

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### WHAT IS THE VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

Ventures Scholars Program is a FREE national resource developed to link underrepresented and first-generation college-bound students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) career pathways to information, resources, and opportunities nationwide.

As part of the services, Ventures Scholars are connected to a partnership of selective higher education institutions nationwide and are also provided with a variety of e-communication tools to access information about scholarships, summer programs, STEM career pathway information and more!

Our goal is to help counselors link students to a national pathway and help these students successfully pursue STEM career pathways.

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### WHAT ARE THE FREE SERVICES OFFERED TO STUDENTS?

- **COMMUNICATE WITH MEMBER INSTITUTIONS:** Students' information is shared with the Ventures Scholars Program partnership of colleges and universities nationwide.

The VSP Website provides a profile page for each member institution. Profile pages offer extensive information about programs, scholarships, fee waivers, open houses, and more. Every member institution profile page also has a link to an inquiry form. Students can complete an inquiry form for a specific institution and completed information is emailed to the partner institution contact. To view information about college partners, go to <http://www.venturescholar.org/portals>

- **COMMUNICATE WITH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:** Students can learn about math and science careers simply by contacting partner professional associations.
- **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION:** Students can download their personalized certificate of recognition. Some of the member institutions request the certificate when granting fee waivers to students. Most students include their certificate along with the college application.
- **BIWEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER :** Students and their parents receive a biweekly e-mail newsletter that provides timely information about a broad array of college and career planning topics and resources. Information about partner colleges and universities is always included in the e-newsletters.
- **TARGETED EMAILS:** The Ventures Scholars Program sends targeted emails about conferences, regional seminars, lectures, open houses, recruitment fairs and other events to students and their parents.
- **VSP E- DIALOGUE CENTER:** Using the chat room and e-bulletin board, students can e-communicate with undergraduate Ventures Scholars and learn first-hand about college and STEM majors.
- **COMMUNICATE WITH VSP STAFF:** Students can communicate with Ventures Scholars Program staff via phone and email.

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## QUALIFICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Students should identify themselves as members of an underrepresented minority group (African American/Black, American Indian/Native American, or Hispanic/Latino/a) **AND/OR** identify themselves as first-generation college-bound students.

Students should maintain a 3.0 grade point average or better and express an interest in a STEM career. In addition, students should take standardized examinations and meet at least one of the following qualifications:

- **PSAT Qualifications:** A sophomore needs to score a minimum of 47 on the math and critical reasoning sections. A junior needs to score a minimum of 50 of the math and critical reasoning sections.
- **SAT Qualifications:** A student needs to score a minimum of 550 on the math and critical reasoning sections.
- **PLAN Qualifications:** A student needs to score a minimum of 18 on the math, science, English, and reading sections.
- **ACT Qualifications:** A student needs to score a minimum of 19 on the math, science, English, and reading sections.

In the near future, the Program will be developing a separate database for students who fall below the aforementioned criteria, but have academic potential. Nomination will be made by counselors or community-based organization coordinators.

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## ACCESS A LIST OF VENTURES SCHOLARS AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL

The Program initially targets students when they take the PSAT or PLAN examination. To obtain a list of students at your high school who are currently in our database, please email your CEEB code to [jarkin@ventures.org](mailto:jarkin@ventures.org).

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## NOMINATE QUALIFIED STUDENTS TO JOIN THE VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

You are invited to nominate additional students to the pathway. To download an application, please go to [http://www.venturescholar.org/docs/student\\_application.doc](http://www.venturescholar.org/docs/student_application.doc)

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## REGISTER FOR THE VENTURES SCHOLARS PROGRAM SERVICES

The Ventures Scholars Program will share counselors' information with member institutions and professional associations and they will send you materials about programs and opportunities.

If you or your colleagues wish to register for the Program's free services, please go to [http://www.venturescholar.org/counselors/application\\_step1.php](http://www.venturescholar.org/counselors/application_step1.php)

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**For additional information, please contact:**

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