Scholarships can provide the necessary financial assistance to assist students in successfully obtaining their educational goals. Riverside Community College District offers scholarships through its Foundation office and generous donors. These RCCD Scholarships are available for application every fall semester using the RCCD Scholarship Application. However, the RCCD brochure is not the only source of scholarships for students. There are many other resources and opportunities for students to find scholarships outside of Riverside Community College District. Please consider the following ideas in your search for scholarships.

- Use free Scholarship Search sites on the internet. Some recommended sites that do not charge for searching include:
  
  www.fastweb.com  
  www.scholarships.com  
  www.scholarshiphunter.com  
  www.scholarsite.com

- Check with community, non-profit, and membership organizations, clubs, university alumni groups, churches, employers, high schools, corporations, businesses, associations, libraries, etc. for possible scholarships from these sources.

- Beware of Scholarship scams! Any group that requires you to pay for scholarship information could be a scam. Watch out for high pressure groups. If it sounds too good to be true or they make promises or guarantees of scholarships or other financial aid, then it probably is a scam. Check out scam information at:
  
  www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

Beginning in 2012-2013, all outside or off campus scholarships will be disbursed to the student when enrollment has been verified. It will be the student’s responsibility to use the scholarship funds for education expenses, housing and/or transportation as allowed by the terms of the scholarship.
Using your Outside Scholarships at RCCD

If you are awarded a scholarship from a source outside of Riverside Community College District, the procedure to use your scholarship at RCCD is as follows:

1. The organization or donor providing the scholarship will contact you if they have chosen you as the recipient of their scholarship.

2. Follow the donor’s directions on how to access your scholarship. They may require proof of enrollment at RCCD. You may submit your class schedule printed from WebAdvisor, or, if they are requesting “official” proof of enrollment, contact the RCCD Transcripts & Records office at 951-222-8603.

3. For students who received the Golden State Scholarshare scholarship: you may access your scholarship funds by completing the Qualified Withdrawal Form and submitting it to Golden State Scholarshare. The Qualified Withdrawal Form is available at [www.scholarshare.com](http://www.scholarshare.com). For help in filling out the form, call 1-877-728-4338.

4. Once RCCD receives your scholarship funds, you will be sent a letter acknowledging receipt of the funds and a schedule of scholarship disbursement dates.

5. The scholarship funds will be disbursed to you when your enrollment has been verified. It will be your responsibility to use the scholarship funds for education expenses, housing and/or transportation as allowed by the terms of the scholarship.

6. At the end of the academic year, you will be sent a letter regarding any remaining balance of scholarship funds. It is your responsibility to use your scholarship at RCCD. All unused scholarship funds will be returned to the donor.
**Scholarship Tips**

_Get Organized:_ Create a Personal Inventory and/or write a resume. This will help you when you write your personal essay or your donor wants to know more about you. Include accomplishments, awards, talents, interests, college major, career plans, extra-curricular activities, club and community involvement, volunteer service. Keep a log of scholarships and their deadlines.

_Applying for Scholarships:_ Apply to as many as you can. Pay attention to eligibility criteria; do not apply if you don’t meet the qualifications. Be sure to apply before the deadline. Follow the directions exactly and answer all the questions. Include all required documents. Remember neatness counts; proofread and double-check spelling and grammar.

_Personal Essay:_ Start with an outline. Follow directions and answer the essay question, if any. Know your audience and catch their attention. Use personal examples and comment on your past, present and future. Keep your essay short and to the point; don’t run on and on or be too idealistic. Neatness counts, be sure to type your essay. Be sure spelling and grammar are perfect!

_Evaluations or Recommendation Letters:_ Ask the appropriate people – teachers, employers NOT family or friends. Ask early – give them time to write a great recommendation.

How do you catch a scholarship?

**SNAG** it!

S_pelling is important  
N_eatness counts  
A_ccentuate the positive  
G_rammar is #1