

PATH TO SCHOLARSHIPS®

*Making Vo-Tech, College, Graduate School,
and Scholarships a Reality*



Dare to Dream Great Dreams with 5 Steps!

Student Guide

June McBride, M.A.

PATH TO SCHOLARSHIPS®



Path to Scholarships® is a vehicle that:
motivates ALL students to dare to dream great dreams,
plants the seed of hope within students,
guides students to set goals that stretch them,
inspires students to discover life purpose,
guides students to turn obstacles into character and strength,
teaches the value of hard work through the college and scholarship process, and
empowers students with all the tools to successfully reach their dreams!

June McBride, M.A.

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*Path to Scholarships® Making Vo-Tech, College, Graduate School, and Scholarships a Reality
Dare to Dream Great Dreams with 5 Steps!
Student Guide*

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DEDICATION

Teacher-Created Resources Produced From the Heart!

I dedicate this student guide with love and gratitude to my God, my loving husband, my family, to all the educators, counselors, parents, and students I have met on my journey of over 300,000 miles since the year 2000, while conducting educator, parent, and student scholarship workshops in over fifteen states.

You are my heroes! You are tireless, self-sacrificing, and always giving. You have touched my life, inspired me, and changed me forever!

My life purpose is to serve, encourage, and influence the future leadership of this nation by teaching, motivating, and inspiring young people and their parents through the *Path to Scholarships® Program and Book Series*. My desire is to help them to build character in their lives, to identify their life purpose and goals, and to serve their communities and our nation in every profession.

Their influence will be far reaching, impacting, and life changing on a national level. Their voices will be heard and produce fruits of change within our families, the government, the educational system, medicine, churches, business, and our laws.

I am very proud to be a first generation college graduate.

I am a teacher.

I touch the present and the future!

June McBride, M.A.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Path To Scholarships® "Dare to Dream
Great Dreams with 5 Steps!"** 08

What is the Path of Success? 09

What Is Success? 09

Personal Assessment 14

High School/College Academic Planner 14

Counselor/Academic Advisor Interview 14

Planning My Future with Goals and LinkedIn 20

Tips for Academic Success 25

Time Management Log 29

Successful Student Budget 29

Family Support 32

Path of Hard Work 33

What is a Scholarship? 34

Consider Attending Higher Education 38

Essential Strategies for Successful School Admission 41

Consider Attending Graduate School 44

Path of Life Purpose 47

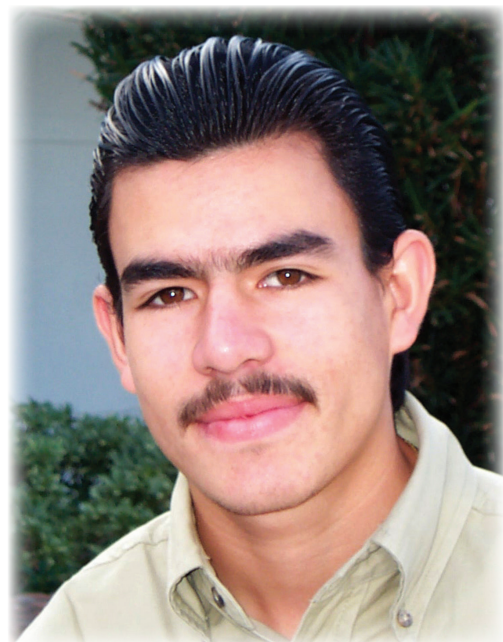
Life Purpose Planning 47

Steps to Discover the Path of Life Purpose 50



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Path of Organization	55
Foundational Five-Step Plan	55
Five-Step College and Scholarship Planning Portfolio	56
Checklist for School Admission and Scholarships	57
Step 1 - Community Service	61
Step 2 - Résumé	66
Step 3 - My Story Essay	71
Step 4 - Recommendation Letters	89
Step 5 - Transcript	95
College and Graduate School Log and Applications	95
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)[®]	101
Are Scholarships and Grants Taxable?	102
Scholarship Log and Applications	102
Resources and Research	104



LIST OF FORMS

What Is the Path of Success? 09

Personal Assessment	15
High School Academic Planner	16
College Academic Planner	17
Counselor Interview	18
Academic Advisor Interview	19
Planning My Future with Goal Setting	21
Time Management Log	30
Successful Student Budget	31

Path of Hard Work 33

Consider Attending Higher Education	39
Essential Strategies for Successful School Admission	41

Path of Life Purpose 47

Vision, Dreams, and Goals for My Future	48
Examples of Obstacles	49
Lies I Believe	51
Life Purpose Statement, Pre-write	52
Life Purpose Statement, Rough Draft	53
Forty-Nine Qualities for Success	54

Path of Organization 55

Checklist for School Admission and Scholarships	58
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Step 1 - Community Service 61

Planning Community Service	63
Community Service Log	64
Planning a Self-Initiated Community Service Project	65

Step 2 - Résumé 66

Tips for Writing Résumés	67
Three Basic Types of Résumés	68
Résumé Application	69
Student Activities Log	70



LIST OF FORMS

Step 3 - Essay	71
My Story Scholarship Essay	74
Brainstorming the Essay, Pre-write	75
Essay Introduction Five Senses, Pre-write	76
Writing the My Story Scholarship Essay, Rough Draft	77
My Story Scholarship Essay Rubric	80
Essay Writing Guide for School Applications	82
My Story Essay Examples	84
Step 4 - Recommendation Letters	89
Planning for Requesting Recommendation Letters	90
Request for Recommendation Letter, Form A	91
Request for Recommendation Letter, Form B	92
Tips for Writing Recommendation Letters	93
Tips for Writing Thank You Notes, Form A	94
Step 5 - Transcript	95
Requesting a Transcript and Test Scores	96
College and Graduate School Log and Applications	95
Research and Comparison	97
Completing the College and Graduate School Application	98
Application and Admission Log	99
What to Do After Acceptance	100
Scholarship Log and Applications	102
How to Win a Scholarship	103
Scholarship Research and Application Log	105
Winning Interview Tips	107
What to Do After Winning a Scholarship	108
Tips for Writing Thank You Notes, Form B	109
Scholarships Awarded Management Log	110
Student guide forms are available on Edudaris.com in the Path to Scholarships® Five-Step e-Course	





PATH TO SCHOLARSHIPS®

“DARE TO DREAM

GREAT DREAMS

WITH 5 STEPS!”

June McBride, M.A., is the founder and author of the *Path to Scholarships® Program and Book Series* and has been traveling nationally since April 2000 training educators, parents, and students with the foundational, basic principles of the **Five Steps**.

The *Path to Scholarships® Making Vo-Tech, College, Graduate School, and Scholarships a Reality* is a vo-tech, college, graduate school, and scholarship planning and writing guide. It prepares and empowers parents and students through the **Five Steps** with organizational forms, tools, and support to successfully apply to vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships.

Why do most students fail to properly organize everything necessary to successfully apply to vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships? The majority of parents and students do not know **what** to organize and **when, how, or where** to begin the vo-tech, college, graduate school, and scholarship process in order to complete and organize everything.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

One of the biggest challenges facing parents and students is to believe and know they do have a choice, the right to *dare to dream great dreams* of a post-secondary and a post-graduate education with the money to pay for it!

The **second challenge** is starting early enough with the **Five Steps** because the preparation for vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships starts as early as possible, but no later than the freshman year.

The **third greatest challenge** for parents and students is **what and how** to organize everything needed to successfully apply!

The **fourth challenge** is building a strong foundation for success with the **Five Steps** before researching post-secondary and post-graduate education and scholarship opportunities, then becoming overwhelmed with the mass of information and then giving up.

Endless opportunities are available for **ALL** students, but a **strong foundation** for success with the **Five Steps** must first be built as soon as possible! **Now is the time to begin the preparation for success!**

FINDING THE PATH WITH 5 STEPS

Everyone wants quick fixes and instant results, but there are no guarantees. If students follow the **Five Steps** recommended to successfully apply to the school of their choice and for scholarships, they can build a strong foundation that **highly increases** their chance of being admitted to the school of their choice with the scholarship money to pay for their dream!

WHAT IS THE PATH OF SUCCESS?



There are no miracle formulas that result in scholarships, and there is no way anyone can charge students a fee and guarantee that scholarships will be awarded.

Successfully applying to the school and for scholarships is accomplished through the *Path of Success*, *Path of Hard Work*, and the *Path of Organization*, building a solid foundation with the **Five Steps**!

ALL students are seeking success and direction for their life's journey. They need to know where they are, where they are going, and how they will get there. Imagine starting out on a trip without a map or directions! This may result in going in circles, taking detours, wasting time, and reducing the likelihood of arriving at the destination.

What is Success?

What is success? How is success measured? True success is not measured by possessions, positions, or diplomas; but true success is attained when a student discovers their life purpose – why they were born and who they are meant to be! As students complete the processes, forms, and activities illustrated in *Path to Scholarships*® and follow the **Five Steps**, they will begin to discover how to measure and find true success.

“WHEN ONE DOOR OF HAPPINESS
CLOSES, ANOTHER ONE OPENS;
BUT OFTEN WE LOOK SO LONG
AT THE CLOSED DOOR THAT
WE DO NOT SEE THE ONE WHICH
HAS BEEN OPENED FOR US.”

HELEN KELLER



PATH OF HARD WORK



Everyone wants quick fixes and instant results. *The Path of Hard Work* is one of the major keys for students to be admitted to the vo-tech, college, or graduate school of their choice and to obtain scholarship money.

The *Path of Hard Work* starts as early as possible, but no later than the freshman year, when a student's grade point average (GPA) begins to count toward the student's future success in applying to vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships.

Students should maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in high school and post-secondary school because a majority of scholarships are highly competitive and require a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. The higher the GPA and the standardized pre-college tests and post-graduate exam scores, the greater opportunity the student will have to be admitted to the college or post-graduate school of their choice and be competitive for winning scholarships.

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is need-based – calculated from the student's and parents' income. Many students know that their family income will not qualify them for need-based scholarships or grants. That is why it is important for students to build a strong foundation with the **Five Steps**, research and compare vo-tech, college, graduate school, and scholarship opportunities, starting as early as

possible, but no later than the freshman year. For a student with a lower 2.5–2.9 GPA, or a student who is unable to demonstrate financial need, there are many scholarships available based solely on an essay, community service, leadership, athletics, special talent, military service, projects, contests, as well as faith-based and/or merit-based scholarships (GPA and/or pre-college tests or post-graduate exam scores). This is why students should begin establishing as early as possible a solid foundation with the **Five Steps**, so that they can qualify for scholarships not based on their GPA and/or financial need.





PATH OF LIFE PURPOSE

Life Purpose Planning

Many students lack a sense of purpose and direction in their lives. They are not sure what they want to do with their life, and they are not sure that they would be successful if they knew what they wanted to do! How can students find their life purpose and plan? Is it simply choosing a vocation and working really hard to be successful? Is success just making money and becoming rich and famous?

“LIFE PURPOSE IS THE REASON YOU WERE BORN; WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE; YOUR LIFE CALLING.”

Students today need to believe that they are special and that they were born with natural talents and gifts that are unique to them. They were born for a special purpose, plan, and mission.

Parents, nationality, birth order, ability to learn, disabilities, appearance (height, bone structure, hair, eyes, skin, nose, ears), and birth were not an accident or mistake, no matter the circumstances. Family, circumstances, and decisions made in the past cannot be changed; but each young person has a choice to

make a decision to change their future with new wise decisions. Working through obstacles and struggles helps students develop inward and outward character qualities that mold them into the beautiful person they are meant to be.

Obstacles are good! They build character, making students stronger if they make the decision to become better, not bitter.

This decision to change the future is a choice that involves some difficult – but not impossible – steps to turn obstacles into character and strength. **Students need to complete each of the following activities in this section, which will assist them to discover their life purpose.**

Serving others is the **first step** to establishing a life purpose and future success. Students discover their life purpose when they get involved and invest in the real needs of people. They can also experience the joy that comes from serving others while on their path to discovering their life purpose.

When students discover and pursue their life purpose, it provides a motivation to establish life goals, to make wise decisions, to overcome obstacles, and to discover who they are. It also causes them to experience fulfillment and satisfaction. **Students with a life purpose have direction and a sense of meaning in everyday life and are set apart for greatness!**

PATH OF ORGANIZATION



Foundational Five-Step Plan

Path of Organization requires students to organize a *Five-Step Planning Portfolio* containing everything needed to successfully apply to the school of their choice and for scholarships with information, tools, and support using the **Foundational Five-Step Plan**.

1. Community Service
2. Résumé
3. My Story Essay
4. Recommendation Letters
5. Official Transcript

The *Path of Organization* is the next key to putting it all together, so that the schools and scholarship committees know this student exists, wants to attend that school, needs a scholarship, and deserves it!

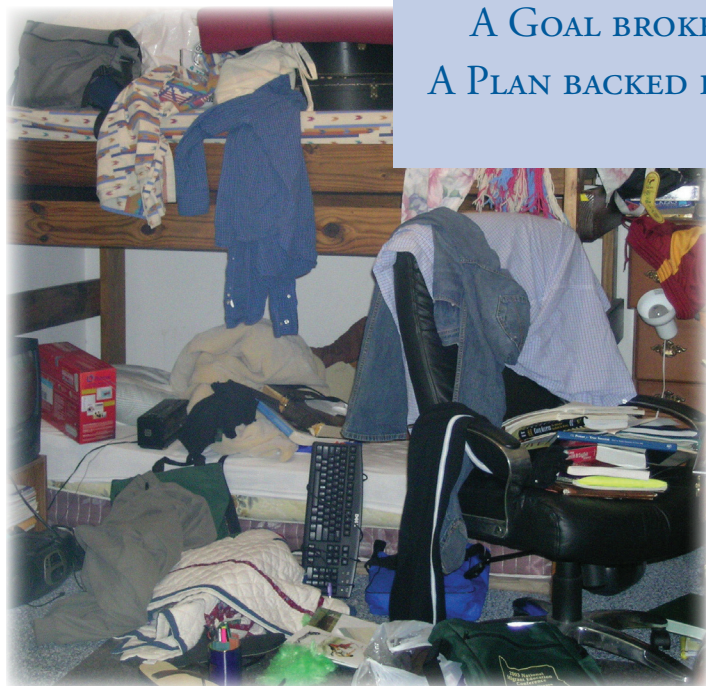
This is the most difficult of all the paths! Many students have built a wonderful foundation doing all the right things, but do not know how to organize themselves to successfully complete all those wonderful school and scholarship applications. Very rarely, if ever, is a school or scholarship going to come looking for the student!

“A DREAM WRITTEN DOWN WITH A DATE BECOMES A GOAL.
A GOAL BROKEN DOWN INTO STEPS BECOMES A PLAN.
A PLAN BACKED BY ACTION MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE!”

WHAT IS THE DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD?

Most students fail to organize the **Five Steps** to complete the school and scholarship applications. As a result, the partially-completed applications remain in a folder or backpack and are eventually discarded.

Students need to read carefully through the *Path of Organization* because it will assist and guide them to organize a *Five-Step College and Scholarship Planning Portfolio* that will make the task of applying to the school of their choice and for scholarships **fun and exciting!**



■ Students need to use the **Scholarship Research and Application Log** form to record the scholarship name and address, award amount, date due, date code, date sent and the contact information. When completing so many applications, it often becomes a blur which applications have already been completed and sent.

One of the biggest problems students face is keeping track of the large number of scholarships they have won, how much money was awarded, who the contact person was, and whether or not they have written the thank you note!

■ **How many scholarship applications should a student complete?** As many as they can! The more applications completed, the greater the chance of receiving a scholarship award. Any and all scholarship applications should be completed, no matter how small the award. It all adds up, from the smallest to the largest award.



■ **The Scholarships Awarded Management Log** form will assist students to keep track of the name of the scholarship, the award amount, the contact person's information, instructions for receiving the award, and a reminder to send a thank you note. It is the student's responsibility to follow through with any paperwork needed to receive the scholarship award. Students need to contact the financial aid office of their school to confirm that the scholarship awards have been received and the student's account has been credited.

■ **More often than anyone realizes, a student may win a scholarship because they were the only one who applied!** There have been many stories (from others and from my own personal experience) of students who applied for a scholarship and theirs was the only application submitted! *I have had scholarship committees call me to ask for applications for their scholarship because they did not receive even one application!*



A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS ONE THAT IS PERSONAL, PAINTING A PORTRAIT OF WHO THE STUDENT IS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE APPLICATION, THE RECOMMENDATION LETTERS, AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE ESSAY.

■ One year a major scholarship was awarding a full college tuition scholarship for four years. It was guaranteed to a senior at a local high school with almost 900 seniors. How many applications were turned in? Believe it or not, less than ten. **Great odds for winning!**

■ Winning a scholarship is often just about completing the application correctly and turning it in on time. *Many students win scholarships just because they applied and actually turned in the application!*

Too many scholarship committees receive very few applications – or incomplete applications, which have to be disqualified. The chances of being selected increase when the application is accurately completed and submitted on time. Scholarships may have deadlines starting as early as September/October, and by March 15th over 75% of all scholarship deadlines have passed. Students need to watch for deadlines and start completing scholarship applications as soon as possible.

■ Students should use the **Winning Interview Tips** to prepare in advance for interviews by the scholarship committees.

■ Students need to carefully check the wording on the application, confirming if it has to be postmarked by the due date or if it has to arrive at its destination on or before the due date. What if the student is ready to mail the application but has not purchased envelopes large enough to mail this scholarship application and all the attachments? Students need to plan ahead and purchase the necessary envelopes for mailing.

MANY STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS
JUST BECAUSE THEY APPLIED AND
ACTUALLY TURNED IN THE APPLICATION!

■ Finally, students need to double check the address, to whom the application is to be addressed, and the return address for accuracy. Before the scholarship application is placed in the envelope to be mailed, make a copy of all the documents, check the due date, and complete a last review to make sure everything is included, every question is answered, and everything is in order.

■ When students receive a scholarship, they should not forget to show their appreciation by sending a thank you note. In fact, some scholarships have resorted to not awarding the scholarship money until the student sends a thank you note. Use *Tips for Writing Thank You Notes, Form B*.

■ Many scholarship organizations ask the students to attend special events, luncheons, or dinners in their honor. When students are successful at receiving scholarship awards, these events should be a priority. Students show gratitude by honoring the scholarship organization with their presence.

■ Once students have learned the *Five-Step College and Scholarship Planning Portfolio* method to successfully apply to vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships, they should continue applying these strategies for a lifetime of success!

NOW THAT THE PATH
TO SCHOLARSHIPS
HAS BEEN COMPLETED
AND THE SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN
MAILED, HAVE CONFIDENCE
THAT THESE SCHOLARSHIPS
JUST MIGHT BE FOR YOU!





June McBride, M.A., founder and author of the *Path to Scholarships*® Program and Book Series, *Career and College Readiness for the 21st Century with College and Scholarship Planning and Writing* has been a professional educator for over forty years. Her teaching experience includes public and private schools and home-schooling, educating students from elementary school to college. Using the **Five Steps** she motivates students to “*Dare to Dream Great Dreams with 5 Steps!*” and teaches the college and scholarship process that guides students to successfully apply to vo-tech, college, graduate school, and for scholarships. She has been traveling nationally since the year 2000, spreading the news that there is **hope** for all students to achieve post-secondary education and win scholarships to pay for their dream!

June McBride, M.A., is the founder and president of Outreach Youth Empowerment, LLC, which is a growing company focused on a dream and a vision for the families and children of this country.

June McBride, M.A. *Path to Scholarships*® Program & Book Series are teacher-created resources produced from the heart!

Woodburn HS College and Career Center, Woodburn, Oregon is an award-winning, model program led by Mario Garza, college specialist and counselor, who has been using *Path to Scholarships*® Program, Book Series, and Workshops, since 2001 inspiring and empowering students to success. The results: \$3.3+ million in scholarships was awarded to Class of 2014, \$4.3+ million to Class of 2015, and \$6.7+ million to the Class of 2016. Giselle Lopez-Ixta, class of 2015 was offered over \$630,000.00 in scholarships.

Path to Scholarships® has been one of the most valuable tools I have used during my counseling career. It has helped inspire my students to set goals and learn the skills they needed to successfully apply to college and for scholarships to make their dreams a reality! —Leslie Walden, Counselor, Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville, Texas

Andrew Nichols began organizing his *Path to Scholarships*® Five-Step Planning Portfolio in his junior year at St. John Newmann HS, Naples, Florida. Using the methods and strategies of *Path to Scholarships*® as a guide, his total scholarship earnings were almost \$500,000.00 and admission to Columbia University paid in full.

For over ten years, *Path to Scholarships*® has been the most successful tool I have used at the college level to guide, inspire, and motivate college students to successfully apply to graduate school and for scholarships. The college students who applied the principles and organized strategies were successful not only in winning scholarships, but also in discovering their life purpose. —Doris Roundtree, Ed.D., Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida

June McBride's *Path to Scholarships*® Five-Step Planning Portfolio method made all the difference in the world for me! I was awarded over \$65,000.00 in scholarships plus the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. —Travis Johnson, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

If it had not been for the *Path to Scholarships*® Five-Step Planning Portfolio method that assisted me to successfully apply to college and for scholarships, I would have never been awarded over \$50,000.00 in scholarships and the Gates Millennium Scholarship. —Maria Barragan, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

With the ever-increasing cost of higher education, we are committed to helping our college students win scholarships to help alleviate the increasing costs of higher education. *Path to Scholarships*® has assisted our students since its inception in 2005 to double the amount of scholarships won. Our college students have had enormous success using the principles, strategies, and techniques of *Path to Scholarships*®. —Gerardo Ochoa, Ed.M., Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Partnerships, Linfield College, Oregon



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