

Scholarship for Success

Welcome to the teleconference.

EducationQuest *Reaching Your Potential* Scholarship Program

You need to dial in to hear the presentation.

Housekeeping

- This is a teleconference. To minimize background noise, please use your mute option.
- Hold questions until the end
 - Write questions down
 - Type questions on the side
- An evaluation will be emailed
- If disconnected, try calling again

Reaching Your Potential

- Renewable, need-based program that targets students with obstacles to higher education
 - Award amounts range from \$2,300 to \$6,000
- Applicants referred by community agencies or colleges
 - Last year, 26 students received \$120,000 in new scholarships
 - Since 2000, more than 230 students have received nearly \$2.2 million
 - Of these, 76 percent are either in college or have graduated

Let's talk about...

- Typical *Reaching Your Potential* recipients
- How to refer students
- Tips on completing a winning application

The faces of *Reaching Your Potential*



Support services

What makes *Reaching Your Potential* unique:

- EducationQuest mentor
- Campus mentor
- *Reaching Out* newsletter



What are the odds?

For every 10 referrals



2½ submit an application



How to refer students

- Step 1: Decide who to refer
- Step 2: How to submit your referral
- Step 3: Follow up with students

Step 1: Decide who to refer

- Consider your students and their potential to succeed in college
 - You can only refer students from TeamMates
- Select students who overcame significant obstacles -- not “I can’t afford college”
- Successful referrals usually have these traits:

<i>Courage</i>	<i>Candor</i>
<i>Perseverance</i>	<i>Humor</i>
<i>Persistence</i>	<i>Honesty</i>
<i>Turned life around</i>	<i>Independence</i>
<i>Problem-solving ability</i>	<i>In it for the ‘long haul’</i>

Step 1: Decide who to refer

Scholarship criteria

- Nebraska resident and U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Attending a Nebraska college
- Demonstrate financial need
 - Must qualify for Pell Grant
 - Pell provides funding for poverty level students
 - Use the *College Funding Estimator*
 - Specific questions – contact EducationQuest Outreach staff closest to you

Step 2: Submit referral to Gigi

■ Referrals due to Gigi: March 12, 2010

- Email: ginness@teammates.org
 - Student full name, address, city, state, ZIP
 - Optional: Phone and email (email required if application is to be emailed)
 - Your full name, address, city, state, ZIP, phone, email
 - Paper or email application
- Gigi will email you after referral has been submitted

■ Two *Reaching Your Potential* cycles

- Spring (applications due April 1)
- Fall (applications due October 1)

So, you think your work is done?

WRONG!

For every five applicants,
one is selected.

Your students need your help!

Step 3: Follow up with students

It's okay to help your students!

- Encourage your students to complete the application
- Offer to review the application form and essays
- Make sure the packet is complete
 - Application
 - Essays
 - Letter of recommendation (one)
 - 2010 – 2011 Student Aid Report (SAR)

Application tips

- Follow application instructions
- Answer the question
- Write essays that are well organized and succinct
- Use correct grammar and spelling
- Present a compelling reason to be selected

The application

Provide information about the college you are, or will be, attending in the next academic year.

College: _____ City: _____

Major: _____ Start Date: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Degree Sought (circle one): Certificate/Diploma Associate Degree Bachelor's Degree

If you are presently enrolled, or have ever been enrolled in college, have you:

Defaulted on a student loan? Yes No

Failed to repay a student grant, if required? Yes No

Daytime phone: (____) _____

Cell phone: (____) _____

On separate sheets of paper, answer each of the following essay questions in 500 words or less. Label each page with your name.

1. **What have you learned from the obstacles you've faced and how will this knowledge help you succeed in college?** (50% of your score)

2. **What do you want to accomplish after college? Explain why you have set these goals and how you will accomplish them.** (30% of your score)

My signature certifies that the information submitted on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give EducationQuest permission to verify all information and release my application to external review committee members.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Essay Question #1

What have you learned from the obstacles you've faced and how will this knowledge help you succeed in college? (50% of score)

- Do not describe money issues -- all applicants have financial need
- Describe the obstacle(s) succinctly
- Place emphasis on:
 - What he/she learned from the obstacle
 - How it will help him/her succeed in college

Essay Question #2

What do you want to accomplish after college? Explain why you have set these goals and how you will accomplish them. (30% of score)

- Applicant's college goals should align with his/her life goals
- Identify necessary steps to achieve his/her goals
- Demonstrate the drive and will to reach his/her goals

Letter of recommendation

Letter of Recommendation – Worth 20% of score

- Describe the relationship to the applicant
- Explain the applicant's strengths and why he/she has the potential to succeed in college
- Besides financial need, describe the applicant's current obstacles to college

Letter of recommendation tips

- Must know the applicant and be able to tell his/her story
- Need enough time to write the letter
- Should tailor the recommendation to the *Reaching Your Potential* goals
- Cannot be a family member
- This person may be YOU!

Scholarship Review Committee

- Review committee members include:
 - Community agency representatives
 - Financial aid professionals
 - Community members at-large with interest and knowledge of college access issues
- All reviewer information is held confidential
- All applicant information is held confidential

Notification process

- All applicants and referral contacts will be notified of the results
- If not selected, students can reapply in the future

Questions?

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