



2018 First Generation College Scholarship Application Announcement

Taos Community Foundation is offering a premier scholarship award to High School Graduates wishing to pursue advancement of higher education. This scholarship is to enable a student as **a first-generation learner** in their family to seek higher education.

The **First Generation College Scholarship** is a comprehensive college scholarship that pays towards the costs of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies. It is a supplemental or last dollar scholarship and therefore secondary to all other grants /scholarships awarded to the scholar. After considering the student's other community or academic institutional awards, the **First Generation Scholarship Fund** will pay toward the remaining costs of the scholar's education. The amount of the scholarship is unique to each scholar and can vary from year to year, and could be up to an annual award of \$15,000.

This is a 4 year award provided a 3.0 GPA is maintained during the award period and that all required paperwork is submitted in accordance with the Scholarship Agreement that will be presented at the time of selection.

This Scholarship Award is only for attendance at a New Mexico University or College, specifically:

- Eastern New Mexico University
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- University of New Mexico-Main Campus
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and technology
- Western New Mexico University

Or at a University or College that is part of the Western Undergraduate Exchange, as administered by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (www.wiche.edu). This regional tuition-reciprocity agreement enables students from WICHE states to enroll in some 145 participating public institutions at 150 percent of the enrolling institution's resident tuition.

Eligibility Criteria: The following will be assessed by the scholarship committee through application/essay materials. Scholars may also be asked to participate in an interview/meeting.

- High School GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Achievement – academic and personal
- Demonstration of a robust High School academic transcript that includes Advanced Placement courses as available at your High School and /or dual credit courses at UNM Taos
- Community service/involvement
- Motivation for continued learning and academic advancement
- Personal character

Selection & Award Process

Taos Community Foundation Scholarship Applications are read and reviewed by separate Scholarship Committees that utilize an evaluation rubric as part of the competitive application process. Scholar recipients must provide proof of college registration by **September 7, 2018** for the scholarship award to be processed. Checks will be mailed to the respective university/college financial aid office directly.

- **Please do not staple any of the materials.**
- **A Common Student Application (CSA) will not be accepted.**

Application Submission

Please note that there is a First Generation Scholar Recommendation Request Form that is part of this announcement packet. Applicants are asked to have one Advanced Placement instructor complete a Letter of Recommendation on the applicant's behalf. Please provide this Request Form to the instructor directly so they may prepare a letter in accordance with the outlined Guidelines. As a courtesy, please be sure that you request this information with ample time for your instructor to complete the letter! They may wish to provide you with the letter in a sealed envelope, or mail it directly to the Foundation.

Please include the following materials:

- A completed First Generation Student Scholarship Application- a Common Student Application (CSA) will NOT be accepted.
- A personal resume
- An unofficial copy of your High School transcript that documents grades and class rank.
- An unofficial copy of SAT and/or ACT scores
- A letter of Recommendation from **one** Advanced Placement Instructor. (Please provide your instructor with the **Scholar Recommendation Request Form** and note that they may elect to mail or email their letter directly to Taos Community Foundation. It is the student's responsibility to confirm how the letter will be submitted)

Please submit completed applications to the Foundation office by **Wednesday, April 11, 2018 by 5:00 PM**. Applications may be hand delivered or mailed. Mailed applications must be postmarked by **April 11, 2018** for consideration.

**Taos Community Foundation
115 La Posta Road, Suite A
P.O. Box 1925, Taos, NM 87571
Attention: Helen Forte**

For additional information/assistance, please contact Helen Forte, Director of Community Outreach
(575) 737-9300 ~ hforte@taoscf.org

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(575) 737-9300 x 7027 ~ hforte@taoscf.org



**First Generation College Student Scholarship
2018 Application**

Personal Information

Full Name: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone # _____

Educational Information:

Cumulative GPA: _____ Class Rank/Size: _____

ACT Score: _____ and /or SAT Score: _____

Name of schools that you have applied to: _____

Name of school you hope to attend and why: _____

Anticipated enrollment date: _____

Possible Major(s) / Field of Study:

Employment/Internship History: _____

Community Involvement: _____

Volunteer Involvement (please indicate if this was required for school, church, a class, etc.):

Honors or Awards: _____

Three words that best describe me:

Essay: This is intended to be an open, reflective essay where you can tell us a little bit about yourself. The following questions may be topics of exploration. This is an opportunity for you to share your writing and reflective abilities - they are not listed as specific questions to answer! What life experiences have shaped who you are today? What are your academic and career goals and your plans to achieve them? Have you had particular challenges as a learner that you have overcome? Is there a particular leadership experience you had that you valued and could share how it impacted/affected you? In what areas of your life are you most proud of? As a guideline, your essay should be typed and in the 250-500 word (1-2 page) range.

Attachments

Please include one copy of each of the following:

- A personal resume
- An Unofficial Copy of your High School transcript that documents grades and class rank
- An Unofficial Copy of SAT and/or ACT scores
- A Letter of Recommendation from one Advanced Placement/Dual Credit Instructor
(Please provide your instructor with a **Scholar Recommendation Request Form**, and note that they may elect to mail or email in their Letter of Recommendation.)
- Please DO NOT staple the application

Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing of the award.

Thank you for applying.

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 by 5:00 PM
by postmark or hand delivery**

**For additional information, please contact:
Helen Forte Director of Community Outreach
Taos Community Foundation
115 La Posta Road, Suite A, Taos NM 87571
(575) 737-9300 x7027
hforte@taoscf.org**

2018 Scholar Recommendation Request Form

Student: _____

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a recommender in support of your student's application for Taos Community Foundation's **First Generation College Student Scholarship**. Through this scholarship, Taos Community Foundation supports students who are *the first in their family to seek higher education*, and who demonstrate resilience in the face of economic and/or life challenges. This scholarship was introduced in 2017 by an anonymous couple who wish to support a local student pursuing a college education and who embody determination, optimism, persistence, gratitude, an aptitude for learning and community service.

The **First Generation College Student Scholarship** is highly selective and your letter of recommendation is an important component of our selection process. To the best of your ability, please describe what makes this student a strong candidate for this scholarship. If you are related to the student applicant by family, we ask that you excuse yourself as recommender.

Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation:

- 1) Please share your experience with this student, particularly in reference to their academic performance as an Advanced Placement/Dual Credit student. Do you believe this student's educational and/or career goals are in alignment with their abilities?
- 2) Elaborate on how/what this student has done to demonstrate his/her intellect, including your impression of the student's ability to achieve his/her educational objectives.
- 3) Evaluate the student with respect to personal characteristics, such as honesty/integrity, maturity, leadership abilities, character, communication skills, responsibility and work habits.
- 4) Evaluate the students with respect to performance characteristics, such as oral communication, ability to think critically and problem solve, and his/her academic aptitude.
- 5) Include any additional information or comments about the applicant that you feel would be helpful to the selection committee, or any special circumstances the committee should consider.

In your Letter of Recommendation, please include the following:

- Your Name, Title/Position and School of Employment
- Contact information (phone/e-mail) in the event that we need to contact you for additional information

Submission of Recommendation Letter: Please select one of the following methods of submission:

- 1) Include your letter in a sealed envelope and have student applicant deliver with their application materials.
- 2) Mail or hand-deliver letter(s) directly to:
Taos Community Foundation – 115 La Posta Road Suite A, Taos, NM 87571
Mailing Address: Taos Community Foundation, PO Box 1925, Taos, NM 87571
- 3) Submit electronically to: Helen Forte, Director of Community Outreach hforte@taoscf.org

Thank you for the time and attention you have extended on behalf of this applicant. If you have any questions about this process or about this scholarship award, please don't hesitate to contact us.