

**High School Senior's
Guide to Merit and
Other No-Need Funding
2008-2010**

RSP FINANCIAL AID DIRECTORIES OF INTEREST TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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High School Senior's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding, 2008-2010

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You'll find 900 scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants, and awards here that can be used for study, research, professional, or other nursing activities. 290 pages. ISBN 1-58841-192-3. \$30, plus \$6 shipping.

High School Senior's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding 2008-2010

**Gail Ann Schlachter
R. David Weber**

A List of 1,092 Merit Scholarships and Other No-Need Funding Programs Set Aside Specifically for High School Seniors and a Set of Six Indexes: Program Title, Sponsor, Residency, Tenability, Subject, and Deadline Date

**Reference Service Press
2008**

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Reference Service Press (RSP) began in 1977 with a single financial aid publication (*Directory of Financial Aids for Women*) and now specializes in the development of financial aid resources in multiple formats, including books, large print books, disks, CD-ROMs, print-on-demand reports, eBooks, and online sources. Long recognized as a leader in the field, RSP has been called, by the *Simba Report on Directory Publishing*, “a true success in the world of independent directory publishers.” Both Kaplan Educational Centers and Military.com have hailed RSP as “the leading authority on scholarships.”

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Introduction

WHY ANOTHER FINANCIAL AID DIRECTORY?

Are you a high school student who has decided to get a college education? Congratulations. You have made a wise decision. Not only will you find college personally and intellectually challenging, you will also find it financially rewarding. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college graduates, on the average, make \$25,000 a year more than high school graduates.

Getting a college education, however, is expensive. It can cost over \$100,000 just to complete a bachelor's degree. That's more than most students can afford to pay on their own. Where can they turn for help?

If the students come from low-income families, there are thousands of well-publicized federal, state, and private sources available to support them. But, what about the students caught in the middle—who have too much family income to meet financial need requirements but not enough to be able to pay for college without help?

Traditional financial aid directories don't offer much assistance. Most of the programs listed in such standard guides as *Scholarships, Fellowships, and Loans* (published by Thomson Gale) and *Chronicle Financial Aid Guide* (published by Chronicle Guidance) are need based and open primarily to lower-income students. Only a few publications have focused on no-need programs, and those have been very limited in scope. For example, *Winning Money for College* (published by Peterson's Guides) describes fewer than 200 national contests and has not been updated since 1997.

As a result, many high school seniors (along with the counselors and librarians trying to serve them) have believed the myth that only the neediest can qualify for financial aid. That's just not true. In fact, there are nearly 1,100 funding programs available to high school seniors and recent high school graduates that never look at income level. But, since they are generally not covered or separately identified in the existing financial aid directories, it used to be impossible to identify those opportunities easily. Now, with the ongoing publication of the ***High School Senior's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding***, all that has changed. Here, in one place, you can find out about the wide array of no-need programs set aside just for high school seniors and recent graduates.

The unique value of the *High School Senior's Guide* has been highly praised by the reviewers. In fact, *College Financial Aid* gave the book four stars, its highest rating. *Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* concluded that "Schlachter and Weber have done an exemplary job of organizing an enormous amount of information." And *School Library Journal* calls the guide "user friendly," "remarkable," and "well designed."

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The *High School Senior's Guide* is unlike any other financial aid listing. First of all, the directory only covers programs open to high school seniors or recent graduates. Most other directories mix together programs for a number of groups—high school students, college students, and even graduate students or postdoctorates. Now, you won't have to spend your time sifting through programs that aren't aimed at you.

Second, only merit and other no-need funding is included. If a program requires financial need, it's not listed. Here's your chance to find out about programs that award money solely on the basis of:

- academic record
- writing or artistic ability
- speech-making skills
- athletic success
- high school club membership
- religious or ethnic background
- parents' military or organizational activities
- or just pure luck in random drawings

And, none of these programs consider income in the selection process.

Third, many of the programs listed here are not covered in the other general financial aid directories. So, even students who can qualify for need-based programs will want to look at the *High School Senior's Guide* for additional leads.

Fourth, only the biggest and best funding programs are described in this book. To be included here, the no-need funding program has to offer at least \$1,000 per year. Many of the listings go way beyond that, paying up to \$20,000 or more annually, or covering the full cost of college attendance.

Further, only free money is identified. If a program requires repayment or charges interest, it's not listed. Here's your chance to find out about more than \$1 billion in aid, knowing that not one dollar of that will ever need to be repaid!

Sixth, unlike other funding directories, which tend to follow a straight alphabetical arrangement, this one groups entries by discipline: sciences, social sciences, humanities, and any subject area (unrestricted by discipline). This arrangement will facilitate your search for appropriate funding opportunities. The same convenience is offered in the indexes, where program title, sponsoring organization, residency, tenability, subject, and deadline date entries are each subdivided by field of study.

In addition, you can take the money awarded by these scholarships to any number of schools. Unlike other financial aid directories that often list large numbers of scholarships available only to students enrolled at one specific school, all of the entries in this book are "portable."

Finally, the directory has been designed to make your search as easy as possible. You can identify programs by discipline, specific subject, sponsoring organization, program title, where you live, where your school of choice is located, and even deadline date. Plus, you'll find all the information you need to decide if a program is right for you: purpose, eligibility requirements, financial data, duration, special features, limitations, number awarded, and application date. You also get fax numbers, toll-free numbers, e-mail addresses, and web site locations (when available), along with complete contact information.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

The focus of the *High School Senior's Guide* is on "portable" merit and no-need funding that high school seniors and recent high school graduates can use to support their college studies at practically any school in the United States. Excluded from this listing are:

- *Programs that consider income level in the selection process:* If a program requires applicants to demonstrate need as part of the primary selection process, it is not listed here.
- *Programs not aimed at high school seniors or recent high school graduates:* Even if a program is no-need, it's not listed if it is open only to a different category of student (e.g., college students) or if it is not specifically for high school seniors (e.g., a photographic competition open to adults of any age).

SAMPLE ENTRY

- (1) **[672]**
- (2) **BEST BUY SCHOLARSHIPS**
- (3) Scholarship America
One Scholarship Way
P.O. Box 297
St. Peter, MN 56082
(507) 931-1682 Toll-free: (800) 537-4180
Fax: (507) 931-9168
E-mail: bestbuy@scholarshipamerica.org
Web: bestbuy.scholarshipamerica.org/index.php
- (4) **Purpose** To provide financial assistance for college to high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding volunteer community service.
- (5) **Eligibility** This program is open to graduating high school seniors who plan to enroll full time at an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university or vocational/technical school in the United States. Applicants must be able to demonstrate "solid academic performance and exemplary community service." Consideration may also be given to participation in school activities and work experience, but financial need is not considered. Applications are only available at Best Buy stores throughout the country.
- (6) **Financial data** The stipend is \$25,000, \$2,000, or \$1,000.
- (7) **Duration** 1 year; nonrenewable.
- (8) **Additional information** This program is supported by the Best Buy Children's Foundation. Best Buy operates nearly 750 stores in 49 states.
- (9) **Number awarded** At each Best Buy store in the country, 1 scholarship at \$2,000 and 1 at \$1,000 are awarded. In addition, 8 scholarships at \$25,000 are awarded nationally. Recently, more than 1,500 scholarships, worth nearly \$2.5 million, were awarded.

DEFINITION

- (1) **Entry number:** Consecutive number assigned to the references and used to index the entry.
- (2) **Program title:** Title of scholarship, grant, award or other no-need funding opportunity.
- (3) **Sponsoring organization:** Name, address, telephone number, toll-free number, fax number, e-mail address, and web site location (when information was supplied) for organization sponsoring the program.
- (4) **Purpose:** Basic program requirements; read the rest of the entry for additional detail.
- (5) **Eligibility:** Qualifications required of applicants and factors considered in the selection process.
- (6) **Financial data:** Financial details of the program, including fixed sum, average amount, or range of funds offered, expenses for which funds may and may not be used, and cash-related benefits supplied (e.g., room and board).
- (7) **Duration:** Time period for which support is provided; renewal prospects.
- (8) **Additional information:** Any unusual (generally nonmonetary) benefits, features, restrictions or requirement associated with the program.
- (9) **Number of awards:** Total number of recipients each year or other specified period.
- (10) **Deadline:** The month by which applications must be submitted.

- *School-based programs:* The directory identifies “portable” programs—ones that can be used at any number of schools. Financial aid administered by individual schools solely for the benefit of their incoming freshmen is not covered. Write directly to the schools you are considering to get information on their offerings.
- *Money for study outside the United States:* Since there are comprehensive and up-to-date directories that describe all available funding for study and research abroad (see the list of Reference Service Press titles opposite the directory’s title page), only programs that support study in the United States are covered here.
- *Very restrictive programs:* In general, programs are excluded if they are open only to a limited geographic area (less than statewide), are available to a very limited membership group (e.g., a local union or a tightly targeted organization), or offer limited financial support (under \$1,000).
- *Programs that did not respond to our research inquiries:* Programs are included in the *High School Senior’s Guide* only if the sponsors responded to our requests for up-to-date information or posted that information on their web site (we never write program descriptions from secondary sources).

WHAT’S UPDATED?

The preparation of each new edition of the *High School Senior’s Guide* involves extensive updating and revision. To make sure that the information included here is both reliable and current, the editors at Reference Service Press 1) review and update all relevant programs currently in our funding database and 2) search exhaustively for new program leads in a variety of sources, including directories, news reports, newsletters, annual reports, and sites on the Internet. We only include program descriptions in the *Guide* that are written directly from information supplied by the sponsoring organization on their web site or in response to our inquiries (up to four data collection letters followed by up to three telephone inquiries, if necessary). Despite our best efforts, we were not able to get information from some sponsoring organizations and, as a result, their programs are not included in this edition of the guide.

The 2008-2010 edition of the *High School Senior’s Guide* completely revises and updates the previous (fifth) edition. Programs that have ceased operations or now offer awards less than \$1,000 have been dropped. Similarly, programs that have broadened their focus to include need-based applicants have also been removed from the listing. Profiles of continuing programs have been rewritten to reflect current requirements; nearly 80 percent of the continuing programs reported substantive changes in their locations, deadlines, or benefits since 2005. In addition, more than 400 new entries have been added. The result is a listing of 1,092 scholarships, grants, awards, and other funding opportunities set aside specifically for high school seniors and recent graduates heading off to college.

HOW THE DIRECTORY IS ORGANIZED

The directory is divided into two sections: a detailed list of merit and other no-need funding programs for high school seniors and recent graduates; and a set of indexes to help you pinpoint appropriate funding programs.

Merit and Other No-Need Funding. The first section of the directory describes nearly 1,100 scholarships, grants, awards, prizes, contests, competitions, and other funding opportunities for high school seniors that do not consider income in the primary selection process. The programs listed are sponsored by federal and state government agencies, professional organizations, foundations, educational associations, and military/veterans organizations. All areas of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities are covered.

To help you tailor your search, the entries in this section are grouped into four main categories:

- **Sciences.** Described here are 253 merit and other no-need funding programs that 1) reward outstanding speeches, essays, organizational involvement, and other activities in the sciences or 2) support college studies in a number of scientific fields, including agricultural sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, environmental sciences, food science, horticulture, mathematics, marine sciences, nursing, nutrition, pharmacology, and technology.
- **Social Sciences.** Described here are 178 merit and other no-need funding programs that 1) reward outstanding speeches, essays, organizational involvement, and other activities in the social sciences or 2) support college studies in various social science fields, including accounting, business administration, criminology, economics, education, geography, home economics, international relations, labor relations, political science, sales and marketing, sociology, social services, sports and recreation, and tourism.
- **Humanities,** Described here are 192 merit and other no-need funding programs that 1) reward outstanding artistic and creative work or 2) support college studies in the humanities, including architecture, art, creative writing, design, history, journalism, languages, literature, music, and religion.
- **Any Subject Area.** In addition, there is a listing of 469 funding sources that can be used to support study in any subject area (although the programs may be restricted in other ways). Of the four chapters in this section, “Any Subject Area” is the largest; that’s because funding sponsors recognize that most high school seniors are neither expert in nor necessarily committed to a particular course of study at this early stage of their educational career.

Each program entry in the first section of the guide has been prepared to give you a concise but clear picture of the available funding. Information (when available) is provided on organization address and telephone numbers (including fax and toll-free numbers), e-mail address and web site location, purpose, eligibility, money awarded, duration, special features, limitations, number of awards, and application deadline. The sample entry on page 8 illustrates and explains the program entry structure.

The information provided for each of the programs covered in this section was supplied by sponsoring organizations in response to questionnaires we sent through the end of 2007. While the *High School Senior’s Guide* is intended to cover as comprehensively as possible the no-need funding available to this group, some sponsoring organizations did not respond to our research inquiries and, consequently, are not included in this edition of the directory.

Indexes. To help you find the aid you need, we have included six indexes; these will let you access the listings by program title, sponsoring organization, residency (where you live), tenability (where you want to study), subject, and deadline. These indexes use a word-by-word alphabetical arrangement. Note: numbers in the index refer to entry numbers, not to page numbers in the book.

Program Title Index. If you know the name of a particular funding program and want to find out where it is covered in the directory, use the Program Title Index. Here, program titles are arranged alphabetically, word by word. To assist you in your search, every program is listed by all its known names or abbreviations. In addition, we use a code to help you determine if the program falls within your general subject interest (sciences, social sciences, humanities, or any subject area).

Sponsoring Organization Index. This index makes it easy to identify agencies that offer merit and other no-need college funding. More than 900 sponsoring organizations are listed alphabetically, word by word. In addition, we’ve used a code to help you identify which programs sponsored by these organizations fall within your general area of interest (sciences, social sciences, humanities, or any subject area).

Residency Index. Some programs listed in this book are restricted to residents of a particular state or region. Others are open to students wherever they live. This index helps you identify programs available only to residents in your area as well as programs that have no residency restrictions.

Tenability Index. Some programs in this book can be used only in specific cities, counties, states, or regions. Others may be used anywhere in the United States (or even abroad). Use this index to find out what programs are available to support your studies in a particular geographic area.

Subject Index. Use this index when you want to identify merit/no-need funding programs by specific subject (more than 200 are included in this index). To help you pinpoint your search, we've also included numerous "see" and "see also" references.

Calendar Index. Since most financial aid programs have specific deadline dates, some may have closed by the time you begin to look for funding. You can use the Calendar Index to identify which programs are still open. This index is arranged by broad discipline and divided by month during which the deadline falls. Filing dates can and quite often do vary from year to year; consequently, the dates in this index should be viewed as only approximations after 2010.

HOW TO USE THE DIRECTORY

Here are some tips to help you get the most out of the financial listings in the *High School Senior's Guide*:

To Locate Financial Aid by Discipline. If you want to get an overall picture of what kind of funding is available in the sciences, social sciences, or humanities, turn to the appropriate category in the first section of the guide and browse through the listings there. Also, be sure to take a look at the fourth chapter, "Any Subject Area." You'll find hundreds of general programs described there that are available to support study in any area (although they may be restricted in other ways).

To Find Information on a Particular Financial Aid Program. If you know the name and disciplinary focus of a particular financial aid program, you can go directly to the appropriate category in the first section of the directory, where you'll find program profiles grouped by discipline and arranged alphabetically by title. If you are looking for a specific program and do not find it in the chapter you have checked, be sure to refer to the Program Title Index, to see if it is covered elsewhere in the directory. To save time, always check the Program Title Index first if you know the name of a specific award but are not sure under which subsection it would be placed. Since we index each program by all its known names or abbreviations, you'll also be able to track down a program there when you only know its popular rather than official name.

To Browse Quickly Through the Listings. Turn to the section that interests you (sciences, social sciences, humanities, or any subject area) and read the "Purpose" field in each entry. In seconds, you'll know if this is an opportunity that might apply to you. If it is, be sure to read the rest of the information in the entry, to determine if you meet all of the program requirements before writing for an application form. Remember: don't apply if you don't qualify!

To Locate Financial Aid Programs Sponsored by a Particular Organization. The Sponsoring Organization Index makes it easy to determine which groups are providing no-need funding (more than 900 are listed here) and to identify specific financial aid programs offered by a particular sponsor. Each entry number in the index is coded to indicate broad subject coverage, to help you target appropriate entries.

To Locate Financial Aid Based on Residency or Where You Want to Study. Use the Residency Index to identify funding that has been set aside to support applicants from your area. If you are looking for funding to support studies in a particular city, county, state, or region, turn to the Tenability Index. Both of these indexes are subdivided by broad subject area, to help you identify the funding that's right for you. When using these indexes, always check the listings under the term "United States," since the programs indexed there have no geographic restrictions and can be used in any area.

To Locate Financial Aid for Studies in a Particular Subject Area. Turn to the subject index first if you are interested in identifying available funding in a specific subject area (more than 200 different subject areas are indexed there). As part of your search, be sure to check the listings in the index under

the heading “General Programs;” those programs support studies in any subject area (although they may be restricted in other ways).

To Locate Financial Aid by Deadline Date. If you are working with specific time constraints and want to weed out financial aid programs whose filing dates you won’t be able to meet, turn first to the Calendar Index and check the program references listed under the appropriate area and month. Note: not all sponsoring organizations supplied deadline information, so not all programs are covered in this index. To identify every relevant financial aid program, regardless of filing dates, read through all the entries in the category that represents your interest (sciences, social sciences, or humanities). Don’t forget to look at the listings in the “Any Subject Area” category, as well.

PLANS TO UPDATE THE DIRECTORY

This volume, covering 2008-2010, is the sixth edition of the *High School Senior’s Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding*. The next biennial edition will cover the years 2010-2012 and will be released early in 2010.

OTHER RELATED PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the *High School Senior’s Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding*, Reference Service Press publishes several other titles dealing with fundseeking, including the companion volume, *College Student’s Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding*. For more information on this and other related publications, you can 1) write to Reference Service Press’s marketing department at 5000 Windplay Drive, Suite 4, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-9319; 2) call us at (916) 939-9620; 3) fax us at (916) 939-9626; 4) send us an e-mail message at info@rspfunding.com; or 5) visit us at our Internet site: <http://www.rspfunding.com>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A debt of gratitude is owed all the organizations that contributed information to this edition of the *High School Senior’s Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding*. Their generous cooperation has helped to make the sixth edition of this publication a current and comprehensive survey of no-need awards.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr. Gail Schlachter has worked for more than three decades as a library manager, a library educator, and an administrator of library-related publishing companies. Among the reference books to her credit are the biennially-issued *Directory of Financial Aids for Women* and two award-winning bibliographic guides: *Minorities and Women: A Guide to Reference Literature in the Social Sciences* (which was chosen as an “Outstanding Reference Title of the Year” by *Choice*) and *Reference Sources in Library and Information Services* (which won the first Knowledge Industry Publications “Award for Library Literature”). She is the former editor of *Reference and User Services Quarterly*, was the reference book review editor for *RQ* (now *Reference and User Services Quarterly*) for 10 years, is a past president of the American Library Association’s Reference and User Services Association, and recently was elected to her fourth term on the American Library Association’s governing council. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to reference service, Dr. Schlachter has been awarded both the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Citation and the Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award and was named the “Outstanding Alumna” by the University of Wisconsin’s School of Library and Information Studies.

Dr. R. David Weber has been teaching economics and history at Los Angeles Harbor College (Wilmington, California) since 1975. He is the author of a number of critically-acclaimed reference works, including *Dissertations in Urban History* and the three-volume *Energy Information Guide*. With Gail Schlachter, he is the author of Reference Service Press’s award-winning *College Student’s Guide to Merit and Other No-Need Funding* and a number of other financial aid titles, including *Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Their Dependents* and *Financial Aid for the Disabled and Their Families*, which was selected as one of the “Best Reference Books of the Year” by *Library Journal*.

Merit and Other No-Need Funding Programs for High School Students

- Sciences* ●
- Social Sciences* ●
- Humanities* ●
- Any Subject Area* ●

Sciences

Described here are 253 merit and other no-need funding programs that 1) reward outstanding speeches, essays, organizational involvement, and other activities in the sciences or 2) support college studies in a number of scientific fields, including agricultural sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, environmental sciences, food science, horticulture, mathematics, marine sciences, nursing, nutrition, pharmacology, and technology. These programs are available to high school seniors to fund studies on the undergraduate level in the United States. If you are looking for a particular program and don't find it here, be sure to check the Program Title Index to see if it is covered elsewhere in the directory.