

Chat & Chew - Financial Opportunities

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Panelists: Elizabeth Villagomez - Honors Assistant, Renee Moody - SMCC Alumni, Dr. Lewis Andrea Brownlee - SMCC Faculty & PTK Advisor

Please share with your students that are interested in learning more about tips to apply for scholarships.

Questions & Answers:

- What scholarship opportunities are there in the honors program?
<https://www.southmountaincc.edu/academics/honors>
 - Incoming Honors Scholarship - full tuition up to 15 credits
 - 4 semesters for AA & 8 semesters for Bachelors
 - Complete an honors class, co-curricular activities and maintaining a 3.25GPA or higher
 - Honors achievement awards - already completed 12 college credits & have a 3.25 GPA or higher (cumulative)
 - Honors class
 - A co-curricular event and maintain GPA
 - Receive between \$244 - \$500 per semester depending on credits
 - Already honors students: Chancellor's/Presidents up to 18 credits with a \$250 stipend & Honors Foundation - \$500 per term
 - Information is on Honors website
 - Value: The connections you create with faculty, staff, other students
 - Honors students complete an honors project
- PTK Options/Opportunities?
<https://www.southmountaincc.edu/academics/phi-theta-kappa-ptk>
 - Located in SES127
 - 12 credits 3.5 GPA
 - All American All AZ Team Scholarships
 - 2 \$5,000 scholarships at each college
 - Dashboard has merit based scholarships to apply for
 - Transferring students can apply for the transfer scholarship (\$5,000)
 - Meetings are every other Wednesday 1PM-2PM
 - Next club meeting is 2/19
 - Cover upcoming scholarships
 - Find a mentor to write you a letter of recommendation
 - Benefit of PTK - It's an honor society that elevates your stature
 - Transferable funds
 - Build a community & support system
 - Establish study partners
- Tell us about a conference you attended for free - how did you do it?

- Completed an application
 - STEM train scholarship
 - Took on opportunities when available
 - Don't let fear stop you from applying or attending
- Advice for students:
 - Save your essays to repeat and use with other applications
 - Edit as needed
 - Utilize the writing center
 - Utilize the Career Services Center for help
 - Keep going until you get a yes
 - Ask your professors, mentors for scholarship opportunities
 - When asking for a recommendation letter, give your mentor/advisor more than 2 days notice!
 - Most students are not applying for - why not try it?
 - Don't get discouraged - use and find a strategy
 - Start saving now for your bachelors, masters, other degrees
- Panelist advice for students:
 - It's worth challenging yourself - it opens the doors to opportunities
 - Apply for as many scholarships
 - Don't let rejection stop you - keep going
 - Don't be afraid - put yourself out there!
 - Get to know your professors and staff members
 - Attend college activities, events and programs
 - Don't be afraid to ask for help
 - South Mountain is a great campus for you to find resources
 - Talk to your advisors! They are here to support you
- Misconceptions & Tips for scholarships
 - Double check your writing - use grammarly - have someone proofread your application
 - Review the rubric if it's being asked for your application
 - Ask someone to provide feedback
 - Build relationships with faculty and leadership on campus to get to know you for a letter of recommendation
 - Share about life lessons
 - What you will do with the funds - spend your money ethically
 - Laptop, tuition, books, etc.
 - If you find a scholarship that you can obtain, apply!
 - If you don't have the GPA you can use other skills to help you apply for scholarships:
 - Volunteering
 - Get involved - become an officer
 - Personal skills (leader at home, organizes activities to younger siblings, etc)
 - Athletics

- Find a way to get around your disorder if you have one - don't let this limit you
 - Hype yourself! Use visuals, positive affirmations, have a positive mindset, listen to uplifting music, feed yourself healthy foods, get enough sleep
- Financial Aid Office for a listing of scholarships - <https://www.southmountaincc.edu/paying-college>
- Emergency Scholarships
 - [Verna McClain](#)
 - [District Scholarships](#)
- Beyond the GPA, what else can a student do to find scholarships
 - Create a portfolio
 - Create a video about yourself to show who you are
 - Always do the optional forms if it's added on the application
- When it comes to honors, find solutions, don't give up! Talk to the Honors program for help
- Career Services is a good resource for application help as well as identifying careers, internships, etc.