

# *The Community Scholars Program*

*Achievement ▪ Involvement ▪ Mastery*

The **Community Scholars Program** is a joint endeavor of The Community Foundation, Riverside Community College District Foundation, California Baptist University, La Sierra University, the University of Redlands and other generous philanthropists in our community who share a commitment to education. The objective of the scholarship is to reward students who have shown excellence in scholastic achievement, community involvement and mastery of knowledge while in local high schools. The philosophy of the scholarship is to encourage outstanding students from Riverside County to pursue their collegiate studies at any college within Riverside Community College District for two years (Moreno Valley College-MVC, Norco College-NC and Riverside City College-RCC) and to meet the requirements for transfer and acceptance to one of the participating four-year universities listed below that the student selects at the time of application.

The Community Scholars Program is valued at \$7,000 and is disbursed over a four-year period. The recipients will receive \$1,000 per year for two years while at any college within Riverside Community College District (MVC, NC or RCC) and \$2,500 per year for two years at one of the participating four-year institutions. Disbursements are based on continued eligibility.

In addition to the monetary amount of \$7,000 for this scholarship, recipients will benefit from joint counseling sessions with MVC, NC, RCC and university counseling staff. The MVC, NC, RCC and university representatives will answer questions about transferring, general education requirements, major requirement and application deadlines. The MVC, NC or RCC counselor will review with you your transferring university's articulation agreement and give individualized counseling regarding classes at MVC, NC or RCC and the completion of the transfer process within the two-year time limit.

## **The Community Scholars Program basic eligibility criteria are as follows:**

- ◆ Must be a current high school senior who is a Riverside County resident and will graduate from a Riverside County high school.
- ◆ Must be a United States citizen, permanent resident, immigrant, or refugee. Students here on an F-1 Visa are not eligible.
- ◆ Must have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

## **University Transfer Requirements:**

Each transferring university will have different transfer requirements, a variety of majors to select from, as well as special application processes at the point of transfer. It is advised that you visit each college's website, visit the college campus as well as read the requirements of being a University student prior to selecting your transferring institution. The information for each participating University is as follows:

### ► **California Baptist University**

8432 Magnolia Avenue  
Riverside CA 92504  
[www.calbaptist.edu](http://www.calbaptist.edu)

### ► **La Sierra University**

4500 Riverwalk Parkway  
Riverside CA 92515  
[www.lasierra.edu](http://www.lasierra.edu)

### ► **University of Redlands**

1200 East Colton Avenue  
Redlands CA 92373  
[www.redlands.edu](http://www.redlands.edu)

**THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL NOT TRANSFER TO ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY OTHER THAN THE ONE YOU HAVE SELECTED FROM THE PARTNER UNIVERSITIES LISTED ABOVE.**

## **Community Scholars Application:**

The Community Scholars application is available on the RCCD Student Financial Services web pages at [www.mvc.edu](http://www.mvc.edu) for Moreno Valley College, [www.norcocollege.edu](http://www.norcocollege.edu) for Norco College and [www.rcc.edu](http://www.rcc.edu) Riverside City College. Select “Financial Aid,” then “Scholarship Information” and click “Community Scholars Scholarship.” Your application must be submitted to the Moreno Valley College, Norco College or Riverside City College Student Financial Services Office before May 1 of your high school senior year.

## **A Complete Community Scholars Application Package Consists of:**

*The Scholarship Application:* Please fill out this form completely, typed or neatly printed with black or blue ink.

*The Personal Essay:* Please follow the instructions on the Community Scholars application.

*Two Evaluation Forms:* Please follow the instructions on the Community Scholars application.

*Official High School Transcript(s):* Please request official academic high school transcript(s) from all high schools attended to submit with your application. It is recommended that you request your transcripts as early as possible. Please pay close attention to this requirement as many students forget to include transcripts.

*SAT or ACT scores:* Please include your SAT or ACT scores if they are not listed on your high school transcript.

*College/University Transcripts:* Please include a copy of your transcript(s) if you have completed classes at a college or university (transcripts may be unofficial). It is recommended that you request your transcripts as early as possible.

*Riverside Community College Assessment Test scores:* Please call the Assessment Center at the RCCD College of your choice to make an appointment to take the Assessment Test, if you have not taken the RCC Assessment Test previously.

- Moreno Valley College Assessment Center: 571-6492
- Norco College Assessment Center: 372-7156
- Riverside City College Assessment Center: 222-8451

Students must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA may be completed on-line at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) beginning in January of your high school senior year. Workshops to assist you with the process of completing the FAFSA are listed on the Student Financial Services web pages at [www.mvc.edu](http://www.mvc.edu) for Moreno Valley College and at [www.rcc.edu](http://www.rcc.edu) for Norco and Riverside City Colleges.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Moreno Valley College: Tracy Jelensky, [tracy.jelensky@mvc.edu](mailto:tracy.jelensky@mvc.edu), 951-571-6208

Norco College: Nelya Parada, [nelya.parada@norcocollege.edu](mailto:nelya.parada@norcocollege.edu), 951-372-7183

Riverside City College: Paula Farish, [paula.farish@rcc.edu](mailto:paula.farish@rcc.edu), 951-222-8741



# *The Community Scholars Application*

*Achievement ▪ Involvement ▪ Mastery*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      MI                      College Student ID# or SS#

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address                      City                      State                      Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number                      Marital Status                      Gender                      E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ethnicity (Optional)                      Date of Birth                      Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Attended/City, State                      HS Graduation Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
College Major                      Career Goal

▪ Please indicate the academic year you will begin attendance at Moreno Valley College (MVC), Norco College (NC) or Riverside City College (RCC) \_\_\_\_\_

▪ Please check which four-year college to which you wish to transfer (after completing 2 years at MVC, NC or RCC):

California Baptist University

La Sierra University

University of Redlands

***Financial Statement:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's occupation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's occupation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's yearly income from wages

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's yearly income from wages

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student occupation (if working)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student yearly income from wages

\_\_\_\_\_  
Highest grade level completed by Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
Highest grade level completed by Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other income type

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yearly amount of other income

***Household Information:***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Relationship to you</b>	<b>College attending (if any)</b>

***Optional:*** If you have any unusual circumstances which may affect your current financial situation, please briefly explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ***Personal Essay:***

The Community Scholars application requires a personal essay. The personal essay is one of the most important parts of your application. It will help the Scholarship Committee gain a complete picture of you. This is your chance to let the Scholarship Committee or Donor know why you feel you should be a recipient of the Community Scholars scholarship.

Be sure to include your name and college student ID# in the heading. Your essay should be 1 page, 12 point font, one inch margins, and double-spaced (if possible). Some items you may want to include in your essay are as follows:

- Your educational and career goals,
- Why you have selected your stated major and career goal,
- Any life experiences which have influenced this decision,
- Your anticipated role in society after your education career goals have been achieved,
- How the scholarship will help you or any unusual circumstances which may affect your current financial situation,
- Anything else you feel the Scholarship Committee or Donor needs to know about you in order to present yourself as the best candidate for the scholarship.

### ***Activities/Accomplishments Resume:***

The Scholarship Committee and/or Donors want to know about your extra-curricular activities and accomplishments. Please include a resume listing them in resume style with headings, dates, etc. For example, you may list honors and accolades, accomplishments, awards, community involvement, service and volunteer actions, student activities, school and club involvement, sports participation, hobbies, etc.

### ***Recommendation letters and/or Evaluation:***

Ask at least two people to complete a Scholarship Evaluation or Recommendation letter. These forms/letters need to be completed by individuals who can attest to your current academic strength and potential for success.

Recommended sources are instructors, academic advisors, counselors, employers, clergy or other known members of the community. Be sure to ask for evaluations or recommendation letters from sources that you know will write favorable things about you. A parent, relative, or other student are poor sources for scholarship evaluations and will not be considered as valid references.

The person you ask for an evaluation for your scholarship application may use the attached Evaluation Form, or they may choose to write a recommendation in letter format. Your Evaluation Forms/Recommendation letters must be submitted at the same time as you submit your scholarship application package. Please allow your evaluator plenty of time for the evaluations/letters to be completed and returned to you in time to submit with your scholarship application.

# Riverside Community College District • Scholarship Evaluation Form #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student ID# or SSN**

**To the Evaluator:** Scholarship applicants must submit an Evaluation Form when applying for scholarships from at least two qualified individuals. The Evaluation form *must* include your name, title and contact information. The Evaluation Forms must be submitted by the applicant at the same time as they submit their scholarship application. Please return the Evaluation to the student in plenty of time for them to meet the deadline. You may also write a recommendation in letter format if you choose.

1. How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

2. Please rate the applicant on the following in comparison with other students of the same level:

	Exceptional	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No information
General Academic Ability					
Motivation and Initiative					
Quality of Work					
Willingness to Learn					
Imagination and Creativity					
Dependability/Responsibility					
Social Skills/Leadership Ability					
Potential to Succeed					

3. Compared to other students, I would rank this applicant in the top:

1%            5%            10%            25%            50%

4. Overall endorsement of applicant:

Highly Recommend                      Recommend                      Recommend with reservations

5. **Optional:** Please provide any additional comments about the applicant on a separate page. For example: Strengths and accomplishments, background and experiences, family responsibilities, extenuating circumstances and why you recommend this applicant for the scholarship. This will assist the committee and/or donors evaluate this applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E mail Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

# Riverside Community College District • Scholarship Evaluation Form #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student ID# or SSN**

**To the Evaluator:** Scholarship applicants must submit an Evaluation Form when applying for scholarships from at least two qualified individuals. The Evaluation form *must* include your name, title and contact information. The Evaluation Forms must be submitted by the applicant at the same time as they submit their scholarship application. Please return the Evaluation to the student in plenty of time for them to meet the deadline. You may also write a recommendation in letter format if you choose.

1. How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

2. Please rate the applicant on the following in comparison with other students of the same level:

	Exceptional	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No information
General Academic Ability					
Motivation and Initiative					
Quality of Work					
Willingness to Learn					
Imagination and Creativity					
Dependability/Responsibility					
Social Skills/Leadership Ability					
Potential to Succeed					

3. Compared to other students, I would rank this applicant in the top:

1%            5%            10%            25%            50%

4. Overall endorsement of applicant:

Highly Recommend                  Recommend                  Recommend with reservations

5. **Optional:** Please provide any additional comments about the applicant on a separate page. For example: Strengths and accomplishments, background and experiences, family responsibilities, extenuating circumstances and why you recommend this applicant for the scholarship. This will assist the committee and/or donors evaluate this applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E mail Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**