

National CCAA 2019 Scholarship Recipients

The National CCAA Scholarship is awarded to college-bound high school seniors from various geographic regions who will attend one of the National CCAA member institutions in the fall. For Fall 2019, the National CCAA awarded 16 one-time \$1,000 awards. This year's scholarship recipients hail from across the United States as well as Guatemala, Guam and the Dominican Republic.

We asked each scholarship winner 10 questions to learn more about them. Here are their responses to those questions:



Name: Ann Elming
School: Creighton University
Hometown: Redondo Beach, CA
Major: Psychology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I decided on choosing to attend Creighton University because many members of my family attended for both undergraduate and graduate school. I am excited about being an active part of student life and trying out for the Division 1 tennis team.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is psychology.

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to graduate from Creighton with a bachelor's degree, and then apply to Creighton's dental school. I also plan on becoming very involved in campus life and joining many activities such as leadership.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about living in a new state and experiencing the fall and winter weather. I am also very excited about making close friends through classes, tennis, and other fun activities.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include writing, reading, playing tennis, swimming, and drawing.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Ethan Frome* because of its symbolism and strong character presence.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was AP Literature. I really enjoyed this class because it definitely pushed me and forced me to think creatively and logically when analyzing texts.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Don't procrastinate! Use this valuable summer break to begin drafting your essays and how you want to present yourself. It is also a good chance to become more involved and join various volunteer groups.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

As you walk the halls of the campus, try to envision yourself as a student attending college there and see how you react to that. Put yourself in the position of future you being a student there. For parents, I would say be as encouraging as possible as it will make the deciding process less stressful for the student.

What is one fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I have won several hula hooping contests.



Name: Cade Carter
School: Gonzaga University
Hometown: Austin, TX
Major: Business

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I am choosing to attend Gonzaga University because I feel that it is unique and as a unique school, they were able to make me feel wanted. I see being wanted by a school as a must because of how it changes my own outlook. Just applying to a school and being accepted isn't enough for me, but the staff at Gonzaga reached out multiple times to me.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is business with a focus in finance.

What are your future plans?

My future plans hopefully entail a successful college graduation and start to a stable life.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about meeting new people and expanding my comfort zones.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy playing the trombone and getting outside with my friends, plus a large interest in computers/video games.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book has to be *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was senior year government because of how much I got to learn about our own government and how it functions.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Don't take college applications lightly! They aren't just chores that you need to complete, but in fact pieces of you that represent who you are to an admission staff.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

Make sure to pay attention to how you feel while walking around. Don't just pay attention to all of the statistics and facts, but instead try and imagine if you could see yourself not just learning, but living there.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am a huge nerd for cool cars that aren't just fast but also functional.



Name: Donald Ormond
School: Le Moyne College
Hometown: Quincy, MA
Major: Theater

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend my college due to its location, programs, and financial accessibility.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is theater.

What are your future plans?

My future plans include being able to make a career out of theater. I prefer musical theater, so the opportunity to perform on a venue like Broadway would be amazing.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about Le Moyne College's theater program.

What are your hobbies?

Some of my hobbies include playing and listening to music, reading, and running.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite classes in high school were either Acting or Ancient Greek.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

One tip that I would share with soon to be high school seniors is: make sure to do your research on schools sooner rather than later to be able to apply as early as possible.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

One tip that I would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses is to make sure that they talk to a couple of students from the schools, as they are some of the best people to learn from to get an idea of what the school is like.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I played the role of "Lyle the Elf" in the film *Daddy's Home 2*.



Name: Dylan Thomas
School: Newman University
Hometown: Wichita, KS
Major: Medical Field-Nursing

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Newman University because I want to stay in a Catholic school. I have been in Catholic schools since kindergarten. It is important to me to feel comfortable expressing my faith, especially in a school setting as I ask for God's help and guidance every day.

What is your intended major?

Medical Field - Nursing.

What are your future plans?

I would like to work in a hospital setting and to be part of a team.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I can't wait to see what all Newman has to offer and to be involved in different activities.

What are your hobbies?

I love to shoot trap and skeet, go to the lake and fish, and spend time with friends and family.

What is your favorite book?

The Hatchet.

What was your favorite class in high school?

I loved ceramics because I loved the teacher and the fact that I could physically work with my hands.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Trust your gut, seek God's guidance, and do what you are called to do.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

I would make sure to check out all the campus activities your school has to offer and find a school that feels like home and has a friendly environment. Make sure to check out the teacher to student ratio so that you know you will have help when you need it. Newman does great at this aspect.

What is one fun fact about you?

I try my best to put others first and myself next. Aka, I don't like to take the last cookie in the cookie jar.



Name: Edward Rosenthal
School: Regis University
Hometown: Papillion, NE
Major: Business
Minor: Exercise Science

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Regis because of its location. I was looking to go out of state in college and I love the outdoors and city as well, and Denver is the perfect area for both of those.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is business and a minor in exercise science.

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to either stay in the Denver area or move back home to Omaha and open up my own weightlifting gym.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I'm very interested in seeing how life is on campus with no fraternities. I have nothing against frats, but I feel that not having them will give me the opportunity to meet many more people if I would've joined a frat.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy weightlifting, playing pickup sports games, fishing, biking, swimming, reading, eating at good places, and enjoying the present time with the people I have around me.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Alchemist*. I like its message and how it reminds me that everyday I'm writing my personal legend and the treasure will be at the end given I keep good intentions.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class was called "Exploring the Clinical Lab." I took it sophomore year and it was taught by my favorite teacher, Mr. Diehl. He made most of the curriculum for the class and it was like no other.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

My tip would be to apply to colleges that have reached out to you via email, even if you have never heard of them. Regis emailed me and I only briefly heard of them because my friend is going to play volleyball there and I would've never have thought of going to Regis two years ago.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

I actually never visited any colleges. I went to the Regis campus and walked around for half an hour with my family, but never went on an official visit anywhere.

What is one fun fact about you?

My birthmark is the blonde spot on my head. Everyone always thinks I dye it the first time they meet me.



Name: Jacqueline Martinez
School: Chaminade University
Hometown: Hagatna, Guam
Major: Psychology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Chaminade because I was looking for a college that would allow me to feel at home, as well as work to actively cultivate both my academic and spiritual growth.

What is your intended major?

I intend to major in psychology.

What are your future plans?

After graduating from Chaminade, I plan to continue my educational journey by enrolling in medical school and receiving all the training necessary to pursue my future career as a pediatric psychiatrist.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

The aspect of my university that I am most excited about is the diversity among the students. I attended an all-girls high school with a predominately local student body, so being in a co-ed environment with people of many different races and ethnicities will be a relatively new experience for me.

What are your hobbies?

My favorite hobbies are outrigger paddling, painting, snorkeling and practicing my photography/videography.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was English Literature and Composition.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

One key piece of advice I'd like to give the soon-to-be seniors is to ensure that you maintain a balance between your current school situation and your upcoming college situation. It is extremely simple to let the stress of college consume you, or contrary wise, to let the joys of senior year distract you from thinking ahead. If you keep both of those priorities on an equal scale, moving through both of them will be much easier.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

One tip I would like to share with parents and students visiting campuses this summer is to remember not to settle for the first college that catches your attention. Many things may happen throughout the school year and you may have a change of heart.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I played school volleyball for eight years and competed in the Summer Soirée in Anaheim last summer with the Haggan Daña team.



Name: Janaliz Serrano
School: Alvernia University
Hometown: Reading, PA
Major: Occupational Therapy

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to go to Alvernia University because of the amazing program they had for occupational therapy. They have a 5-year master program and it is an accelerated program.

What is your intended major?

Occupational therapy.

What are your future plans?

I plan to either work for a school or hospital or even open my own private practice and help others in need.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I'm extremely excited to gain the knowledge I need to help others and make sure they get the proper care they need.

What are your hobbies?

I love to sing and listen to music in my spare time.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book would have to be *The Kite Runner*.

What was your favorite class in high school?

I loved English class.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Just keep your options open and make sure you feel at home.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

Try to focus and start thinking about where you want to go. You don't want to wait until the last minute!

What is one fun fact about you?

I am overly positive and happy all the time!!



Name: Jazmyne Life
School: Xavier University of Louisiana
Hometown: Jacksonville, FL
Major: Pre-med/Biology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Xavier University because I always wanted to attend an HBCU because I did not really know anything about my culture as an African American. I also chose Xavier because the overall feeling of being on the campus made me feel as if I would be successful and welcomed.

What is your intended major?

I am a Bio Pre-Med Major which means I will major in Biology and minor in Chemistry.

What are your future plans?

I plan on either being a Pediatric Trauma Surgeon or an OB/GYN.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am mainly excited about making connections with individuals that will set me up for success and get me to where I need to be in life.

What are your hobbies?

I love community service projects and assisting with children.

What is your favorite book?

I don't have a favorite book but my favorite author is James Patterson.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school, besides my science classes, would have to be yearbook, I like to be productive and creative.

What one tip would you share with high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

One tip I would give seniors who are approaching the application process is don't get discouraged by the one "no" you might get from one school and also don't wait till the last minute to write your essays.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses?

When visiting campuses, the best thing is to pay attention to the tour guide because that will give you clarity on if that is a school for you.

What is one fun fact about you?

I lived in Italy for 3 years



Name: Johenny Bisono
School: Assumption College
Hometown: Santiago, Dominican Republic
Major: Undecided

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I choose to attend Assumption College because I heard good opinions about it and I loved the atmosphere I saw when I visited the campus.

What is your intended major?

I am currently undeclared, but I'm thinking about choosing psychology.

What are your future plans?

I don't have any specific plans after graduating college, I just know I want to work at something that makes me happy and be great at whatever major I choose.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am very excited to experience the difference between school and college and also to meet new people.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include reading, listening to music, volunteering and spending time with my family and friends.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Lady of the Camellias* by Alexandre Dumas.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was French.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

To concentrate in doing the best at their school and to choose a career that makes them feel passionate about it. To pursue their dreams and always remember the struggles they endured to get to the final goal.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

I would have to say to allow their sons and daughters to follow their dreams and to support them in all the sense of the word. For the teens, I would motivate them to take advantage of the precious opportunities that they are given and to not deviate from reaching their goals.

What is one fun fact about you?

Sometimes I get confused with the names of the colors green and orange. For example, I see an orange backpack and I say "Look at that green backpack."



Name: Julian Saravia
School: St. Edward's University
Hometown: Guatemala City, Guatemala
Major: Business Administration

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend St. Edward's University because I have only heard excellent things about it from my family members and people who have gone there. I also chose it because I was interested in studying in the US but in the South as opposed to the North East.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is business administration with business law.

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to come back to my home country and establish my own business and help my home develop and prosper.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am really excited about changing the environment I've lived in all my life.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are reading books, playing the guitar, watching movies (old and new), and I really want to get into hiking and camping.

What is your favorite book?

The Right Side of History.

What was your favorite class in high school?

Social Studies.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Don't procrastinate.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

In the end it won't matter how prestigious or expensive the college appears to be, it matters what you like.

What is one fun fact about you?

I'm Color Blind.



Name: John Ragusa
School: University of Dayton
Hometown: Joliet, IL
Major: Business

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend the University of Dayton due to the fact that it is a medium sized school that truly feels like family. When I visited, everyone was so welcoming and I truly felt at home!

What is your intended major?

I plan on pursuing an undergrad major that is business orientated.

What are your future plans?

I have hopes and dreams of going to law school and becoming a lawyer.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to make new friends and go to sporting events!

What are your hobbies?

I love to workout, eat some Chipotle and watch Netflix.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Hunger Games*. I like the movies too.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was business law. I learned so much and it made me really want to be a lawyer!

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

I would suggest to start the Common App as early as possible. That will definitely help you stay organized and on track.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

I would suggest to visit as many colleges as you can, and then make a list of about three schools you could definitely see yourself at. Then when school is in session, go back and visit. The vibe is completely different when class is in session and kids are back from summer break.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I broke both of my wrists from playing football.



Name: Justin Cordero
School: Fordham University
Hometown: Roselle Park, NJ
Major: Film & Television

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Fordham University because I liked that it was located in New York City and the courses offered. I am interested in the future internship opportunities in the surrounding area.

What is your intended major?

Film & Television.

What are your future plans?

I would like to work in the film and television industry.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am excited to meet new people and explore all that Fordham has to offer.

What are your hobbies?

I like to watch tv and movies, read and play video games. In addition, I like hanging out with friends and playing recreational games.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is called *Silence* by Sharaku Endo.

What was your favorite class in high school?

Philosophy of Nonviolence - I enjoyed reading about Gandhi.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

Don't stress out because the college you end up going to doesn't define you in the grand scheme of life.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

It is helpful to talk to the department heads of whatever major you're interested in so you get the inside scoop.

What is one fun fact about you?

I'm pretty good at ping pong.



Name: Kasey Goggins
School: Assumption College
Hometown: Middletown, CT
Major: English in Communication and Media
Minor: Graphic Design & Core Texts and Enduring Questions minors

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Assumption College for multiple reasons. They have the major that I require, along with a challenging Honors Program that I can partake in. It is also a Catholic college, which was important to me as I want to continue to learn about my faith and pursue my relationship with God. What stuck out to me the most, though, when I visited the campus was how welcoming the community is. Every student and faculty member I have met has been genuinely helpful and kind to me, and just through meeting different people, I could tell that Assumption could be a second home.

What is your intended major?

Currently I am aiming for a major in English in Communication and Media with a concentration in journalism and professional writing, along with two minors, one in graphic design, and the second in a program called Core Texts and Enduring Questions.

What are your future plans?

My goal is to create a travel blog where I can discuss travel, historical places, missionary work, and similar things from a Catholic perspective. From there I would like to work at a non-profit organization.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to become a part of the Assumption community, there are so many clubs and activities on campus and I can't wait to find the ones I belong in!

What are your hobbies?

I love to participate in church events, I volunteer at my parish and I am a part of a youth group at another church. I enjoy lecturing for mass and also visiting retreat centers. I also love dance, particularly tap, which I have done for seven years. Reading has also always been a large part of my life and I love to read fantasy, sci-fi, and young adult books. I also used to participate in track and field in high school, throwing shotput and javelin.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli. It is a story about a high school age girl who struggles with the idea of fitting in because those close to her tell her to versus openly being herself. I love the book so much because of her personality. While she is quite strange, she is overall kind and empathetic, always taking the feelings of her peers to heart.

What was your favorite class in high school?

I can't choose one favorite, but two classes in high school that I particularly enjoyed were AP Psychology and AP World History. Psychology was fascinating as it gave an inside look at the reasons and theories of why people do what they do, and I loved hearing how so many factors contribute to a person's personality and behavior. I loved World History because sometimes it is so difficult to understand how the human race has thrived so long, and seeing the different cultures over the centuries was so interesting, especially when comparing them.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

One piece of advice would be to pick a school that you know you'll be happy at and that has what you need. I saw a lot of friends stress about schools because of their big reputations and how hard they were to get into, or because they wanted to be accepted into schools where their friends were accepted into. The stress is only worth it if it's over a school that you really love and know that you will thrive in.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

Make sure you talk to some of the students from each school. By asking them questions and generally having conversations, you can tell what a school and its community are like.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am an avid Star Wars fan, and I mostly enjoy reading the Legends books that were previously canon within the universe. I actually wrote my college essay on how disappointed I was when Disney bought Lucasfilm and discontinued them.



Name: Mira Todd
School: Saint Louis University
Hometown: Millstadt, IL
Major: Occupational Therapy

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose SLU because it has a great environment and I believe that it is the best school to help me pursue my future goals for life.

What is your intended major?

I am majoring in occupational therapy.

What are your future plans?

Eventually, I would like to work in a hospital and specialize in children's feeding therapy.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

What I am most excited about for college is being independent, making friends that will last a lifetime, and seeing where life takes me.

What are your hobbies?

In my free time, I enjoy playing club softball and creating art, whether it's pottery or simple drawing.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was my art/ceramics class.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

The tip I would share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application is to get ahead and know it's never too early to start thinking about your future.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

One tip I would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses is to visit campuses while that school is in session so you can get a true feeling of what campus is really like.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about myself is that my name is my parent's "ship name" which is both of their names put together. The "M" and "I" come from my father's name, Mike, and the "R" and "A" come from my mother's name, Tara.



Name: Natalie Siller
School: Gonzaga University
Hometown: Scottsdale, AZ
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Leadership

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

When I visited Gonzaga's campus, I fell in love with the atmosphere and the school spirit. Gonzaga offered a superb education, and it was the perfect size for me. I also choose Gonzaga because I knew the environment it created would help further develop my faith.

What is your intended major?

I plan to major in business administration and minor in leadership.

What are your future plans?

I want to pursue a career in non-profit management. I want to be able to lead and grow a non-profit organization.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am so excited to meet new people and get involved in clubs and intramural sports. I plan to join volunteer clubs and youth group.

What are your hobbies?

I love to draw and love to act. I have been involved in theatre since freshman year.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. I love the whole Harry Potter series.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was physics.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

I encourage high school seniors to apply early. I would warn against waiting until the day of the deadline. Completing the application earlier relieves a lot of stress.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

As students and parents visit college campuses, I emphasize the importance of meeting with professors or sitting in on classes. Meeting with professors helps to inform students about their intended major, and it can help to determine which major a student may want to pursue.

What is one fun fact about you?

My favorite TV shows are Brooklyn Nine-Nine and Survivor.



Name: Teresa Marsh
School: Alvernia University
Hometown: Morganville, NJ
Major: Communications

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Alvernia University. I made this decision because once I visited the school, I completely fell in love with everything about it. I felt at home on the campus, and my major was offered. I also had the opportunity to play basketball there.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is communications.

What are your future plans?

In the future, I would love to see myself as working in a company being a part of a human resources department. I would love to share my ideas and work collaboratively with my coworkers.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited for the chance to be on my own and independent during college.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies consist of reading and playing basketball. My all-time favorite place is the beach. I also love to spend time with my friends and family.

What is your favorite book?

My all-time favorite book is a book called *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. I read this book last year and it completely changed my perspective on how I was living my life. Those are my favorite types of books. This book is ultimately about four different ways one should alter their life in order to live contently.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was during senior year. The class was called Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry. Normally, I am not the type of person to favor math. (At all). But this teacher was the most helpful and caring teacher I have ever met. It made me look forward to going to a math in class, which I never thought I would say.

What one tip would you share with soon to be high school seniors who are approaching the application process this fall?

One tip I would share with soon to be seniors is to enjoy every second because just like everyone says, it does go by fast. Make sure to keep a healthy balance with school, friends, athletics, and family.

What is one tip you would share with students and parents as they visit college campuses this summer?

One tip I would share to students visiting campuses is to keep an open mind. You may come into the process thinking you want one thing, but a lot of the time you will change your opinion. This specifically goes for major.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I enjoy playing the ukulele!