

December 15, 2023

Dear Guidance Counselor/School Administrator,

We would like to invite students from your school to apply for the **Horatio Alger Denny Sanford Scholarship Program**.

Since 1984, the Horatio Alger Association has awarded college scholarships to deserving students. To date, we've awarded over \$245 million in scholarships to over 35,000 students. Through nationally recognized educational programs, the Association reaches out directly to our nation's young people with a message of hope, opportunity, responsibility, and perseverance.

In keeping with the mission of the Horatio Alger Association, the scholarship programs provide financial assistance to students throughout the nation who have significant financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity.

The Denny Sanford Scholarships are awarded to **high school seniors** each year and range in award value from **\$10,000 to \$37,500**. Funds are disbursed over the student's college career. This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Association member Denny Sanford. **Students must pursue a bachelor's degree at Augustana University, Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, South Dakota School of Mines, South Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, University of Sioux Falls or University of South Dakota.** We continue to encourage high school juniors to apply for our National and State awards which can be found on the "Undergraduate Scholarships" page on our website.

Scholarship criteria also include: current high school senior graduating in spring/summer, demonstrated critical financial need (\$65,000 or lower adjusted gross family income), commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree, and United States citizenship.


We ask that you place the enclosed poster in a prominent location at your school to let students know about the Horatio Alger Scholarship Programs. Students may apply online December 1 – March 15 at horatioalger.org/scholarships.

IMPORTANT: In order for an application to be considered complete the applicant's counselor must complete a Certifications Form online. See page two of this letter for additional details.

Please add scholarships@horatioalger.org to your safe mail list.

We look forward to receiving applications from your students as we seek to recognize outstanding young people.

Sincerely,



Terrence J. Giroux
Executive Director

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Horatio Alger Denny Sanford Scholarship Application Information

The Horatio Alger Association seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity, perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered eligible for the Horatio Alger Denny Sanford Scholarship Program, applicants must:

- ◆ Be enrolled full-time as a **high school senior in the state of South Dakota**, progressing normally toward graduation in spring/summer 2024 with plans to enter college no later than the fall following graduation
- ◆ Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a **bachelor's degree at one of the following post-secondary institutions: Augustana University, Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, South Dakota School of Mines, South Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, University of Sioux Falls or University of South Dakota.**
- ◆ Demonstrate **critical financial need** (\$65,000 or lower adjusted gross family income is required)
- ◆ Be involved in **co-curricular and community service** activities
- ◆ Display **integrity and perseverance** in overcoming adversity
- ◆ Maintain a **minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0**
- ◆ Be a United States citizen

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To apply for the Horatio Alger Denny Sanford Scholarship Program, the following items must be completed by **March 15:**

- ◆ An online application at **horatioalger.org/scholarships**
- ◆ One Support Form completed online. This must be completed by an adult over the age of 21 who is not related to the applicant and who is aware of the adversities mentioned in the application. **This form must be filled out online. Faxes, emails, or letters will not be accepted.**
- ◆ Online Certification Form. A login will be emailed to the applicant's counselor.
- ◆ High school transcript. Applicants should upload a transcript through the application. **Transcripts must be submitted online.**
- ◆ Income Verification. A copy of **the first page** of the applicant's parent(s) federal tax return (1040, 1040A, 1040 EZ or 1099 SSA-Social Security form) or tax transcript (request a tax transcript here www.irs.gov/Individuals/Order-a-Transcript) for 2022 is needed in order to verify income stated on the application. If an applicant's parents were not required to file a tax return, include statement copies of any government benefits, such as Public Assistance or Disability payment documents. Income verifications may be uploaded online or sent by mail. Applicants of divorced or legally separated parents need to submit tax forms from whichever parent/guardian has claimed them for the 2022 tax year. **No emails or faxes accepted.**