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MARCH/  
APRIL 2009

## Scholarship MYTHS...

I'm about to dispel five widespread myths about winning college scholarships. Myths that have, unfortunately, prevented many deserving students from winning money for college. By learning the truth behind these myths, you'll gain a better understanding of the essential "rules" of the college scholarship game.

**MYTH #1:** "Only students with high academic achievement win merit scholarships."

**The Real Story:** Scholarships are awarded to students with all sorts of talents and interests. In fact, many of the best scholarship programs are designed for students who devote time and energy to such diverse fields as music and the arts, foreign languages, community service, science, leadership, writing and oratory, to name just a few. Typically, these programs are entirely "grade blind"—meaning that grades are not used as a judging criteria. Furthermore, many scholarships that do take into account grade point averages (GPAs) only use such quantitative measures as preliminary cutoff points. For instance, some scholarship contests specify that applicants have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Once you've cleared this minimum bar, grades don't impact your chances of winning. Finally, even when GPA is used as an evaluation factor, it's only one aspect of your application. Scholarship programs aren't myopic: They want to recognize students with all sorts of achievements and backgrounds. They realize that applicants have much more to offer than simply the grades that appear on their transcripts.

**MYTH #2:** "Scholarship applicants should seek to compile the longest list of extracurricular activities."

**The Real Story:** As is the case in many other aspects of life, winning scholarships is about *quality*, not quantity. Some

people think that to win these awards you must devote your entire high school career to participating in extracurricular activities. On the contrary, most scholarship winners distinguish themselves by the devotion they have demonstrated to a particular activity or activities, rather than by the sheer quantity of their involvement. Winning scholarships isn't about having the longest list of extracurriculars. It's about communicating who you are and what you care about through the activities you participate in and enjoy.

**MYTH #3:** "Scholarship contests are conducted on a level playing field."

**The Real Story:** Each scholarship contest has its own biases. This is not to say that scholarship judging is unfair. Rather, it's just that each scholarship program is looking for students with particular qualities. The subjective process of valuing certain qualities over other ones tilts the playing field far from level. In this way, the ideal application you submit for one scholarship contest may, in fact, place you out of the money when submitted to another. Because of these biases, it's essential to define each scholarship's "ideal applicant" and to emphasize personal attributes consistent with this definition.

**MYTH #4:** "Applying for scholarships is just like applying to college."

**The Real Story:** Actually, scholarship contests demand a modified approach from the college admissions process because scholarship contests are characterized by substantially more head-to-head competition. While college admissions officers compare students primarily to a standard, scholarship contests directly compare students to one another. Because of this more competitive environment, students who devise creative techniques to stand out from the crowd have a distinct advantage. In this way, a good *scholarship* application (which distinguishes you from everyone else) will likely be a good college application—but the reverse is not necessarily true.

**MYTH #5:** "The track record you've already accumulated determines whether you'll win scholarships."

**The Real Story:** What you do *after* you decide to apply for scholarships is just as important as the record you have already accumulated. This holds true regardless of how much time you have until a particular scholarship application is due. Content strategies, for instance, increase your chances of winning by adding depth and breadth to your existing record. Likewise, packaging strategies help make your application stand out from the crowd by creating a cohesive message that highlights talents, communicates passions, and emphasizes potential. So don't fall into the trap of thinking that your die has already been cast. What you do *now* will make all the difference in the world.

## Do YOU KNOW?

Absegami Guidance Goodies...



**Do you know that you will not be awarded a scholarship based on your superior athletic ability, tremendous volunteer resume', stellar transcript, publishable writing skills, beauty queen looks, or winning personality alone...**

**YOU need to apply for a scholarship.**

Local scholarships are listed on [www.absegami.net](http://www.absegami.net) go to Guidance and then the scholarship link. These are also posted on a bulletin board down in the Guidance Office. The hard copy applications can be obtained from Mrs. C. Berret in the Guidance Office. Any questions should be directed to your counselor immediately. Deadlines are coming and going! Hundreds of other scholarships are available on-line at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

**What do you think...**

**Rome wasn't built in a day...**

**Google "The Stonecutters Credo" and Keep the faith!!!**

## MARCH/ APRIL '09 GUIDANCE CALENDAR

**March 3/ 4/ 5- High School Proficiency Testing**

**March 9/ 10/ 11- HSPA Make-Ups**

**Military Recruiters** are available throughout March. See your counselor for a specific schedule.

**April 15/ 16- ACCC JumpStart Scheduling-** Mrs Sartorio will send you notice of your scheduled day and time. Parents are encouraged to attend. Ask for information about ACCC ACCESS Scholarships for student leaders.

**April 16- Annual College Admissions Workshop for Parents.** Juniors and Sophomores are also encouraged to attend. Starting Time TBA.

**April 22- Annual Job Fair at Absegami.** During the school day periods 11 and 12 in the Senior Cafeteria.

**May 30- Peer Mediation sponsored "Battle of the Bands", See Mr Mont or Mrs Wade for registration and audition information.**

### PROGRAMS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Rutgers University has set April 25th as Rutgers Day! Try to visit RU in the spring! See [www.RutgersDay.rutgers.edu](http://www.RutgersDay.rutgers.edu) for more details.
- The Junior Statesman Summer School has great summer programs for leadership. Visit [www.jsa.com/summer](http://www.jsa.com/summer) for more details.
- Interested in a career in construction? Attend Construction Industry Day on April 23rd or 24th! See [www.cicdnj.org](http://www.cicdnj.org) for details.
- Check out Robotics Summer Camp at TCNJ- Go to [www.tcnj.edu/~summerprograms/roboticscamp](http://www.tcnj.edu/~summerprograms/roboticscamp) to apply! Deadline is May 15.
- Ramapo College has 12 different PreCollege Programs for 10th, 11th, & 12th graders! Visit [RamapoPreCollege.com/precollege4](http://RamapoPreCollege.com/precollege4) today!
- Drexel's LeBow College of Business has summer business camps! Visit [www.lebow.drexel.edu](http://www.lebow.drexel.edu) for more info.
- Syracuse University has 2 or 6 week summer programs. Go to [www.summercollege.syr.edu](http://www.summercollege.syr.edu)
- Georgian Court University in close by Lakewood NJ has open houses Saturday March 21 and Saturday April 25. Register at [www.georgian.edu](http://www.georgian.edu)
- Monster.com has Leadership Diversity Summer Programs with scholarships available! Go to [www.monsterdlp.com](http://www.monsterdlp.com) and apply today!
- AtlanticCare Regional Medical Center Medical Explorers Group starts up soon! Call Ed Kyle @ 441-8086 for more info. Call Ed for Volunteer opportunities as well!
- Interested in a career in the Fashion? FIT has PreCollege Programs. Visit [www.fitnyc.edu](http://www.fitnyc.edu) and learn about portfolio preparation NOW!
- The United States Military Academy at West Point will host 2 sessions of the 34th Annual Summer Leaders Seminar. Apply now at [www.admissions.usma.edu](http://www.admissions.usma.edu) before April 1.
- Interested in Law Enforcement? Trooper Youth Week applications are available. See your guidance counselor today!
- Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point has an active Medical Explorer's Group! Call Miss Jennifer Qualitieri at 653-3724 and start attending this month!
- Are you into animals? Join the Philadelphia Zoo's Junior Zoo Apprenticeship Program! See your counselor for details or go to [www.philadelphiazoo.org](http://www.philadelphiazoo.org) today.
- [www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org) has a National College Match Program which provides full four year college scholarships- check it out today!
- **Win BIG \$\$\$ AXA Achievement Scholarship** go to [\[achievement.com\]\(http://achievement.com\)](http://www.axa-</a></li></ul></div><div data-bbox=)

- Do you like to write? Over \$57,000 in prize money available in the Ayn Rand Essay contest! 2 Categories 8/9/10 and 11/12. Go to [www.aynrand.org/contests](http://www.aynrand.org/contests) for more info.
- Are you a junior or senior looking for a job? The AtlanticCare Regional Medical Center needs Food Service aides- Call Dave Crider at 748-4025 for more information.
- Are you interested in Monmouth University? If so, you should investigate the Monmouth Leadership Grants! See your counselor today!
- Interested in a career in Aeronautics??? Check out the Teterboro School of Aeronautics- call 201-288-6300.
- Interested in a Mariner's Captains License??? Start an exciting career on the water go to [www.seaschool.com](http://www.seaschool.com) today!
- Going "Green" in the construction world is one of the hottest tickets available! 10 Scholarships are available for careers in different Construction areas. Goto [www.constructmyfuture.com](http://www.constructmyfuture.com) for more information!
- 18 years old? You need to register with Selective service. Go to [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) today.
- JumpStart students should apply for ACCESS Scholarship! Visit [www.atlantic.edu](http://www.atlantic.edu) for application deadlines & info!

## Personal Care...

- Are you or a friend struggling with substance use? It's not too late to get out... You can do this, you need to do this, and deep down you know that you want to be better - you can get out of the ugly cycle that is addiction! Here is one place for confidential and free help... Atlantic County's **TRYIT- Treating Recovering Youth In Transition**. Call Jake Straughn or Greg Mayer at 645-7700 ext 4331 or ext 4334. Start feeling like yourself again Call TODAY!
- **Do you want to FIGHT someone?** Don't do it! Use Mediation- it's quick, CONFIDENTIAL, and it works! See any teacher, counselor, or mediator for a request form.
- Issues with eating or body image? Learn more at [www.renfrewcenter.com](http://www.renfrewcenter.com) and start helping yourself or a friend.
- Need to talk? Call 1-800-999-9999 Covenant House will listen. E-mail [help@nineline.org](mailto:help@nineline.org)

## ACADEMIC Help is AVAILABLE...

- Use the Activity period to meet with Teachers! Check the schedule at [www.absegami.net](http://www.absegami.net) for teachers and classroom locations for every subject area! These teacher tutors are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays!
- **Math Late Study is Tues and Wed 4:30 to 6:30 in the 'Gami Library! Get there!**
- **Late Study for Science is on Thursdays in the Library- time is 4pm to 7pm!** Get there and get the help you need!
- Also available Mon through Fri at Rittenberg in EHC from 5 to 8pm- See your counselor for more details and an application packet for EHC!
- Make sure your parents are on ParentConnect! Go to [www.absegami.net](http://www.absegami.net) for registration details!