** Apply for Diversity Open House by 1 PM (EST) on September 1st
 - **Haverford College:** Have-A-Look (HAL) by the priority deadline of September 7th for overnight visits or the standard deadline of September 20th

- [Middlebury College](#): Apply for Discover Middlebury (Virtual Program) by September 10th

TITAN ALUMNI:

- **Just now decided you want to pursue college?** - It's not too late to submit the FAFSA, apply to NOVA, and make college a reality. I'd be happy to help!
- **Receiving my scholarship email at your ACPS email address?** - Your ACPS account will soon be deactivated. Go ahead and [sign up here](#) with your personal email address, and I will keep sending your scholarship opportunities throughout your time in college.
- **Scholarship Fund of Alexandria renewal application remains open.** – Although the July 15th priority deadline has passed, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria [renewal application](#) remains available for SFA awardees enrolled in college. Students are encouraged to complete the application as soon as possible to ensure scholarship funding. Please contact scholarships@acps.k12.va.us with any questions.

Below is a list of upcoming scholarships. Local scholarships are indicated by **pink text**.

August

1. [Nurses Make a Difference Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$1,000 nursing student scholarship open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students with 3.0+ GPA. All applicants must be a legal resident of the USA or hold a valid student visa.
2. [Patsy Takemoto Mink Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$5,000 financial need-based scholarship for a female college student with one or more minor children. Applicants must be pursuing a first degree at a postsecondary level of education (e.g. Vocational, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral).
3. [USRA Scholarship](#) – August 1, 2021 – \$5,000 scholarships for college students within two years of earning a B.S. or B.A. in a field of science and engineering (including life science and science education).
4. [Marvel Optics Scholarship](#) – August 15, 2021 – \$1,500 short essay or video contest. Open to current, full-time college students at an accredited two-year or four-year American college or university. Applicants must write a short essay (which must be a maximum of 300 words) or video (of 1-minute in length) in response to the following prompt: Helen Keller said, “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” What does that mean to you?
5. [Hackard Law Scholarship](#) – August 15, 2021 – \$2,500 video contest on how you can improve the lives of the elderly. Open to 2021 high school graduates and current college students.

6. [iVein Health and Wellness Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$2,500 essay contest on maintaining a healthy lifestyle during college. Open to current, full-time undergraduate or graduate students with 3.7+ GPA.
7. [Arnold M Miller “Find-a-Way” Cosmetology Student Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – This scholarship covers tuition up to \$15,000 and is available to new or current students in a cosmetology program. Applicants must include three photos of your artistic work on a mannequin, client, or friends and family, as well as a three-minute YouTube video.
8. [College is Power Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship available to students aged 17 years or older who plan to start a program of higher education within the next 12 months. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
9. [Greg Baumgartner Annual Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship available both to high school and college students within the United States. Applicants must write a short essay (no more than 200 words) about themselves, their educational goals, and the reasons for needing a scholarship.
10. [MoolahSPOT Scholarship](#) – August 31, 2021 – \$1,000 essay scholarship available to students aged 16 years or older attending or planning to attend college or graduate school. Applicants must submit an essay scholarship of 400 words or less.

September

1. [Love Your Career Scholarship](#) – September 10, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship open to current college students attending college in one of the 50 U.S. states at the time of the application deadline. Applicant must submit an essay describing at least three steps that they plan to take in the next year to start a path towards having a career that they love. Applicants must also interview a professional in their intended field of study and include the interviewee’s answers in their essay.
2. [Bryan Cameron Impact Scholarship](#) – September 10, 2021 – 4-year, full-ride, merit-based scholarship open to high school seniors with 3.7+ GPA and community service experience.
3. [Gates Scholarship](#) – September 15, 2021 at 8 PM EST – 4-year, full-ride scholarship for Pell-eligible, minority high school seniors with 3.3+ GPA. Ideal candidates will possess an outstanding academic record in high school, demonstrated leadership ability, and exceptional personal success skills.
4. [Questbridge](#) – September 28, 2021 – 4-year, full-ride scholarship connecting high-achieving low-income high school seniors with Questbridge partner colleges; *some partner colleges are open to undocumented students.*
5. [Bonsai Finance Veteran's Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$1,000 one-time scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students who are veterans or active duty member of the U.S. Military service, or direct dependents (i.e., son, daughter,

spouse). Applicants must be U.S. citizens and not have previously earned a bachelor's degree from a college or university.

6. [Optimal Community College Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,000 essay scholarship open to legal residents of the United States (excluding Rhode Island, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). Applicants must be at least 16 years old and enrolled at a public community college, junior college, technical college, or city college.
7. [Optimal Undergraduate Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,000 essay scholarship open to legal residents of the United States (excluding Rhode Island, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). Applicants must be at least 16 years old and working towards a certificate, diploma, or degree at the Associate's level or first-time Bachelor's level.
8. [Nursing Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students studying nursing at an AACN Member Institution.
9. [Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students pursuing a degree related to manufacturing.
10. [OppU Achievers Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 essay scholarship open to current high school and college students with 3.0+ GPA.

Additional Scholarship Sources

- [United Negro College Fund](#): Various scholarships available for college-bound African-American students
- [FastWeb](#): Scholarship search engine
- [Scholarship Sharing](#): Virginia-based scholarship search engine

As usual, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Please feel free to make an appointment using [this link](#) to discuss any of the topics below.

- Scholarships and financial aid
- Analyzing financial aid award letters
- Filling out your college applications
- Writing college and scholarship essays
- Building a résumé
- Financial aid options for undocumented students

Best,

Ms. Samuel