

Don't Just Dream About College: Go!

It's Time to Start Applying to Take Advantage of Increases in State Grants for College

Article provided by the Oregon University System, www.ous.edu

Here's a pop quiz with something in it for you. What do you know about the Oregon Opportunity Grant?

Do you know that it is the state's major need-based financial aid program and provides money for college that you don't need to pay back? And more to the point, are you aware that funds for these grants were recently doubled, meaning **more money for college for more Oregon students?**

If you answered no to any of these questions, now is the time to find out! The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be submitted through June in order to learn about state and federal aid for which you may be eligible; however, many grants and scholarships that also use the FAFSA have earlier deadlines, so now is a good time to submit the application.

Under Gov. Ted Kulongoski's leadership, the 2007 Legislature approved a historic increase in the Oregon Opportunity Grant program, doubled funding to \$72 million, making college education more affordable for Oregon students.

The increase will support larger grants to more students, including part-time students, enrolling in fall 2008. For many, it may mean the difference between going to college or not. For others, it can reduce student borrowing and work, and help students stay in college and complete a degree.

This coming fall, approximately 33,000 students will qualify for the grants, which are administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) and vary according to the students' financial needs.

The grants will go to students of Oregon community colleges, Oregon public universities, and eligible Oregon independent colleges. Maximum grant awards have doubled on average and the maximum family income for eligibility has risen from approximately \$31,000 to about \$70,000 for a family of four.

Many students will receive increases in the grant and some who were not eligible for help before will now receive aid. For example, a 20-year-old student with a \$30,000 family income, attending a public university full time, would see his grant increase from \$1,735 to \$2,153. An 18-year old dependent student with a \$45,000 family income previously would have received no state grant support for college, but now is eligible for an estimated \$1,182 toward expenses at a public or eligible independent university in Oregon, or \$902 at a community college.

"This truly opens doors to students across the state who previously had limited options to afford college," says Tamara Henderson, executive director of the Oregon Student Association. "The increased grant aid will allow low-

to moderate-income students to focus and succeed in college with reduced stress levels, reduced demand to work many hours or multiple jobs while in school and less student loan debt."

If you want to know whether you are in the ballpark for a grant, you can get an immediate answer online at www.GetCollegeFunds.org. The site hosts a "grant estimator" into which users can plug financial information and find out if they are likely to receive a grant and if so, how much.

To apply, complete the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov (or for those who are unable to apply online, request a paper copy at 1-800-4-FED-AID). All Oregon residents who submit a FAFSA are **automatically** considered for an Oregon Opportunity Grant and will be notified by e-mail if they appear to be eligible.

Actual grant amounts will be provided by the college financial aid offices as part of students' total financial aid packages.

For more information on the Oregon Opportunity Grant and other grants and scholarships, go to www.GetCollegeFunds.org.

Scholarship Announcement for Native American/Alaska Native Natural Resource Students

Deadline: March 31, 2008, 5 p.m.

Award: \$2,000 for college students (number of awards varies per year); **\$1,500** for graduating senior high school students

Purpose: The **Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program** is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing higher education in natural resources.

Required Materials: The Education Selection Committee will review and rank those applicants who completely address each area. Please be specific. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Letter of Application: The letter must include your name, permanent mailing address, e-mail address if available, phone number, be a maximum of two pages in length and discuss the following:

- Interest in natural resources
- Commitment to education, community and your culture
- Financial need. Students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should attach the Student Aid Report or have the report sent to the ITC office.

Consider Udall and IHS Scholarships, Internships

Morris K. Udall Foundation

- Undergraduate Scholarship
- Native American Congressional Internship
- Environmental Public Policy and Conflict Resolution Dissertation Fellowship
- Parks in Focus

The Morris K. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency in Tucson, Ariz. It was established by Congress to honor Morris K. Udall's 30 years of distinguished service in the U.S. House of Representatives (1961 to 1991).

Congressman Udall was a leader in many public policy areas and was known for his commitment to preserving the environment and advocating for the rights of American Indians. Several of the foundation's programs offer resources for tribal members.

The Morris K. Udall Foundation's activities include an educational program that provides scholarships, fellowships and internships for studies related to American Indian policy or to the environment and funds the Na-

tive Nations Institute at the University of Arizona.

Since 1996, the foundation has awarded 914 scholarships of \$5,000 each and 22 Ph.D. fellowships of \$24,000 each, and has placed 137 American Indian interns in congressional and executive branch offices.

For more information, visit www.udall.gov and www.ecr.gov or call 520-901-8500.

Indian Health Service Scholarship

"The Indian Health Service (IHS) mission is to raise the physical, mental and spiritual health of all American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. In support of that mission, the Office of Public Health Support is responsible for recruiting health care providers in all health care disciplines to work in priority locations across the nation. The IHS Scholarship Program is one of the ways they support this effort."

The IHS Scholarship Program opportunities include:

- Health Professional Preparatory Scholarship Program
- Health Professional Pre-Graduate Scholarship Program
- Health Professional Scholarship Program
- The IHS Extern Program

Applicants can apply online at www.scholarship.ihs.gov.

The deadline for receipt of your application package is March 28, 2008. Late applications will not be accepted and extensions will not be granted.

For more information, contact the Portland Area Scholarship Coordinator, Laurie Veitenheimer, 1220 SW Third Ave., Room 476, Portland, OR 97204-2892; 503-326-6983; (fax) 503-326-2702; laurie.veitenheimer@ihs.gov.

6th Annual Social Pow-Wow In Honor of Rudy Clements and His Daughter, Trudy

**March 8, 2008 • Cone Fieldhouse at Sparks Athletic Center
Grand Entry at 4 p.m.
Free Admission**

Native Arts/Crafts • Food Vendors
Dancers • Drum Groups • Raffle
Fancy Shawl Contest – prizes for first, second and third places

Master of Ceremonies: Bob Tom
Arena Director: David West
Host Drum: Four Directions

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 503-370-6265.

Inquiries and applications should be directed to:

Attn: Education Committee
Intertribal Timber Council
1112 NE 21st Ave., Suite 4
Portland, OR 97232-2114
Phone: 503-282-4296
Fax: 503-282-1274
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