

WARREN CHRISTOPHER SCHOLARSHIP 2019

Scholarship: \$20,000 college scholarship offered to 10th grade students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, who demonstrate academic excellence, a commitment to community service, financial need, and ability to overcome hardship.

I. Scholarship Background

Warren Christopher had a long, distinguished career serving as a lawyer in Los Angeles at O'Melveny & Myers LLP; serving in the United States government (including as the 63rd Secretary of State); and serving California and Los Angeles (including as Chairman of the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department in the aftermath of the Rodney King incident). To discover more about Mr. Christopher's life and career one may look to his memoir *Chances of a Lifetime* (published in 2001 by Scribner).

Mr. Christopher was born in Scranton, North Dakota, but moved to Los Angeles as a teenager and attended high school here. A modest scholarship from the University of Redlands enabled him to enroll in college at the age of 16. When President Clinton named Mr. Christopher the Secretary of State in 1992, Mr. Christopher's law firm partners established a scholarship fund in his honor. Over the past two decades, that fund has helped close to 200 students in the Los Angeles Unified School District ("L.A.UNIFIED") achieve their dreams of attending college, and going on to careers in business, medicine, science, law, public interest, and government.

Each year, in partnership with L.A. Unified, teachers and counselors at each comprehensive high school and affiliated charter in the district are asked to identify one promising 10th-grade student from their school and to encourage the student to submit an application for the Warren Christopher Scholarship Award. From these finalists, the Warren Christopher Scholarship Committee selects a small number of "Christopher Scholars," a designation that is noted in the student's official school record. Upon graduation from high school, and enrollment in an accredited college or university, each Christopher Scholar receives a financial award (described below).

The Warren Christopher Scholarship Awards are intended to encourage promising high school students to continue to excel, graduate, and pursue a college education. Teachers and counselors of students in the program are urged to make every effort to encourage students to complete high school successfully and enroll in college. As noted, the financial components of the award may be forfeited if the student fails to graduate and/or attend an accredited college or university.

The California Community Foundation (<http://www.calfund.org/>) administers the Warren Christopher Scholarship fund and works directly with students beginning the summer of their senior year of high school to award the scholarship at their college or university.

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II. Scholarship Guidelines

1. Award Amount. Upon graduation from high school, and after completing the scholarship acceptance form with the California Community Foundation, each eligible Christopher Scholar will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship following graduation, payable at the rate of \$5,000 per academic year for each of four consecutive years of college. Scholars who do not claim their award in a given year may forfeit the remaining scholarship if they do not contact the California Community Foundation requesting an extension or other dispensation (contact e-mail: scholarships@calfund.org).

2. Scholarship Eligibility Criteria. Each comprehensive L.A. Unified high school can nominate only one qualified candidate each year for possible designation as a Christopher Scholar. To be eligible for scholarship consideration, the student candidates must:

- Be a 10th-grade student for whom this designation, honor, and scholarship will make a decided difference - and who is more likely to remain in school if he or she receives it.
- Have a grade-point-average of 3.25 or higher from the 9th grade and through the first semester of 10th grade.
- Have demonstrated financial need; EOP criteria may serve as a guide.
- Have demonstrated a commitment to school and/or community involvement.

3. Scholarship Selection Criteria. Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Academic potential, including GPA, quality and rigor of high school curriculum and difficulty of course load, enrollment in college preparatory courses, and/or a student's intent to attend college.
- Commitment to community including the student's role and level of involvement in organizations, volunteer work or activities that make a difference and/or impact on school or community.
- Financial need including how the current situation will impact a student's path to college.
- Extraordinary circumstances including adversity students have faced or are facing—or that they have overcome.
- Student-authored essay and other written material will be judged based on content, development, clarity, focus and tone.

III. Application Process

1. STEP 1: JANUARY OF EACH YEAR

L.A. Unified's Division of Instruction/A-G Intervention and Support disseminates timeline information/announcement to comprehensive high schools and affiliated charters.

2. STEP 2: DUE MARCH 1, 2019 (by 4:00 pm)

L.A. Unified comprehensive high schools and affiliated charters will identify which student they intend to nominate to become a Christopher Scholar and submit a nomination form online.

Nomination should be submitted at <http://www.calfund.org/donors/warren-christopher-nomination>.

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3. STEP 3: DUE MARCH 29, 2019 (by 4:00 pm)

Students submit scholarship applications online by registering and submitting at <https://applyforgrants.calfund.org>.

To do so, the student must:

- a. Complete an application form online. The form asks for demographic, educational, and financial information, as well as a description of the student's participation in school and community activities. If access to a computer is needed to complete the online application, the student should contact their school counselor for assistance, or call Shelly Alavez, Specialist, Academic and Counseling Services at (213) 241-6688.
- b. Write an essay. The focus of the essay should be the ways in which the student meets the Selection Criteria noted above. Of particular emphasis should be the ways in which adversity has affected the student's academic progress and how he or she is overcoming that adversity or overcame it in the past.
- c. Obtain and upload letters of recommendation. Two letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be from a teacher, counselor, or school administrator. Both recommenders must be able to write about the student's character and accomplishments in life.
- d. Obtain and upload copies of transcripts. Each student must submit an official academic transcript, current through the end of 2018. Transcripts must include L.A. Unified unweighted GPA.

Scholarship Award winners will be announced in May 2019 and invited to an awards ceremony and luncheon on June 13, 2019 in downtown Los Angeles.

For Questions or Support:

To download a copy of the student Guide to Submission:

Click here: <http://connect.calfund.org/document.doc?id=5481>

For additional questions, please contact:

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