SCHOLARSHIP MYTH

A lot of students do not apply for scholarships because they believe that only the most exceptional students receive them. Fact is…you do not need a 4.0 GPA to apply for and receive a scholarship. Although many scholarships do consider academic performance, the level of achievement required to receive one is always relative to the other students in the applicant pool. In addition, criteria other than academic performance, such as your major, extracurricular activities, volunteerism and/or financial need, are being considered.

To increase your chances to receive a scholarship, you must first do your homework and research available opportunities, and then try to impress the selection committee with your application. One way to justify the time spent on these activities is to consider that you are getting paid for your efforts. If you spend five hours identifying and applying for a scholarship and you receive a $300 award, you just earned $60 an hour! Even if you don't receive a scholarship, you will have refined your research and writing skills and will be better prepared to pursue similar opportunities in the future.

APPLICATION TIPS

- ➢ **Read the entire application and all of the instructions before you begin**
- ➢ **Know the deadline**
    - o Get your application(s) in on time.
    - o Ask for recommendation letters early.
- ➢ **Make it easy to read**
    - o Type your application and any required essays.
    - o Proofread!
- ➢ **Be clear, thoughtful, and concise**
- ➢ **Have a friend or mentor proofread**
    - o Ask someone whose judgment you respect to proofread your application.
- ➢ **Apply for multiple scholarships**
    - o Applying for multiple scholarships greatly increases your chances of winning one. If possible, use the same essays and recommendation letters to save time.
- ➢ **Don't pay for scholarship services**
    - o Don't waste your money on scholarship search services that promise to help you tap into vast amounts of unclaimed financial aid funds. There are many web sites that provide the same information for free.