

January 2010

# Scholarship Bits

## Illinois Dollars for Scholars Board Members

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## **A Letter from the Interim Executive Director**

On behalf of the entire Board and staff of Illinois Dollars for Scholars, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

2010 promises to be an interesting year for all of us. Our parent organization, Scholarship America, is planning on upgrading their website, featuring available open scholarships and new financial aid forums with particular focus on our new 4G chapter model: 1. Getting Ready, 2. Getting In, 3. Graduating, and 4. Giving Back.

If you have not already signed up for the chapter portal, be sure to contact Deb Fichtner at 507-931-0490 or [dfichtner@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:dfichtner@scholarshipamerica.org). She will register you and give you your password for the portal.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at [clogan@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:clogan@scholarshipamerica.org) or on my cell phone at 312-342-5613 should you have any questions or concerns.

*Chuck*

Chuck Logan, Interim Executive Director

## **Don't Forget to Participate in Roundtable Discussions on the Chapter Portal for a Chance to Win \$100!**

We encourage you to participate in the online roundtable discussions hosted on the chapter portal. Every time you log into the chapter portal and participate in the Online Roundtable Discussion, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 gift certificate. The more times you log in to discuss a topic, the more times you'll be entered to win. The Online Roundtable Discussions will help you and your chapter connect with other chapter volunteers nationwide and gather information and tips about topics important for improving chapter operations and student success. December's featured discussion, hosted by Scholarship America's National Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Costella, will be Volunteer Management: The Power of the 3 Rs. The discussion will focus on Recruiting, Retaining and Recognizing new and veteran volunteers, and more. Here's just one example of the discussions happening right now:

### **Chapter #1**

*We have need of leaders. The people who will think through a project/campaign and get it organized for smaller job distribution. Elected offices go unmanned. What do others do in this situation?*

### **Chapter #2**

*Seriously, that is a very difficult thing ... it is a slow process, one that takes a lot of "hands on" time with volunteers, a lot of time figuring out what the strengths of each volunteer are, and then involving them in projects they excel at. I have found that when someone has an idea for something they are familiar with and excited about they will take on a leadership role for that project.*

### **Host**

*Board recruitment works well when members become "...really great friends. How? They worked on projects and fundraisers together, but also set aside the time to attend ... board meetings, which are usually potluck dinners ... these [quarterly] meetings allow for members to bond over a meal and also re-ignite the passion for helping to aid in student success."*

### **Chapter #2**

*That is exactly the type of information I had hoped we would be able to get... There is no need for each chapter to reinvent the wheel and some chapters are doing great things. I particularly like the idea of having a potluck supper for the quarterly board of director meetings...*

## Illinois Dollars for Scholars

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## ***Lincolnland Legends Application Period Ended***

The application period for this year's Lincolnland Legends program has ended. We would like to thank everyone who helped spread the word about this contest and encouraged students to apply. Winners will be announced in early 2010.

The Lincolnland Legends Celebration Gala will be held on Saturday, April 10th, 2010 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. We hope you will join us at this event! More information can be obtained by contacting the Illinois Dollars for Scholars office at 888-255-9140.

### ***Scholarship Announcements***

The following scholarships are open. Please encourage students to apply!

**Simon Youth Foundation Community Scholarship** sponsored by Simon Youth Foundation, is open to high school seniors attending school and living in proximity of a Simon Property Mall, Premium Outlet or Community/Lifestyle Center.

**Deadline:** January 31, 2010

**Applications and Info:** Eligibility criteria and application forms are available during the application period at [sms.scholarshipamerica.org/simonyouth](http://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/simonyouth)

**Rent-A-Center Make A Difference Scholarship Program:** Current customers and customers within the past two years who are in good standing, and their immediate family members (spouse or dependent children living in the customer's household) of Rent-A-Center, Get It Now!, RAC Financial Services, or RAC Acceptance who live in the U.S. or Puerto Rico are eligible to apply. Applicants must plan to enroll or already be enrolled in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational technical school in the United States or Puerto Rico.

**Deadline:** February 1, 2010.

**Application and Info:** Information is available at <https://www.scholarshipamerica.org/makeadifference>

**AXA Achievement Community Scholarship Program** brings advice and access to higher education into every community in which AXA has a presence. Every AXA Advisors' branch office nationwide distributes up to twelve \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors who live and attend high school in their area.

**Deadline:** February 15, 2010

**Application and Info:** Information and application forms are available at [www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/community-scholarships.html](http://www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/community-scholarships.html)

**Best Buy Scholarship** sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation, is open to students currently in grades 9-12 living in the U.S. or Puerto Rico, who are planning to attend an accredited U.S. or Puerto Rico college or vocational school after high school graduation. Scholarships are awarded to students who volunteer time to their communities, excel in academics, and participate in extra curricular activities. The application must be completed electronically online; no paper applications will be accepted.

**Deadline:** The 2010 submission deadline is February 15, 2010.

**Application and Info:** Information is available at [bestbuy.scholarshipamerica.org](http://bestbuy.scholarshipamerica.org)