

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scholarships for Oregonians Growing, Application Process Improving

EUGENE, Ore. (10/4/04) About this time every year, high school seniors (and their parents) begin realizing college is just around the corner...and so is paying for it. Fortunately for thousands of deserving students – including graduating high school seniors, returning college students, and nontraditional students – donors want to help.

Over the past two decades, a unique public-private partnership has been growing in Oregon, thanks to hundreds of Oregonians who want to give back to the state and its students. Administered by the state's Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC), the OSAC Scholarship Program now offers more than 300 different scholarship programs that awarded more than \$10 million in private awards to nearly 3,000 students last year alone.

And it will all happen again in a few months. Only this application year, students and families will see an improved application process and even more scholarship programs. An easier-to-read paper application for the OSAC Scholarship Program will be available in mid-December at high school counseling offices and in college and university financial aid offices. Students will also be able to complete portions of the application online beginning in January.

Most of the scholarships in the OSAC program are for students entering or returning to college in the fall of 2005, but there is something for just about everyone. Some awards are for undergraduate students, others for graduate or professional students. Many of the scholarships can be used at any eligible institution in the U.S. for any field of study; while others are for specific schools or fields of study. Some of the scholarships can be used for approved training programs, such as in healthcare or cosmetology, while others require progress be made toward 2- or 4-year degrees.

There are no fees for applying for OSAC Scholarships, and students should begin preparing now for their applications by drafting essays, organizing activity charts, and for some scholarships, gathering letters of recommendation. For more information, visit the OSAC website at www.GetCollegeFunds.org.

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The Oregon Student Assistance Commission coordinates a variety of state, federal, and privately funded student financial aid programs for the benefit of Oregonians attending institutions of postsecondary education. www.osac.state.or.us.

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