



September Scholar Newsletter 2023

Hello Scholars ☀️

Happy September!!!

The RP Team hopes you had a long, relaxing, and stress-free summer break. We're so happy that you are here! In the last few weeks, the Scholar Success Team has hosted Campus Network Leader (CNL) on-campus events at San Francisco State University, Contra Costa College, Berkeley City College, and UC Merced! Let me tell y'all, these events have been so fun to be a part of! In this newsletter, I'll be including some back-to-school tips, FAFSA update, career opportunities featured from our Career Hub, and answering some frequently asked questions about **Scholarship disbursements** for this Fall Term.

For this month, I would like you to connect with the various resources available to you at your campus. And I mean more than just, 'oh yeah I know where their office is at.' **I want you to be confident** when seeking out resources on your campus. Take the time out of your busy scholar schedules and familiarize yourself with the useful resources available to you!

"Keep going. Everything you need will come to you at the perfect time." – unknown.

Best wishes,

Celina

College Success Coordinator

FAFSA Updates

You ALL will be renewing your FAFSA/CADA form this year. Please read through this important announcement:

Due to reworking and updating the FAFSA form, the opening of applications for the 2024-25 cycle will be delayed from October 1st to December 2023 (Exact Date TBA). **That means the applications will open in December this year!** In particular, the new FAFSA application will include updates such as:

- Fewer questions. The previous FAFSA applications asked 108 questions, the new app will be reduced to 36 questions.
- Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) will now be referred to as the Student Aid Index (SAI).
- Changes in what is considered reportable income & assets.
- Automatic transfer of IRS tax data to the FAFSA application.

Highlighted above are a few of the many updates coming to FAFSA/CADA this year. Read more about it [HERE!](#)

RP Updates

As the new school year gets underway, many Scholars have questions about the scholarship. Here are a few answers to frequently asked questions.

Scholarship Disbursement

- The scholarship is **sent directly to YOUR COLLEGE**, not to you.
- The scholarship is disbursed each **TERM** you are enrolled (e.g. \$500/quarter or \$750/semester, summer NOT included)
- You will receive a text message from us letting you know that your scholarship check has been sent to your college. Please keep in mind that **it can take up to a month** for your college to process your check.
- Not sure if your scholarship is showing up in your financial aid package? It may be listed as an "Outside Scholarship" rather than "Richmond Promise Scholarship".

Questions/Concerns: scholarships@richmondpromise.org

Enrollment Information

Reminder: You can use your Richmond Promise Scholarship at any accredited, not-for-profit 2-year or 4-year college/university, or Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. You may not use the scholarship for any for-profit institutions. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out the type of school you'll be attending!

Thank You Summer Associates!!

Let's Take a Moment to Recognize our [2023 Summer Associates!](#)



starts clapping hands

This summer, we had the privilege to employ 19 Richmond Promise Scholars through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Over a 10-week period, these 19 amazing scholars worked incredibly hard to support the various

aspects of our work and positively impact students throughout Richmond. Their work included:

- Facilitating literacy retention sessions with Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th graders through the Camp Achieve Summer Program.
- Assisted our 400+ incoming scholarship recipients through their onboarding process.
- Facilitated over 350 1:1 appointments with rising RP Scholars.
- Outreach to over 1,500 current Richmond Promise Scholars to ensure scholarship renewal.

Thanks in large part to their efforts, 93% of Richmond Promise Scholars in the class of 2023 will successfully claim their RP scholarship and enroll in college full-time and on time this fall.

Scholar Spotlight!

Pooja Sandhu



This past month has been filled with workshops and on Friday, August 25th we got to host Pooja! She is an alum of RP who reached out looking to give back to her fellow RP community. She created and presented a workshop on resume building during which 40 second-year scholars worked on and asked questions about their resumes. Read more about Pooja below:

"Hi, I'm Pooja! I am an early career digital marketing creative with a passion for helping others and making an impact. I love learning and spending my time listening to personal finance or business podcasts, reading self-help and personal growth books, and browsing LinkedIn to be in touch with what's going

on in the world (such as AI!). When I'm not doing that, I'm watching true crime documentaries on Netflix and YouTube, scrolling on Tiktok for fashion and beauty, or I'm watching anime."

Thank you for sharing your knowledge and skills with your fellow RP peers, Pooja!

Feel free to connect with Pooja if you have any questions regarding your resume!

Pooja's Contact Information:

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/poojasandhu>

Linktree QR code:



Student Opportunities

Featured Career Hub Opportunities:

The Watershed Project

The Watershed Project is currently hiring paid interns (ages 17-24) for its Green Collar Corps program. Please visit their [website](https://thewatershedproject.org/green-careers) for more information.

Are you a young person (17-24) looking for hands-on, paid work experience in the environmental field?

Join the Green Collar Corps!

As a GCC Member, you will:

- Take part in hands-on projects like urban streams and shoreline restoration, community outreach, and K-12 watershed education
- Participate in monthly career development trainings on topics like environmental justice, resume writing
- Learn about different environmental careers
- Get paid an hourly wage and gain valuable job skills

Want to learn more?
Scan the QR code or visit:
thewatershedproject.org/green-careers

We prioritize young people in West County and Oakland who are underrepresented in the environmental sector (people of color, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and/or come from a low income household).



¿Es usted una persona joven (17-24) que busca experiencia laboral práctica y remunerada en el campo ambiental?

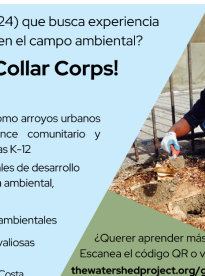
¡Únete al Green Collar Corps!

Como miembro de GCC, usted:

- Participará en proyectos prácticos como arroyos urbanos y restauración de la costa, alcance comunitario y educación sobre cuencas hidrográficas K-12
- Participará en capacitaciones mensuales de desarrollo profesional sobre temas como justicia ambiental, redacción de currículos
- Aprenderá sobre diferentes carreras ambientales
- Reciba un salario por hora y obtenga valiosas habilidades laborales

Damos prioridad a los jóvenes en West Contra Costa County y Oakland que están subrepresentados en el sector ambiental (personas de color, LGBTQIA+, personas con discapacidades y/o provienen de un hogar de bajos ingresos).

¿Quieren aprender más?
Escanee el código QR o visita:
thewatershedproject.org/green-careers



AmeriCorps Health Fellows

Interested in a Health Fellowship? The team at LifeLong Medical is accepting applications for their 2023-2024 AmeriCorps Health Fellows program.

This program is a great opportunity for students interested in gaining health

care experience while serving underserved communities. [Check out the application here!](#) Applications are considered on a rolling basis and will be reviewed as soon as they are submitted. Please let us know if you have any questions!



Richmond Promise Resources

Tips for First-Year Scholars

Dear Newbies:

CONGRATULATIONS!!! 🎉🎉 You made it! You are now at the beginning of a new chapter in your life -- one that will bring both thrilling moments and sometimes even challenges. Throughout this new journey, you will learn many new qualities about yourself that will help you become a better you! Remember, there are other Scholars in the same position as you -- you're not alone in this journey. And hey, you never know, you might be sitting next to an RP Scholar at your next lecture class! Say hello and create new friendships 😊

Back to school tips:

I've listed a few things you should do at the beginning of this academic year:

- Familiarize yourself with the campus! 🏫
- Know where the class is going to be – not just which building it's in.

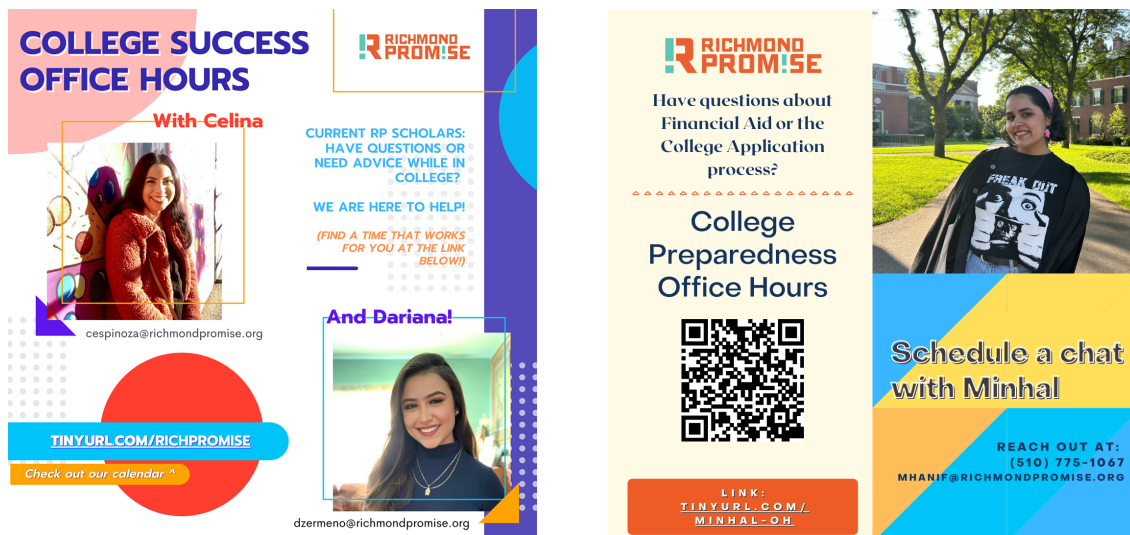
- Schedule a meeting with an academic or college counselor. 📅✍️
- Have an educational plan for the next two semesters – if you have intentions of graduating by a certain timeframe, let the counselor know.
- Know where the Financial Aid office is at! You want your money right!! 💰👤
- Introduce yourself to the professor and TA! You never know when you'll need the connect in the future. 🧐
- Buy a planner to stay organized. 📅
 - Write down all your class exams, projects, and finals. This will help you prepare and manage your time throughout the week.
- Join a Study Group at the beginning of the Semester – find a study buddy IN your class. You can share notes & study together for Finals week. 📖
- Utilize your resources (Writing Center, Tutoring, and Financial Aid office) and US! Remember we're here to help YOU. 🤝
- Lastly, remember to celebrate the little accomplishments. 🥳🎉

Rivet School

Rivet School offers Richmond Promise Scholars the chance to earn an accredited, affordable, accelerated BA without having to leave your job. Rivet School's project-based program is flexible around your schedule and 100% online. You will work with a personal College Coach on your path to a BA and have access to career services and other resources. Earn your AA and BA in as little as 2-3 years starting from scratch, or transfer in your previous college credits. Want to learn more? [Fill out an interest form HERE!](#)

Make an appointment for 1:1 support:

The Richmond Promise team is here to support you. We know that being a student can get tough at times, so we're here to help. To schedule a time to talk, click the graphics below. If you would like to contact us via email, please reach out to scholarships@richmondpromise.org. And, if you prefer to text, use (510) 230-0422.



Additional Resources:

- [Career Hub](#): Looking for job and/or internship opportunities? Browse our career database.
- Financial Aid Support: Access [FAFSA](#) and [California Dream Act](#) info.
- [Crisis & Support Resources](#): Access resources and support for topics such as homelessness and domestic violence along with LGBTQIA+-related resources and more.
- If you would like to access our 2022 Annual Report [CLICK HERE](#)



Questions? Comments? Want to be highlighted in the newsletter?

Contact Dariana or Celina!

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