

The Time is Now!

Apply for a Teachers of Tomorrow (TOT) Scholarship!

If you are a seasoned college student with 15 or more college credits and pursuing an elementary or secondary teaching certificate in any of the state- accredited content areas, this is the time to consider applying for the TOT scholarship.

DID YOU KNOW that the GRCC TOT Scholarship program serves as a clearing house for the acquisition and awarding of academic scholarships to GRCC education students?

DID YOU KNOW that retired and current GRCC faculty and staff, as well as Grand Rapids citizens who have benefited from the guidance of good teachers and philanthropists concerned about the future of West Michigan K-12 education, have donated thousands of dollars of endowed funds to help financially support GRCC future teachers?

DID YOU KNOW that there are TOT scholarships specifically designated for math teachers, science teachers, language arts teachers, fine arts teachers, social science teachers, and students seeking

certification through the GRCC Early Childhood Program? In addition, there are undesignated scholarship funds endowed by the Peter Wege Foundation that may be given to future teachers in any of the state- accredited content areas.

DID YOU KNOW that about half of America’s teachers begin their college education at community colleges?

DID YOU KNOW that over 95% of GRCC students work to pay for their college education?

Do you struggle to balance your time among school, work and family responsibilities?

Now is the time to apply for a TOT Scholarship! The Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship Program was created to reward and promote scholarship within the next generation of teachers. Teachers certainly have knowledge and skills, but they also have understanding. Teachers have a gift for helping others discover the connections among the bazillions of facts that clutter the mental landscape.

Is this the year you dedicate yourself to your education and focus more time upon your future than on holding down a minimum-wage, part-time job? Consider this: If you work twenty hours/week at \$8/ hour for one semester (15 weeks), you will generate \$2400 before taxes.

Sometimes, things aren’t as they seem. The harsh reality of that part-time job is that by the time you factor in drive time and preparing for & cleaning up after work, you may have lost thirty or more hours of your best mental time on activities

unrelated to school work—and lowered your pay to about \$5/hour.

The challenge: Can you get As & Bs, attend GRCC Teacher Education seminars, volunteer or participate in Service Learning projects and pass with flying colors the state-mandated competency exams while committing 20+ hours/week to activities not related to your educational goal?

TOT scholarships were created to help GRCC future teachers spend more time in the library and science lab and less time working a minimum wage job. While state guidelines require a 2.5 GPA for accreditation, the realities of competing for scarce teaching positions are much different. Future teachers need As & Bs!

TOT scholarships range from \$1000 to \$1600 for full-time students, with less for part-time students. Would a TOT scholarship allow you to work less, study more and participate in activities designed for future teachers?

Scholarship Applications are due by March 15, 2013. All the requirements are listed on page 3. The GRCC Financial Aid Department completes a review of the applications during the spring and the TOT Scholarship Committee formally meets in early summer to select recipients.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph J. Hesse III
GRCC TOTS
Coordinator



IN THIS ISSUE:

The Time is Now!	1
A TOT Recipient Shares Her Thoughts	2
Tips for TOT Applicants	
Letters of Recommendation	3
Writing a Good Essay.....	3
Application Requirements	3
Need a Mentor? Just Ask	4

The Path Is Hard But It's Worth It

By Lexi Kamps

TOTS Recipient 2012-2013

There are few times that I have been more excited than when I received a letter in the mail saying that I was a recipient of the Teachers of Tomorrow scholarship. After two recommendation letters, one essay, and a few months of anticipation, I was one step closer to my dream job as a special education teacher.

This scholarship has not only helped me financially, but it has also been a great way for me to get out into the community and volunteer. It has kept

me informed of my path during and after college. Meeting with my mentor and attending education seminars as part of the scholarship's requirements has taught me more about what my future will look like as a teacher. Finally, it has given me a confidence boost, knowing that I was chosen out of many other applicants to be a recipient.

All students going into the education field should apply for this scholarship, for it is more than financial help; it helps you plan your future. Even though the path to anyone's dream job is hard, anything great is worth having and working for.



Scholarship awards are just one aspect of how GRCC's Teacher Education program encourages excellence.



TIPS for Teachers of Tomorrow Applicants

Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship Application Requirements

- #1** Successful completion of a **minimum of 15 college credits**.
- #2** Have an established cumulative college **GPA of 2.8 or higher**.
- #3** Have one of the following **Academic Codes** that indicates **education** as your career goal:
- 120 – Child Development
 - 130 – CDA
 - 206 – Music Education (Instrumental)
 - 207 – Music Education (Choral)
 - 420 – Paraprofessional Education
 - 602 – Physical Education
 - 803 – Secondary Education
 - 804 – Elementary Education
- #4** Plan to be **enrolled at GRCC for the fall semester** with **at least 6 credits**.
- #5** Submit a completed GRCC Foundation scholarship application and unofficial copy of your transcripts to Financial Aid by **March 15, 2013**. These applications are available from Financial Aid, 1st floor, Main.
- #6** Submit the following to Staci Dever in **Room 266 Main by 5:00 p.m. on March 15, 2013**:
- A completed Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship application form
 - A 500-word, double-spaced essay on the following topic: "What are three qualities of an effective teacher?" Use examples from your personal experience and observations that illustrate each of those qualities.
- #7** Include two letters of recommendation (one must be from a GRCC faculty or staff member). Both letters must be on official letterhead and include both contact information for the individual writing the letter and your relationship to that person.
- #8** Include a resume that indicates your **teaching major and minor subject area(s)**, as well as the **grade levels** you would like to teach (pre-school, lower elementary, upper elementary, middle school, or high school).

What Makes a Good Letter of Recommendation?

It is important that all Teachers of Tomorrow applicants have **TWO** letters of recommendation as part of their application file. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when asking individuals to write these letters:

1. Do NOT ask relatives. Letters should come from persons outside of your family. These can be former teachers, ministers, youth leaders, or job supervisors. (One letter is required to be from a GRCC faculty member).
2. These people should have known you for at least six months.
3. They should be very specific about special skills that you have demonstrated as they have worked with you.
4. They should comment on your positive character traits.
5. Most importantly, they should discuss why they feel you would make a good teacher.

Strong and specific letters of recommendation are always an asset to your professional file. Those who read these letters tend to give more weight to the ones that follow these guidelines.

Two Tips for Writing a Good Scholarship Essay

When your essay is evaluated for the TOT Scholarship, the committee expects to see a quality of writing that demonstrates commitment to a professional level of communication and thinking. After all, it is what will be required of you as an educator.

FIRST, this means that you should not only include specific examples to illustrate your key points, but also think beyond the usual responses to this question. There are obvious qualities of effective teachers, but what are some that may NOT be so obvious? By identifying and analyzing those, you show the depth of your conviction in response to the question.

SECOND, be sure that your essay demonstrates mechanical accuracy—proper punctuation, capitalization, grammar, spelling and sentence structure, because the best ideas can be undermined by a lack of attention to these details.

teacher EDUCATION

Main Building, 2nd Floor, Room 266
Phone: (616) 234-3380 or 234-4664
E-mail: TeachEd@grcc.edu
www.grcc.edu/tep

Rebecca Brinks
Program Director
Phone: (616) 234-4084
Office: Room 266,
Main Building
E-mail: bbrinks@grcc.edu

Staci Dever
Program Secretary
Phone: (616) 234-3380
Office: Room 266,
Main Building
E-mail: sdever@grcc.edu

Carole Redwine
Teacher Education Support Services
Phone: (616) 234-4664
Office: Room 301,
Main Building
E-mail: credwine@grcc.edu

Tricia Siegel
Seminar Planner
Phone: (616) 234-3075
Office: Room 266E,
Main Building
Email: tsiegel@grcc.edu

Could You Use a MENTOR?

It is important that you have someone to connect with as you move forward on your teacher education journey, and many of us are eager to help. The Teacher Education Mentor Program is designed to match students with faculty who share an interest in the same subject field, but who can also give you general guidance. Mentors can be sounding boards for your ideas, sources of information for your teacher education questions, or simply good listeners.

To help you identify issues that you might need to work on with a mentor, consider your answers to the following questions:

1. What are your immediate goals in the next semester for college? For education in general?
2. What hurdles, obstacles, or problems do you foresee that will hinder or prevent you from achieving these goals?
3. Do you know what college or professional resources are available to help you achieve your goals?
4. What personal strengths do you feel can help you accomplish your goals?

5. What are some of your long-range plans for the next 3-5 years?
6. How do you see your life changing at this time?

To help you make decisions about some of these issues, try answering these questions with your mentor:

1. If you have identified a problem, what is it that seems to be causing the problem? How do you feel about it?
2. What do you know about the situation and what are its positive and negative aspects?
3. What are the possible solutions, and what solution seems the best to you? Why?

You are not alone on your educational journey. Call on us; we are here to help. For a listing of faculty who have agreed to be Teacher Education mentors, see Staci in Room 266 Main.



Upcoming Teacher Education SEMINARS

Mark Your Calendars

Winter semester planning for our teacher education seminars is underway. Watch the bulletin boards for posters that will announce the topics. In the meantime, here are the days, dates and times:

Tuesday, February 5
2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20
3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20
2:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 5
3:30 p.m.
(Seminar and Ice Cream Social)

These seminars are designed to give you information on education's "hot topics."