

Handout created for the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR)  
Presentation: The Train Might Keep Me Satisfied: Sustaining Student-Staff Connections for Academic Success

Presenters: Rhonda Kavan, Dr. Robert O. Hassell, Lori Danley, Michael Turner

Two featured Handouts:

[Search for My Future Scholarship Seminar, Sept 21, 2017](#)

[Writing for Scholarships: The Journey to \\$100,000 Begins with a Single Sentence](#)

### **More Involved Scholarships**

- Several scholarships are more involved, where I encourage students to save and work on the scholarship steadily, including getting essay portions reviewed in the TSU Writing Center.

I have assisted students in punching up their applications, making them more attractive candidates.

- Here are a few you can share with your students
- ✓ [\\$5,000 to \\$15,000 Scholarship America Dream Award, D: Oct 15, 2017](#)
- ✓ [Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, up to \\$40,000, D: Oct 24, 2017](#)
- ✓ [Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarship Program, \\$2,500 to \\$15,000 per academic year, D: Dec 15, 2017](#)

### **Essay Scholarships**

- Essay scholarships abound all over the internet, and you can encourage students to write rough drafts on the topic, and then let them expand their essays in revisions.
- Then, students can choose to enter the scholarship competition or not.

- ✓ [\\$5,000 and \\$1,000 Foreclosure.com Scholarship Program, D: Dec. 15, 2017, Min: 800 words and Maximum 2,000 words](#)
- ✓ [\\$3,000 CouponsPlusDeals Scholarship, D: Dec 31,2017, essay on how you save money in your daily life](#)
- ✓ [\\$2,000 Tom Joyner Foundation/Denny's Hungry for Education Scholarship Program](#)

### **Where to Find More Scholarships**

- ✓ <https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/>

I find the above blog by Jessica Velasco to be one of the best sources to find scholarships.

- ✓ <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

Browse millions of scholarships at Unigo's Scholarship Directory at the above link

- ✓ <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-directory/>

Scholarship Directory located at Scholarships.com

- ✓ <https://www.studentscholarships.org/#sthash.8raLQXUU.dpbs>

Scholarships listed by StudentScholarships.org; this website is very "spammy" in how it is laid out, but some good scholarships here

**SKIP THE ADS!** (Some of the ads are legitimate, but sadly I can't vouch for them all. Avoid the single mom or single dad scholarships—I and a few other students have received calls, and some of the operators are not scrupulous, trying to pressure students in pursuing degrees at for-profit colleges and to take on heavy student loans.)

They often ask very extensive, very invasive questions if you sign up for them, in order to give that information to marketers.)

## Student Debt Statistics

- More than 45 million student loan borrowers
- 70% of college students carry loans
- National student loan debt total is \$1.41 trillion
- Average student debt per borrower is \$27, 857
- In one survey, about 27% of students believed loans could be forgiven, 53% believed there was a fee to consolidate student loans (this is free), and about 55% regret having taken out the amount of debt that they did.

Source:

Bedard, Paul. "Report: 44 million student loans, \$27, 857

average, 27% think they're free." *Washington Examiner*, 1 June 2017,

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/report-44-million-student-loans-27857-average-27-think-theyre-free/article/2624681>

## Student Debt & Retention: More Statistics

- The April 2016 issue of *Consumer Reports* features a quote from a 32 year old woman who has \$152,000 in student debt, "I kind of ruined my life by going to college."
- This is part of a larger report, "Lives on Hold," where "Millions of Americans who went to college seeking a better future now face crushing debt from student loans—while the industry makes a handsome profit. How a broken system landed so many in this mess" (28).
- In a March 2016 Consumers Report National Research Center of 1,500 Americans with student debt, 45% of people with student said college wasn't worth the cost. Of those 45%, 38 percent didn't graduate, 69 percent had trouble making payments, 78 percent earn less than \$50,000 a year, and 43 percent did not get help from parents making financial aid decisions.
- More info: <https://www.revealnews.org/article/who-got-rich-off-the-student-debt-crisis/>

**STUDENTS, PARENTS and EDUCATORS:** Reading Chapter 11, Student Loans, pages 161-180, from Attorneys Amy Loftsgordon and Cara O'Neill, *How to Solve Your Money Troubles*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., published in July 2017, ISBN #978-1-4133-2381-8, to get a very up-to-date summary of student loans. You can check out this book from your local library or through interlibrary loans.

**[Having the College Money Talk: 10 Key Questions Every Family Should Discuss, last updated September 12, 2017, Consumer Reports article](#)**

HANDOUT HOUSED at Scholarship Tigers Blog: <https://scholarshiptigers.com/>