

Taos Community Foundation is offering a premier scholarship award to High School Graduates from Taos and Western Colfax Counties 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 any 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 **August 12, 2019** 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** Instructor. (Advanced Placement preferred) (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 **Thursday, April 11, 2019 by 5:00 PM**. Applications may be hand delivered or mailed. Mailed applications must be postmarked by **April 11, 2019** for consideration.

Taos Community Foundation
Physical Address:
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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1925, Taos, NM 87571
Attention: Helen Forte

For additional information/assistance, please contact Helen Forte, Director of Community Outreach
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