

# Resources for First-Gen Students

Being a first-generation student is defined as being the first person in your family to attend college (meaning neither parent has more than a two -year college degree.) Even though it is a huge honor, being first gen also comes with its own unique set of challenges which certainly adds to the pressure and stresses of being in college. As first gen students, we oftentimes do not have a clue as to what attending college in the United States entails. Everything is new and foreign from the application process, to applying for on-campus housing, applying for Federal Financial Aid and scholarships, and how to get registered for classes. Coupled with the everyday stressors of life like being a parent, a recent immigrant, or even a non-traditional student can sometimes cause some weariness and reluctance in our potential students. We hope the following resources we have compiled will be a good starting point for those first-generation students that we hope to recruit!

## Scholarships

In recent years, colleges and universities have done a fantastic job of offering scholarships to first generation college students. However, students do not have to rely solely on scholarships offered through the school to pay for their education. There are multiple alternate sources for students to apply for and receive scholarships from. Advise your recruits to reach out to their local community organizations, clubs, or even a parent's employer for opportunities. Scholarships can come from anywhere and everywhere! Below are a few national websites, provided by our friends at Education Quest, which Recruits can utilize while on their scholarship/college journey:

- **Chegg<sup>1</sup> College Board<sup>2</sup>**
- **Fastweb<sup>3</sup> International Scholarships<sup>4</sup>**
- **Peterson's<sup>5</sup> Scholar Snapp<sup>6</sup>**
- **Scholarship America<sup>7</sup> SuperCollege.com<sup>8</sup>**

## Education Quest

Education Quest serves as a great resource for students who need to do career exploration, learn about different available scholarships, and get assistance with anything college related.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>

<sup>2</sup><https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.internationalscholarships.com/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.scholarsnapp.org/>

<sup>7</sup><https://scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships/>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.supercollege.com/>

- **EDUMED**<sup>9</sup> also serves as a tool for students to explore different careers, and find what colleges offer certain careers and more!

## Sponsoring Agencies

There are many agencies within the state who assist students obtaining a college degree. These companies will usually assist with tuition, books, housing, and tools, etc. Every agency is different regarding the services they provide and the populations that they serve. These are just a few examples of sponsoring agencies within Nebraska:

- **Proteus**<sup>10</sup> - This program is grant funded and supports agricultural and migrant workers by offering educational assistance, short-term certification programs, job training, and/or career placements. The program helps farmworkers cover costs related to career and training programs such as: tuition, books, tools/equipment, or provides a stipend for class attendance.
- **Nebraska VR**<sup>11</sup> - Nebraska VR works with schools and other organizations across the state to help students plan for their future and careers that match their skills, abilities, and interests. Nebraska VR provides pre-employment transition services to individuals with disabilities. Those services include job exploration counseling, workplace readiness training, work-based learning experiences, counseling on comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational Programs, and Instruction in Self-Advocacy.
- **NE Dept of Labor**<sup>12</sup> (Scroll down to the “Training Assistance and Programs”). Provides information regarding the following assistance programs in Nebraska such as, registered apprenticeships, on the job training, work-based training, and worker training grants.
- **Central Plains**<sup>13</sup> - Central Plains Center for Services offers the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program. This program provides financial assistance for tuition, fees, and books, as well as one-on-one support, for current and former state wards to attend college.

---

*For most of us, college is one of the best experiences of our lives.*

---

For most of us, college is one of the best experiences of our lives. That does not mean that it will not be hard or stressful at times as well. Thankfully, there are more schools, agencies, and programs that help students navigate the college waters. These are all amazing tools for our first-generation students, and they help our students successfully see through the completion of their college degrees so please share away!

---

<sup>9</sup><https://www.edumed.org/>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.proteusinc.net/what-we-do/programs/national-farmworker-jobs-program/>

<sup>11</sup><http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/Error/PageNotFound.aspxerrorpath=/ReemploymentServices/Home.>

<sup>13</sup><http://www.central-plains.org/etv.html>