Scholarship Funding Sources & Essay/Personal Statement Writing

1. Internal scholarship sources
    a. University
    b. College within the university
2. External sources:
    a. Student organizations (related to your major)
        - Local, regional and national level
        - Example: https://www.alpfa.org/page/2021_scholarship
    b. Professional associations (related to your major)
        - Example: https://future.aicpa.org/resources/article/aicpascholarships-can-support-your-accounting-education
    c. Online sources
        - https://www.fastweb.com/ (can browse by state)
        - https://www.collegescholarships.com/ (can browse by state and county)
        - Word of caution – Do not provide information if you feel uncomfortable sharing it with different websites
3. Essay writing tips
    a. Think about the return on your time investment
    b. Tell your financial story
    c. Explain why you need the scholarship to succeed
        i. Questions to consider:
            1. What is your financial story?
            2. How has your family history affected your financial story?
            3. Why do you need the scholarship to achieve your educational goals?
            4. (Exactly) How will the scholarship help you to achieve your educational goals?
    d. Remember to:
        i. Be clear
        ii. Be authentic
        iii. Include a quote from a personal hero to conclude the essay
            – To hit home about the importance of achieving your educational goals

Scholarship "Thank You" Letter Example

Dear _____,

My name is Porschia Thomas-Quinn and I am currently a senior at DePaul University. As one of the recipients of the Theresa M. Boyle Scholarship, I am writing to sincerely thank you for establishing this award in honor of your wife and selecting me as a recipient for the scholarship for the third year. Your generosity motivates me to continue to work diligently in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree in accounting at DePaul while participating in extracurricular activities with professional and student organizations like the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, Illinois CPA Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. and Student Support Services.

The Theresa M. Boyle Scholarship has come at critical points in my education. My family has been experiencing financial hardships for a few years. My father is unemployed and my mother is forced to support our family on a low-income salary. I am very grateful for being awarded with this scholarship for the third consecutive year because it assists me in completing my undergraduate studies and also decreases the heavy burden of paying for a college education on my family.

My education is one of the top priorities in my life and I would again like to extend my gratitude to you, _____, for awarding me with this scholarship for the third year. In the words of Lao-tzu, "Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking creates profoundness and kindness in giving creates love." The gift of this scholarship is an act of kindness that affects me as well as others. Three of my goals and aspirations are to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a successful entrepreneur and the owner of a tax and financial planning company that will cater to minority communities. The Theresa M. Boyle Scholarship will assist me financially and encourage me mentally to make my dreams come true.

Sincerely,

Porschia Thomas-Quinn

Drafting Your Personal Scholarship Essay

➢ *Step 1*

Think through answers to these questions to get you started:

1. What is your financial story?
2. How has your family history affected your financial story?
3. Why do you need the scholarship to achieve your educational goals?
4. (Exactly) How will the scholarship help you to achieve your educational goals?

Remember to:

- Be clear
- Be authentic
- Include a quote from a personal hero to conclude the essay
    - To hit home about the importance of achieving your educational goals

➢ *Step 2*

Draft your essay