



# The Secrets to Scholarship Success: From the Student's Perspective

Wednesday Webinar  
December 2016



Jessica Whittier

College Access Counselor

- The Case for Scholarships
- Successful Scholars
- Successful Supporters
- Open Discussion

The Secrets to Scholarship Success:  
From the Student's Perspective

# The Case For Scholarships

- The cost of college continues to rise
  - \$24,706 average for one year tuition, room, board & fees\*
- Student loans continue to challenge college goers
- There are \$50 billion\*\* in scholarships and grants made available to students each year
- Scholarships are free!

\*nces.ed.gov

\*\* debt.org

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# The Case For Scholarships

Winning a \$1,000 Scholarship each year

- If it took 4 hours to find and complete the application you just earned \$250 per hour

Borrowing \$1,000 each year of BS = \$4,000

- \$4,000 at 6% over 10 years = \$5,280
- You'll need to work 211 hours at \$25/hour to pay it off

# Successful Scholars



## Tiara A. Meng

- Graduate of Madison Area Memorial High School
- Currently attending Colby-Sawyer College
- Majoring in Pre-Med Biology
- Minor in Sociology and Chemistry
- Scholarships won: Dell Scholarship, Horatio Alger Scholarship, Skowhegan Lions Club Scholarship, The Tyler/Grandmaison MELMAC Scholarship, Derrill Hibbard Memorial Scholarship, Somerset Academy Endowment, Maine Community Foundation for Vietnam Veterans and Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship.

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# Successful Scholars



## Tiara A. Meng

- Organization – scholarship folder
- Motivation – “No one else can make you do it. You have to want it.”
- Started looking for scholarships Sophomore year

Favored Scholarship Website: **BigFuture.com**

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# Successful Scholars

## Rachel Iradukunda

- Graduate of Casco Bay High School
- Current attending Smith College
- Majoring in Neuroscience
- Scholarship won: Mitchell Institute



I knew college tuition wasn't going to be easily affordable for me, so I put as much effort in applying for scholarship as my college application.

Surround yourself with friends who are going to motivate you. Say "let's apply for this and that scholarship". Let go of naysayers, and just apply.

## Rachel Iradukunda

- Graduate of Casco Bay High School
- Current attending Smith College
- Majoring in Neuroscience
- Scholarship won: Mitchell Institute



“I remember when I was applying for the Mitchell Institute scholarship, I thought to myself, they only give this to one student at each school. There’s no way that could be me. We disqualify ourselves before we could even apply.”

“I frequently visited **Scholarship.com**. I subscribed, so I got notifications and was updated.”



# Successful Scholars



"I relied on my school counselors and school aspiration lab as my primary resource."

"To get organized I used my agenda book and wrote notes. I kept a folder for when the scholarships were due."

"Apply for as many scholarships that you have time for!"

"The essays can reflect back upon for what you did during your high school years."

## Emily Dumont

- Graduate of Lewiston High School
- Current attending USM
- Major currently Undecided
- Scholarship won: Mechanic Savings Bank, Kiwanis Key Club
- Favorite Scholarship Site: The Red Sox Foundation

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## Nicole Sturgis

- Mom of Jacob Sturgis, Sophomore @ Clarkson University
- Jacob is majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Aspirations Coordinator - Westbrook High School

“Scholarships made it possible for Jacob to attend an expensive private school at a public school price.”

“I knew that winning scholarships was going to save me money which made it important for me to help him.”



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- What questions do you have?
- What tips can you share?
- Which websites have been most useful in your scholarship search?

# FAME Scholarship Resources

- [FameMaine.com](http://FameMaine.com) – Maine Scholarship Search
  - Maine Based scholarships
  - Links to suggested scholarship sites
- [YouTube.com/user/FAMEMaine](https://www.youtube.com/user/FAMEMaine)
  - Acing Your Scholarship Search



# Thank You for Attending

Finance Authority of Maine  
5 Community Drive  
P.O. Box 949  
Augusta, ME 04332  
1-800-228-3734  
TTY: 207-626-2717  
education@FAMEmaine.com  
[www.FAMEmaine.com](http://www.FAMEmaine.com)

Next Month's  
Wednesday Webinar:  
January 11, 2017  
It's a New Year – Make  
"Planning for College" a  
New Year's Resolution!



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