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® 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.
# Table of Contents

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the Path of Success?</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Is Success?</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Assessment</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School/College Academic Planner</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor/Academic Advisor Interview</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning My Future with Goal Setting</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips for Academic Success</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Management Log</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Student Budget</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Path of Hard Work</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a Scholarship?</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider Attending Higher Education</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Strategies for Successful School Admission</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider Attending Graduate School</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Path of Life Purpose</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Purpose Planning</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps to Discover the Path of Life Purpose</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Path of Organization</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundational Five-Step Plan</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-Step Planning Portfolio</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checklist for School Admission and Scholarships</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 1 - Community Service</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2 - Résumé</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3 - Essay</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4 - Recommendation Letters</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5 - Transcript</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College and Graduate School Log and Applications</strong></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAFSA and Student Aid Report</strong></td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarship Log and Applications</strong></td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources and Research</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 28
- Successful Student Budget 29

Path of Hard Work 31
- Consider Attending Higher Education 37
- Essential Strategies for Successful School Admission 39

Path of Life Purpose 45
- Vision, Dreams, and Goals for My Future 46
- Examples of Obstacles 47
- Lies I Believe 49
- Life Purpose Statement, Pre-write 50
- Life Purpose Statement, Rough Draft 51
- Forty-Nine Qualities for Success 52

Path of Organization 53
- Checklist for School Admission and Scholarships 56

Step 1 - Community Service 59
- Planning Community Service 61
- Community Service Log 62
- Planning a Self-Initiated Community Service Project 63

Step 2 - Résumé 64
- Tips for Writing Résumés 65
- Three Basic Types of Résumés 66
- Résumé Application 67
- Student Activities Log 68
## List of Forms

### Step 3 - Essay
- My Story Scholarship Essay: 69
- Brainstorming the Essay, Pre-write: 72
- Essay Introduction Five Senses, Pre-write: 73
- Writing the My Story Scholarship Essay, Rough Draft: 74
- Essay Writing Guide for School Applications: 75
- My Story Essay Examples: 78

### Step 4 - Recommendation Letters
- Planning for Requesting Recommendation Letters: 85
- Request for Recommendation Letters, Form A: 86
- Request for Recommendation Letters, Form B: 87
- Tips for Writing Recommendation Letters: 88
- Tips for Writing Thank You Notes, Form A: 89

### Step 5 - Transcript
- Requesting a Transcript and Test Scores: 91

### College and Graduate School Log and Applications
- Research and Comparison: 93
- Completing the College and Graduate School Application: 94
- Application and Admission Log: 95
- What to Do After Acceptance: 96

### Scholarship Log and Applications
- How to Win a Scholarship: 99
- Scholarship Research and Application Log: 101
- Winning Interview Tips: 103
- What to Do After Winning a Scholarship: 104
- Tips for Writing Thank You Notes, Form B: 105
- Scholarships Awarded Management Log: 106

Student guide forms are available on www.Edudaris.org in the Path to Scholarships® Five-Step e-Courses.
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 believing and knowing that they do have a choice and 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 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!
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 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.
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 of a 3.0 cumulative GPA 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 scholarships.

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is need-based – calculated from the student’s and parents’ income from the previous year. 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, 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 strong foundation with the *Five Steps*, so that they can qualify for scholarships not based on their GPA and/or financial need.
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?

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. Essay
4. Recommendation Letters
5. Official Transcript

The Path of Organization is the next key to putting it all together, so 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 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 Applications 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 that 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.
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.

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: $33.3+ 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-Ista, 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 Neumann 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

Outreach Youth Empowerment, LLC