

FINDING SUPPORT FOR THE MEDICAL LAB SCIENCE STUDENT

Financing education can be made easier through scholarships. **By Robin E. Stomblor**

It's back to school time. Thousands of college students are buying their books, meeting new roommates and trying to figure out how to finance their education.

A lack of funding resources is a major deterrent to higher education for many bright students. Sometimes, scholarships are just the luck of the draw. According to *The Scholarship Book 13th Edition*, many scholarships may be made just for you. Did your great-great-great-grandfather sign the Declaration of Independence? The Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence may award you \$3,000 for your lineage. The Harness Tracks of America provide scholarships worth \$7,500 if you or your parents are active participants in the sport. America's Junior Miss Program adorns \$30,000 in scholarships through its competition, and the NAACP offers funds to its male members studying engineering, chemistry, physics or mathematics.¹ There are also scholarships for tall folks and short folks, vegetarians and carnivores, and for members of the International Star Trek Fan Association's Starfleet.^{2,3}

So, without the proper ancestry, height or eating habits, what's a medical laboratory



science student to do? Fortunately, a number of scholarship opportunities are available for college students specifically interested in a career in laboratory science.

"We want to acknowledge and reward those junior- and senior-level students who demonstrate their commitment to the clinical laboratory field and express a modern vision for the future of the profession," explained Daniel C. Edson, President of the American Proficiency Institute (API). API is entering its fourth year of scholarship-giving. "So far, we have awarded 18 scholarships and look forward to continuing the competition," added Edson. "While it is gratifying to receive hundreds of entries for the scholarships, it

is difficult to narrow the choices to a few. At API, we want to support the next generation of medical laboratory professionals."

The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions sponsors a scholarship program for allied health students, including those in the laboratory sciences, who are enrolled in its member schools. Students may be selected for an award based on their academic excellence and their leadership potential in their chosen allied field. Over three dozen schools across the country with programs in cytotechnology, medical technology/clinical laboratory science and phlebotomy are eligible for their students to compete.

Siemens Legacy Scholarships award funds to students in their final year of studies in lab science who are also related to a certified medical technologist or clinical laboratory scientist. The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) offers a scholarship to students enrolled in an approved phlebotomy program. ASCP also administers awards for students in medical laboratory science and medical laboratory technician programs on behalf of Siemens.

Generous support from organizations such as these can make a difference in the lives of these future laboratorians. Therrie Patterson, one of the 2010 API Scholarship winners, said "Medical technologists have the chance of being the person to discover an illness in a patient before anyone else. It is an exciting field for patient care and medical advances. Medical technology is in the forefront of medicine." ■

Robin E. Stomblor is President of Auburn Health Strategies, LLC, a strategic and business development firm representing health and science organizations.

Table: Boosting Your Education Through Scholarships

Scores of scholarships are available for the medical laboratory profession. Not meant to be a comprehensive nor all-inclusive list, the following sites are for those opportunities mentioned within the article.

Scholarship	Site
American Proficiency Institute	http://tinyurl.com/3nyp2nm
ASCP Phlebotomy Scholarships	http://tinyurl.com/3sxlwhu
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions	http://tinyurl.com/4ya7zz9
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (member schools)	http://tinyurl.com/4xz3nor
Siemens-ASCP	http://tinyurl.com/3myxorm
Siemens Legacy Scholarships	http://tinyurl.com/3tc2957

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