



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulonogski, Governor



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fax: 541/687-7419 www.osac.state.or.us
PO Box 40370, Eugene OR 97404

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Contact: Shelley M. Snow, Outreach Manager, (541) 687-7407; shelley.m.snow@state.or.us

Unique Scholarship Opportunity Highlighted During National Scholarship Month

EUGENE, Ore. (5/10/2004) As part of “National Scholarship Month” activities throughout May, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) is encouraging Oregonians currently in foster care, as well as former foster care youth, to apply for a Chafee Education and Training Scholarship. Award amounts – up to \$5,000 – depend on the cost of attendance at the applicant’s college, university, or training program. Thirty-five students have already received awards in the program’s first year in Oregon.

Applicants need to complete the OSAC Unified Scholarship Application, available online at <http://www.osac.state.or.us/chafeeetv.html>. Applicants must be: 1) a youth 14 years of age or older who is currently in foster care with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) or one of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon; or 2) a youth who was previously in foster care with Oregon DHS or one of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon, after the age of 14, and remained in foster care for an accumulative 180 days or longer. Chafee scholarship applications are accepted year-round.

Named in honor of the late Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island, the scholarship is a grant the state must apply for on a yearly basis. The Independent Living Program of Oregon’s DHS Children, Adult and Families department administers the Scholarship in partnership with OSAC. For more information about the Chafee Scholarship, contact Rosemary Iavenditti, ILP Coordinator at DHS, 503-945-5688.

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The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC), created by the Oregon Legislature in 1959, coordinates a variety of state, federal, and privately funded student financial aid programs for the benefit of students attending institutions of postsecondary education. Programs include the Oregon Opportunity Grant, with approximately \$22 million per year for low-income Oregonians; private scholarship awards, with more than \$10 million annually for Oregonians; and the Federal Family Education Loan Program, helping thousands of Oregonians pay for college. The agency can be reached at (800) 452-8807.

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