

## **BenchSmart Federal Credit Union Scholarship Official Rules/Guidelines 2010-2011 Academic Year**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- No entry fee required.
- You must be a graduating high school senior within Yazoo County, MS, enrolling at an accredited two-year or four-year college or vocational/technical school during the 2010-2011 academic year taking at least 12 semester hours after last official drop date.
- You must have a minimum (2.5) cumulative grade point average.
- Employees of BenchSmart Federal Credit Union, board members, or other volunteer committees and their immediate family member (sister, brother, son, daughter) are not eligible.
- This is not a lottery. This scholarship contest is void where prohibited or restricted by any law or ordinance.
- Applications must be received at BenchSmart Federal Credit Union no later than 4:30 p.m., March 31, 2010 and all information is subject to verification.

### **Application package**

You may obtain an application package at BenchSmart Federal Credit Union or visit us online at [www.benchsmartfcu.com](http://www.benchsmartfcu.com) and click on the link on the home page. To submit your application package, you must provide the following materials:

1. Completed BenchSmart Federal Credit Union scholarship application.
2. A copy of your transcripts/grades with signature or seal of school official to verify authenticity
3. Essay

Send your completed application package to:

BenchSmart Federal Credit Union

ATTN: Scholarship

803 E. 15th Street

Yazoo City, MS 39194

### **Evaluation Process**

The scholarship is awarded based on the complete application package. All decisions will be final. Scholarships to be awarded during schools awards day program and funds to be disbursed to college after validation of enrollment in August.

### **Essay Topic**

1. What are the advantages of credit union membership vs. a bank?

To qualify for the \$1000 prize one must submit a television commercial along with their essay on the best way to effectively communicate to the community why it is much better to deal with a credit union instead of a bank (commercial can be a script or recorded on VHS or DVD).

### **Submission Requirements**

- Essays must be less than 1,000 words in length, written in English, typed using 12-point font, double spaced.
- Only one essay may be submitted per person.
- Submissions must be original work and may not be based, in whole or in part, on any previously published or any third party copyrighted material.
- Any essay not within these guidelines will be ineligible for the scholarship.

### **Scholarship Award**

- Scholarships will be awarded based on the evaluation process and be paid by BenchSmart Federal Credit Union directly to the college.
- The winners will be notified in May. Acceptance of the scholarship shall constitute permission for BenchSmart Federal Credit Union to use the winners' names and likeness for purposes of advertising, promotion and publicity without additional compensation. All applicable taxes are the responsibility of the winners.
- The winning essay/commercial may be published for television, used in the BenchSmart Federal Credit Union Newsletter, *The Moneyclip* and published on the BenchSmart Federal Credit Union website.

All entries shall become the property of BenchSmart Federal Credit Union and cannot be returned. BenchSmart Federal Credit Union will not be responsible for entries that are lost, damaged, illegible, and incomplete, misdirected, or arrive with postage due.