



February 2012

Volume 15, Issue 5

# ACCESS TO SUCCESS

**ACCESS OFFICE HOURS**  
Room C1-117

**SPRING SEMESTER**  
Mon-Thurs 10 AM to 5 PM  
Fri CLOSED

**Closed for Spring Break**  
March 24 – April 1

Contact ACCESS:  
[access\\_mc@wvm.edu](mailto:access_mc@wvm.edu)  
408-855-5192

**February 2012**

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## **Attention BOG Recipients:**

### **SB 774 - Increase in Parking Fees**

Effective January 01, 2012:

- the parking permit fee is \$40/semester
- the BOG fee waiver recipient will only receive a \$10 discount
- the BOG fee waiver eligible student must pay \$30 of the parking fee

(Subject to Change)

## **WE WANT YOU ...**

**... to Contribute to ACCESS TO SUCCESS!**

Would you like to contribute to **ACCESS to SUCCESS**? We want this newsletter to have student input.

You are the main source for informing ACCESS of your needs, as well as, providing useful information to your peers. We encourage you to submit an article, interesting "tidbit", a recipe, helpful study strategies, constructive information on a favorite class/professor, information on books you are selling, your interest in establishing a study group, suggestions for an activity, suggestions on improving aspects of the ACCESS program, etc. You are limited only by your imagination!!

**Please submit your contributions** via email to [jackie.capurro@wvm.edu](mailto:jackie.capurro@wvm.edu).

## Important Dates

2012 Spring Semester	
November 21	First day of web registration for continuing students
December 1	First day of open registration for new, returning and continuing students
January 16	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Campus Closed</b>
January 17	First day of in-person registration for high school students
January 28	First day of instruction**
February 10	Last day to <b>add</b> semester-length classes with an Add Code via My Mission Portal. Go to the Mission College home page; select My Mission Portal; login; then select MyWebServices.
February 10	Last day to <b>drop</b> semester-length classes for a refund. Refunds for short-term classes are given if students drop before 10% of the scheduled class meetings have elapsed. For short-term classes that meet five days or less, the last day to drop classes for a refund is the day before the first class meeting. (Faculty signature not required to drop classes).
February 17	Last day to drop semester-length classes without a "W" on student's record (no refund).
February 17	Financial Aid students must complete 66.7% (2/3) of units enrolled on this date for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
February 17	<b>President's Holiday Weekend, Campus Closed</b>
March 9	Last day to file application for graduation Commencement Ceremony
March 26-31	<b>Spring Break, Campus Closed</b>
April 27	Last day to <b>drop</b> semester-length classes with a "W"
May 19-25	Final Exam Period
May 28	<b>Memorial Day, Campus Closed</b>
May 24	<b>Graduation</b>
Once Posted	Spring 2012 final grades available on My Mission Portal/MyWebServices. Grades available as soon as posted by the Faculty.

\*\*Late Start Classes...Students can add open classes via web until the day before the first class meeting.

### Refund Policy for Winter Session and Spring Semester

**Refunds** for short term classes are given if students drop before 10% of the scheduled class meetings have elapsed. (Faculty signature is not required to drop a class.)

For **Short-Term** classes that meet five days or less, the last day to drop with a refund is the day before the first class meeting.

Last day to drop classes **without a W (no refund)** = 20% of class meetings.

Last day to drop classes **with a W (no refund)** = 75% of class meetings.

## NEWS FROM STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Please take a few minutes to check out the most recent issue of "Student Health 101" by clicking: <http://readsh101.com/missioncollege.html>.



Students who access this web-link can sign-up to receive "Student Health 101" directly to their personal email account each month. Alternatively, students can bookmark "Student Health 101" in My Student Portal for easy reference. Student Health 101" is completely supported by student health fees.

Thanks, Rosalyn Chan, RN, PHN, MS  
Student Health Services 408-855-5141; fax: 408 - 567 - 0510

Check out our website: [http://www.missioncollege.org/student\\_services/shc/index.html](http://www.missioncollege.org/student_services/shc/index.html)

### Free nicotine gum or patches

By appointment only, call extension 5142  
Student Health Services, Room W1-303

Free nicotine gum or patches, along with one-to-one smoking cessation counseling, are available to students who are ready to commit to quit smoking. The free nicotine gum/patches are made possible by a grant from Breathe California; this grant will end in March, 2012.



# MISSION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

In early February, the Financial Aid Office will be announcing the application period for Mission College Scholarships. Application this year will be completely online – no hard copies accepted. As soon as the online application is available, we will notify you, and it will be listed on the WVM Portal, so keep your eyes open for an email or a listing. In the meantime, you may want to bring your Scholarship Essay up to date. You can also check out the listing of available Mission College scholarships at the following link to determine the ones for which you qualify:

[http://missioncollege.org/student\\_services/financial\\_aid/documents/AvailableScholarshipsListing.pdf](http://missioncollege.org/student_services/financial_aid/documents/AvailableScholarshipsListing.pdf)

## How to Prepare Your Scholarship Essay

Here are some tips for writing your Mission College scholarship essay. Divide your experiences into five main themes, as described below. After you have written a draft of your essay, email it or bring it to the ACCESS Office. Michele, Jenny, Sarah, Jackie, or an ACCESS tutor will check it over for grammar, misspellings, punctuation, and content. **Don't wait until the last-minute!!!!**

### Paragraph 1: Introduction/Attention Grabber

- Grab the reader's attention
- Introduce yourself to the committee; provide basic background info about yourself (e.g., As the eldest member in a family of seven.....)
- Explain if you are first generation to college, low income and/or have a disability.
- Talk about how you 'give back' to your community and/or how you hone your skills with additional classes or by helping others, if you do any other volunteer work, etc.

### Paragraph 2: Challenges you've faced and how you overcame them

- Topic sentence: Tells the reader what the key idea of the paragraph is about.
- Key details (example/s of challenges and specifics about how you overcame them/how it influenced your goals/life).
- Talk about how you got to Mission and, if applicable, how you overcame your obstacles and/or disability.
- Transition at end (introduces next paragraph)

### Paragraph 3: Career Goals

- Topic sentence: Tells the reader what your career goal is (e.g., work as a teacher in a San Jose High School).
- Key details (be specific about what you want to do and why)
- Talk about your major and transfer goals, especially why you chose your major.
- Transition at end (e.g, in order to reach my goal of working as a high school math teacher, I did "x" (e.g., enrolled at Mission College)

### Paragraph 4: Educational Goals/Background

- Topic sentence: Tells the reader what your educational goal is (e.g., to earn a B.S. in Mathematics followed by a single-subject credential).
- Key details (be specific about what you want to do and why).
- Transition at end (e.g, in order to reach my goal of working as a high school math teacher, it is necessary that I work and apply for scholarships to cover school expenses).

### Paragraph 5: Ask for the \$\$! / Explain why your case deserves attention

- Explain why you need the money. What will the scholarship allow you to do?(e.g. buy books, get a laptop for online/computer courses, etc.)
- Tell why you're such a great candidate for this scholarship.
- Show how you'll reciprocate (give back) to your "investor" (the scholarship program). (e.g. by helping other students, setting an example for your children, etc.)
- Thank the committee for considering your application.

# Scholarship Opportunities

## Hispanic Scholarship Fund / AT&T Foundation Scholarship

**Contact:** APPLY ONLINE ONLY. <http://www.hsf.net/ATT-Foundation.aspx> for additional requirements

**Eligibility:** Students of Hispanic heritage, dependents of AT&T employees, attending two-year or four-year colleges to obtain a degree. Must be a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident or eligible Non-U.S. citizen. Must be 25 years or younger as of February 15, 2012. This program is a merit-based program, not need-based.

**Award:** \$1,500 (2-year college); \$2,500 (4-year college)

**Deadline:** February 15, 2012

## Hispanic Scholarship Fund / Discover Scholarship

**Contact:** <http://www.hsf.net/Discover.aspx> for additional requirements

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be of Hispanic heritage; a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident or eligible Non-U.S. citizen; have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; intend to enroll as an undergraduate Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior at a four-year college or university in the 2012-2013 academic year; and be pursuing one of the following majors: *Business Administration, Finance, Information Technology (IT/MIS) or Marketing.*

**Award:** \$5,000

**Deadline:** February 15, 2012

## Hispanic Scholarship Fund / Toyota Scholarship

**Contact:** [http://www.hsf.net/Toyota\\_Scholarship.aspx](http://www.hsf.net/Toyota_Scholarship.aspx) for additional requirements

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be of Hispanic heritage; a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident or eligible Non-U.S. citizen; have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; intend to enroll as an undergraduate Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior at a four-year college or university in the 2012-2013 academic year; and be pursuing their first undergraduate degree.

**Award:** amounts vary

**Deadline:** February 29, 2012

## American Chemical Society Scholars Program

**Contact:** [scholars@acs.org](mailto:scholars@acs.org) or (800) 227-5558 ext. 6250

Students with outstanding academic records and a desire to pursue a career in the chemical sciences can apply for an ACS Scholars Award. Open to African American, Native American and Hispanic community college students majoring in a two-year chemical technology program or planning to transfer to a four-year school to pursue full-time study in a chemically-related field. . Applications available at:

[http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP\\_TRANSITIONMAIN&node\\_id=1234&use\\_sec=false&sec\\_url\\_var=region1&uuid=c5e7048b-1110-4f7c-9ccd-7a9693b18f37](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1234&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=c5e7048b-1110-4f7c-9ccd-7a9693b18f37)

**Awards** of up to \$5,000\* are given to qualified students.

**Deadline:** March 1, 2012 for Fall 2012.

## Sunkist A. W. Bodine Memorial Scholarship

Students must have a background in California or Arizona agriculture. It is open to students entering any phase of their undergraduate college career, at any school, and in any field of study. Please remember that the student and/or a member of the immediate family (parents/siblings/grandparents) must be, have been or currently be involved in California or Arizona agriculture. The number of recipients varies each year, with selection based on factors such as financial need, grade point average, college board test scores, recommendations and an essay. Applications available at

[http://www.sunkist.com/about/bodine\\_scholarship.aspx](http://www.sunkist.com/about/bodine_scholarship.aspx).

**Deadline:** April 30, 2012 for Fall 2012.

# Common Sense Places to Look for Scholarships

By Kathryn Knight, FastWeb

The economy is tanking. College tuition costs are rising. And somehow, you have to pay for college. Your only hope in paying for a higher education is with scholarships.

Being recognized as a valedictorian is totally out of the question. After taking the SAT three times, your results revealed limited improvement...and weren't even that great to begin with. There is no need, however, to limit yourself to university-specific scholarships. Outside scholarships may seem like a far fetch...but they're not as far as you think.

Service clubs, companies, and charities give out about \$2 billion in private scholarships each year. Roughly 1 million students receive these monies—meaning 1 out of 13 students wins a scholarship. The average of these scholarships is \$2,000. So are you ready to start looking?

**Athletic Scholarships.** Granted, this is only going to apply to a select few, but athletic scholarships may not require wonderful grades. Rather, the importance lies in physical talent and drive.

**Artistic Scholarships.** There are plenty of art-specific scholarships available for students who do the research. Additionally, artists can use their skills to apply for non-artistic scholarships. Oftentimes, judges are looking for creatively convincing applications for “average Joe” scholarships—think film, dance, song lyrics, paintings, etc.

**Minority Scholarships.** These scholarships are typically reserved for students from financially unprivileged backgrounds and ethnicities. Though these scholarships are not necessarily based on grades, they do require community service or athleticism—anything that sets you apart from the crowd.

**Employee Scholarships.** If you think your summer job is just a way to finance your love for video games or fashion, you're wrong. Many employers, whether yours or your parents, offer scholarships to students just because of the relationship that exists between the two.

**Wacky Scholarships.** There are scholarships out there that are wacky enough for any high school student. Think Duck Calling and Duct Tape Prom Dresses. It just requires a little legwork in finding these scholarships. And by legwork, we mean typing “wacky scholarships” into a search engine. Was that too hard?

There is no reason that any student should pay full tuition for college. It just takes time and work to find ways to pay up. So get on it!

# New VTA Express Route 121 Includes Stop at Mission College

New Buses  
New Destinations

## VTA EXPRESS BUS SERVICE



# Transform Your Commute!

- Free Wi-Fi
- Overhead storage
- Reading lights
- Reclining high-back seats



[www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org)



New Buses  
New Destinations

## VTA EXPRESS



### Route 102

South San Jose to Palo Alto

Worksites include: Facebook, Hewlett-Packard, Roche Bioscience, VA Hospital

### Route 103

Eastridge Transit Center to Palo Alto

Worksites include: Agilent Technologies, Tesla Motors, Varian, eBay

### Route 120

Fremont BART to Lockheed Martin Transit Center/Moffett Park

Worksites include: Google, Intuit, Inc., LinkedIn, Yahoo!

### Route 121

Gilroy Transit Center to Lockheed Martin Transit Center/Moffett Park

Worksites include: AMD, Coherent, Mission College, NetApp

### Route 122

South San Jose to Lockheed Martin Transit Center/Moffett Industrial Park

Worksites include: Accuray, Bloom Energy, Rambus, Wind River Systems

### Route 182

Palo Alto to IBM/Bailey Ave.

Worksites include: Apple, De Anza College, Seagate Technology, Hitachi

### Route 183

Fremont BART Station to Aborn and White

Worksites include: Every location served by BART



1112-0074

[www.vta.org/xbus](http://www.vta.org/xbus)

#### Using VTA Wi-Fi

1. Connect to the "VTA Free Wi-Fi" network
2. When prompted, accept the terms of use and begin browsing

# 8 Ways to Work Faster on Your Computer

from Reader's Digest Magazine, September 2011

If you feel as if you spend your life parked in front of a computer screen, maybe that's because you aren't relying on these simple tricks:

**1. Get rid of bloatware** — items associated with software you've uninstalled — and your PC or Mac will run faster, claims *Popular Science*. It's easy: Just go to [tweaknow.com](http://tweaknow.com) if you have a PC. If you're a Mac user, go to [macpaw.com](http://macpaw.com) and click on Free Download.

**2. Don't print the confirmation page** when you shop online, writes David Pogue in the *New York Times*. Instead, on your Mac, choose Print from the Safari toolbar, then from the PDF pop-up menu choose Save PDF to Web Receipts Folder. You'll have a record in an easy-to-find folder.

**3. Stop wading through the less useful stuff** that a Google search pulls up. Rely instead on search engines less vulnerable to "gaming," suggests Harry McCracken of *Time*. He recommends Blekko, which has banned the most questionable sites and lets visitors restrict searches to ones that deliver real results. He also likes DuckDuckGo, an aggregator that filters out spam, and Topsy, which analyzes links shared by influential Twitter users and is particularly good for news searches.

**4. Remember your passwords.** We're encouraged to come up with lots of different ones for the sake of security, but who can remember them all? One way is to choose an easy-to-remember (but not obvious) base password, then customize it to the site or purpose for which you're using it, write Adam Pash and Gina Trapani in *Lifehacker: The Guide to Working Smarter, Faster, and Better* (Wiley, \$30). For instance, let's suppose your favorite song is "Smells like Teen Spirit," your favorite number is three, and you've been asked to create a password for your Yahoo account. You might take the first letters of each word in the song title and combine them with your favorite number and the first two letters of the service: SLTS3YA. Your eBay password would then be SLTS3EB.

**5. Decipher your error messages.** You don't need a computer manual, writes Pogue. Simply type the message into your search engine, and you'll find out what's wrong and how to fix it.

**6. Use keyboard shortcuts.** There are tons of these, but a favorite of Pogue's is the one that lets you browse almost mouse-free on your PC: Press ALT+D to highlight the address bar at the top of your browser, then type the address you want. If you own a MacBook, writes Thomas Houston at [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com), use the Tap to Click feature to cut down on how many times you hit your trackpad button. Simply go to System Preferences under the Apple menu, then click on Trackpad.

**7. Clear your cookies and caches regularly,** advises the anonymous blogger at [techattitude.com](http://techattitude.com). When you browse the Web, bits of information from each site you visit are stored on your hard drive, which can slow your Internet connection. To clear your PC's cache using Firefox, press CTRL+SHIFT+DEL and select Clear Everything, then Clear Now. In Safari on your Mac, you can go to the pull-down menu under Safari on the left-hand side and click Empty Cache.

**8. Shrink your photos.** Images taken with digital cameras eat up tons of space and, if you send them, are annoying for others to open. Aseem Kishore, on [online-tech-tips.com](http://online-tech-tips.com), suggests chopping them down to manageable size by following the prompts at [makeathumbnail.com](http://makeathumbnail.com).

# February

# 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>January</b>		31	<b>February</b>		3	4
29	30 --Classes begin		1	2		
5	6	7	8	9	10 --Last day to ADD classes --Last day to DROP semester-length classes with a refund	11
12	13	14 --Valentine's Day	15	16 --Last day to DROP semester-length classes without notation	17	18
Presidents Weekend Holiday – Campus Closed		Presidents Weekend Holiday – Campus Closed				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Presidents Weekend Holiday – Campus Closed		26	27	28	29 --Leap Day	

## Welcome to the Spring 2012 Semester!