Financial Aid Workshops

RCCD Foundation Scholarships

2024-25 Application Period
October 16, 2023 – January 12, 2024

Agenda

- Financial Aid Reminders & Important Dates
- How to Apply
  - Scholarships Web Page
  - Application Process
  - Essay Questions
  - Recommendations
  - Scholarship Site Screens
- What Happens Next?
- Recap & Submission
- External Scholarships

Financial Aid Reminders

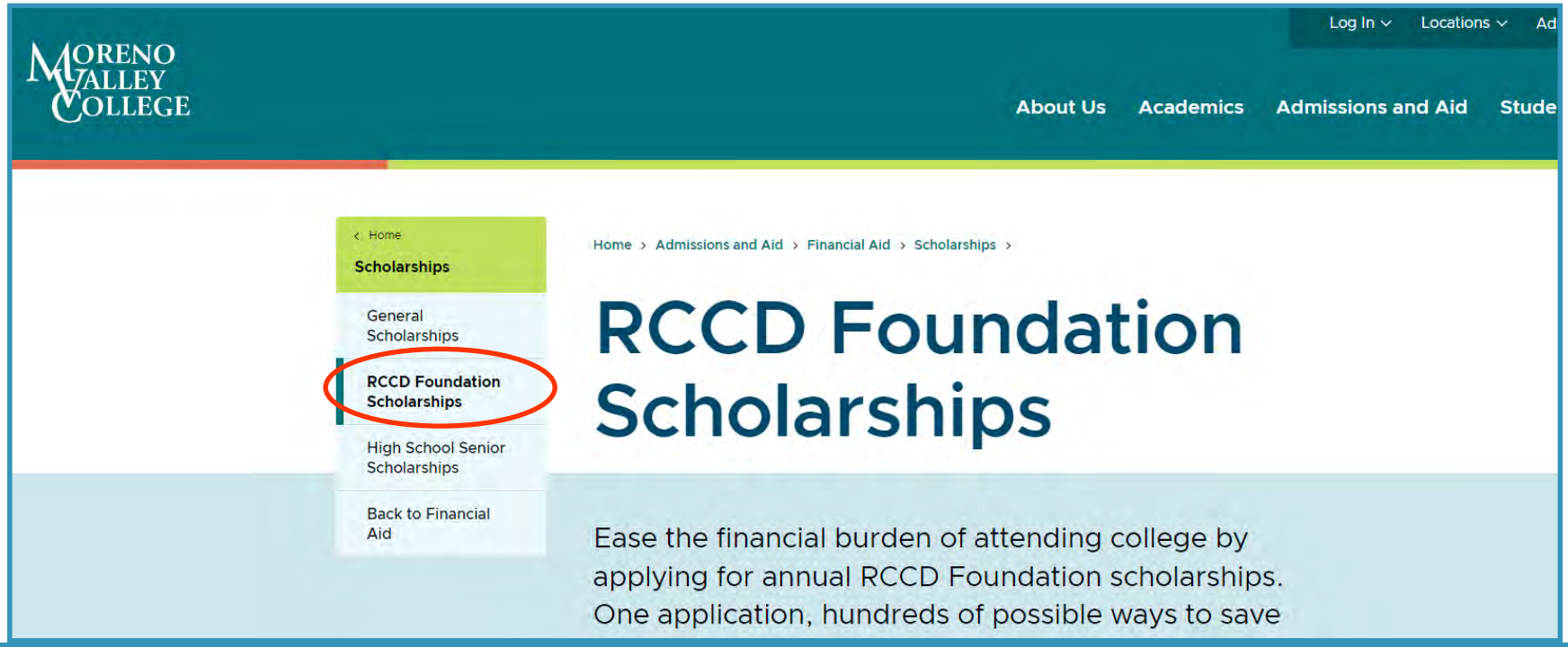
- Complete the 2023-24 FAFSA or CA Dream Act application
  - www.studentaid.gov, MVC school code: 041735
  - https://dream.csac.ca.gov, MVC school code: 04173500
  - Apply even if you think you may not qualify
- For need-based 2024-25 scholarships, students *must* complete the 2023-24 FAFSA or CA Dream Act
- Submit your 2024-25 FAFSA or CA Dream Act by the Cal Grant Priority Deadline of April 2, 2024

Important Dates

- Scholarship Application Available: October 16, 2023
- Deadline to Apply: Friday, January 12, 2024, 5:00 PM
- Scholarship Award Notification: Mid-May
- Scholarship Award Ceremony: You will be notified of dates for scholarship if applicable
- Disbursement: 2024-25 Disbursement Schedule

Scholarships Web Page

- Go to www.mvc.edu/scholarships
- Select RCCD Foundation Scholarships from the menu



Scholarships Web Page

How to Apply for Foundation Scholarships

- Myths About Scholarship Applications
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Determine Your Enrollment Status
- Maintain Your Eligibility
- Learn about the Application Process
- Requesting a Letter of Recommendation
- Obtaining Unofficial Transcripts
- Access the Scholarship Application
- How to Use the Application System
- Scholarship Selection Process
- Scholarship Notification and Recognition
- Are you a scholarship alternate?
- Accepting Your Scholarship and Disbursement
- How to Write Thank You Letters

Application Process

- Create an account
  - Enter your RCCD student email, create a password
  - Select “Sign Up” (Select “Sign In” on subsequent log ins)

- You will receive an email to your RCCD student email to confirm your identity

- Return to the site and complete the General Scholarship Application

Application Process

- Imported items
  - Home college, name
  - Program of study/Major, high school info, GPA, etc.

- You will be automatically matched to scholarships for which you meet the criteria:
  - Called "Auto-Match" scholarships, no further action required

Application Process

- You will be prompted to apply for other scholarships:
  - Called "Apply-To" scholarships, <u>further action is required</u>
    - Upload documents - unofficial transcripts, military discharge papers, writing sample, etc.
    - Answer supplemental questions
    - Special short essay or explanations
- Have all possible required documents saved and ready to upload
- Do not wait until the last minute!

Essay Questions

- Very important - Four Essay Questions
- Be aware of punctuation, grammar, and spelling
- Carefully think about each question; write a draft and revise
- May be typed directly into the application, or…
  - Save to a word or note document and then copy and paste to your application

Essay Questions

Essay Questions:

- Please briefly introduce yourself to the scholarship reviewing committee (150 words, appx. 10 lines)
- What are your career goals and your educational plan to meet these goals? Tell us about why you have selected your current major and career goal and any life experiences which may have influenced this decision. Also tell us about your anticipated role in society after your career goal has been achieved (200 words, appx. 15 lines)
- Do you have any activities, volunteerism, interests or responsibilities that you are involved with? Tell us about any accomplishments or achievements that you are proud of (200 words, appx. 15 lines)
- Have you had any challenges or life-changing experiences you would like the scholarship committee or donor to know about? What have you learned from these experiences? Also, tell us about any unusual circumstances which may affect your current financial situation (250 words, appx. 18 lines)

Tips for Answering Essay Questions

Introduction

- Personal story, favorite quote, what guides you
- Give examples of personal qualities
- Tell them about you

Career Goals/Educational Plan

- Possible formula: Past, Present and Future of your education and career goals
- Explain why you chose your major and career goal
- Talk about academic history, goals, successes

Volunteerism/Activities

- Anything you participate in; past or present
- Creates an image of a well-rounded person

Challenges

- Explain any circumstances regarding your financial situation, especially if it has changed
- Negative circumstances can be mentioned briefly, but state how you have overcome them and what you have learned from them; Turn a negative into a positive

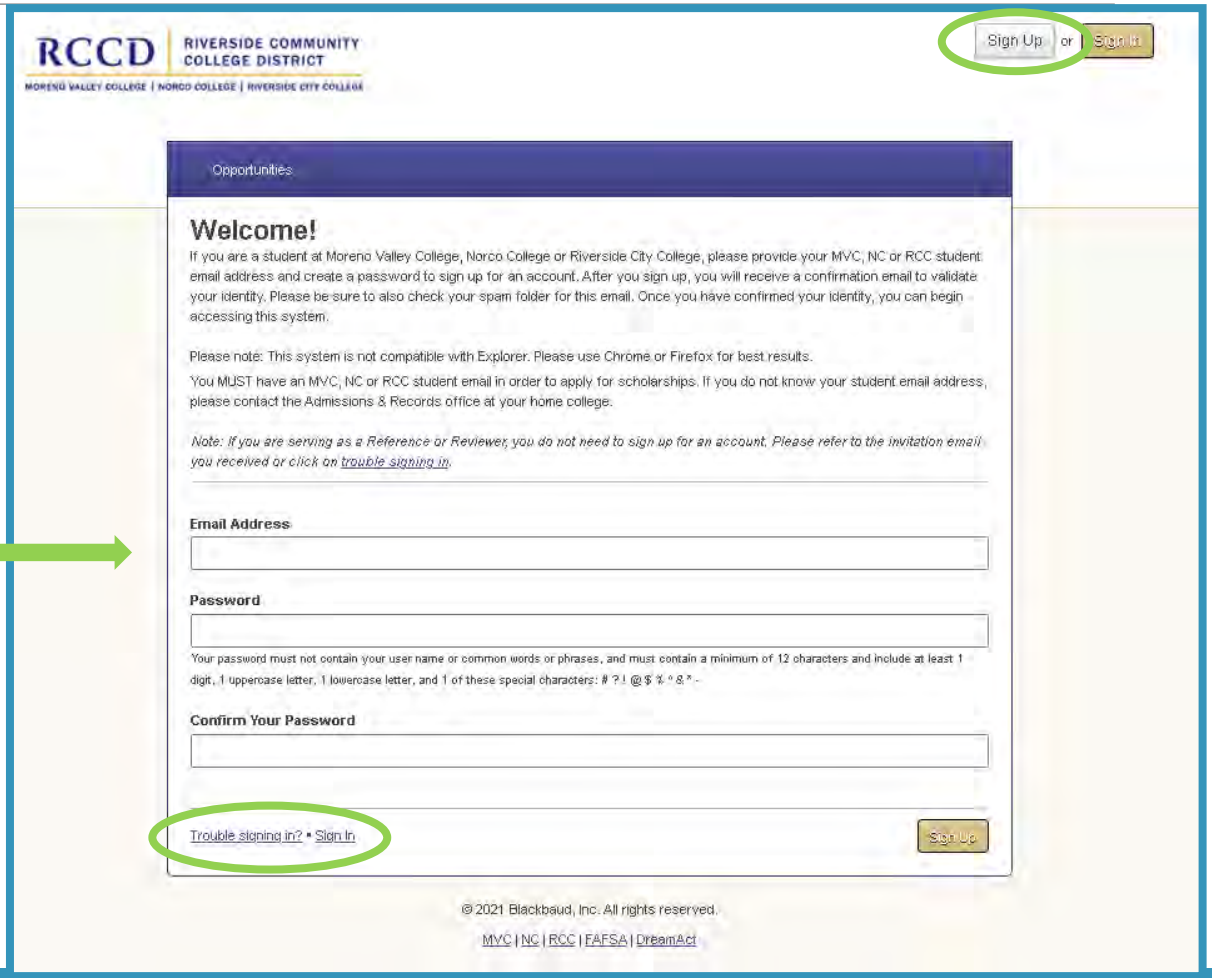
Recommendations

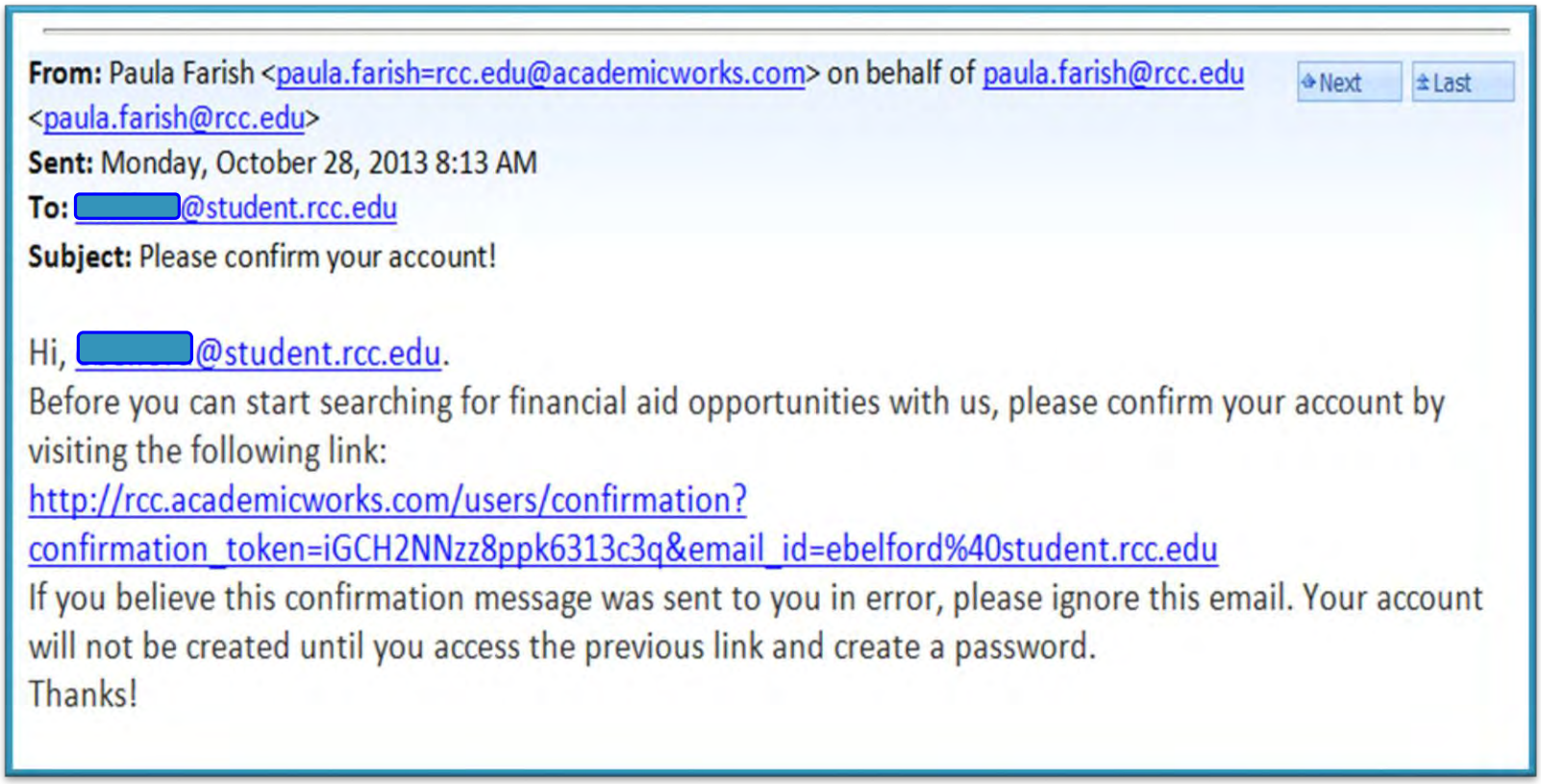
- One Recommendation is required; advisable to request three
- Good sources: Instructors, counselors, employers, community leaders, etc.
- Poor sources: Friends, relatives, other students
- You will need their email address
- Ask for recommendations early
- Recommendation provider will complete a questionnaire in the system
- Optional: Provide a copy of your essay or a resume listing extracurricular activities, accomplishments

Scholarship Site Screens

Sign Up Page

- Enter your RCCD student email address
- Create a password, follow the directions, write it down
- Click Sign Up
- Log-in help





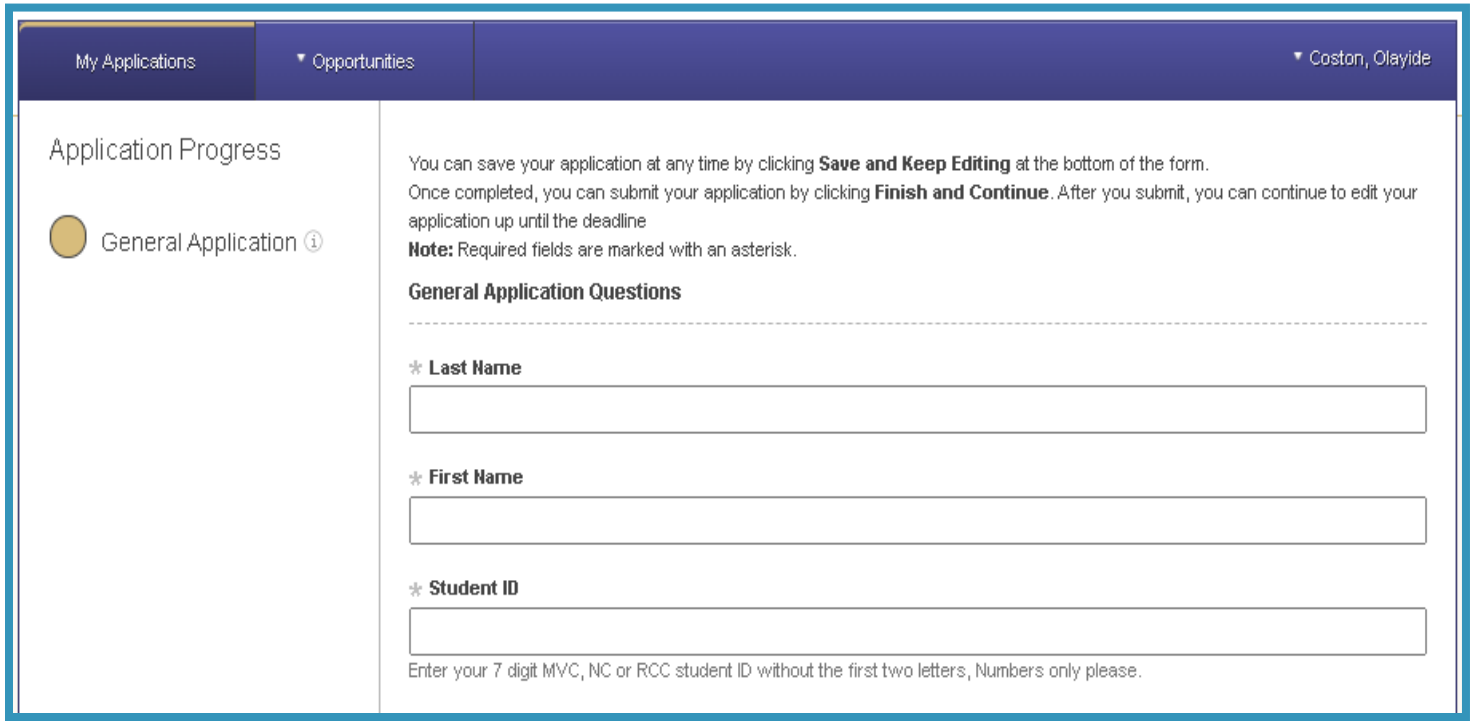
From: Paula Farish <paula.farish=rcc.edu@academicworks.com> on behalf of paula.farish@rcc.edu <paula.farish@rcc.edu>
Next Last
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:13 AM
To: [redacted]@student.rcc.edu
Subject: Please confirm your account!

Hi, [redacted]@student.rcc.edu.
Before you can start searching for financial aid opportunities with us, please confirm your account by visiting the following link:
http://rcc.academicworks.com/users/confirmation?confirmation_token=iGCH2NNzz8ppk6313c3q&email_id=ebelford%40student.rcc.edu
If you believe this confirmation message was sent to you in error, please ignore this email. Your account will not be created until you access the previous link and create a password.
Thanks!

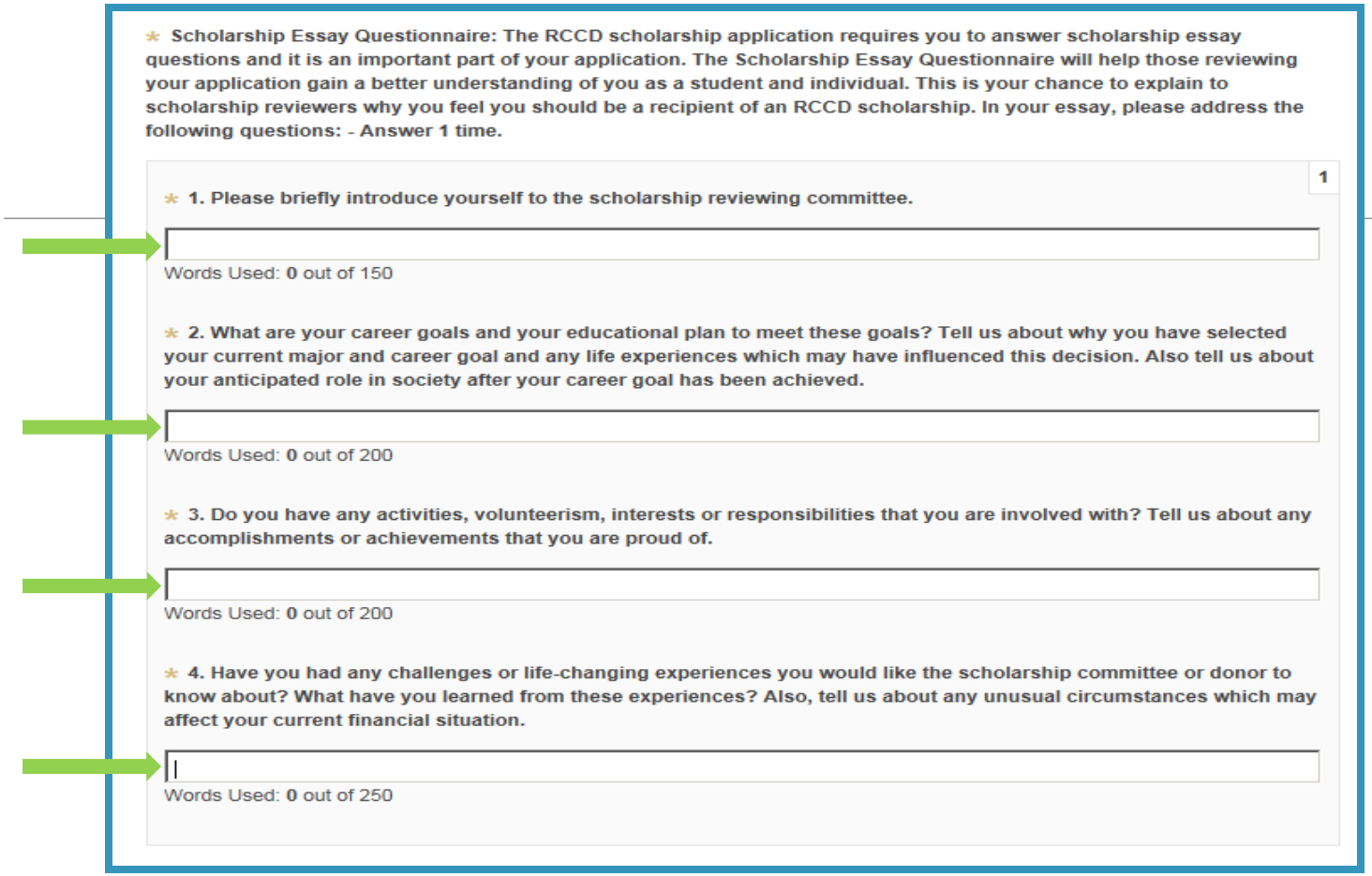
- You will receive an email to confirm your identity (check your spam)
- Click on the link provided

- Once you confirm your identity, log in using your student email and password and click “Sign In”
- Click “Sign In”

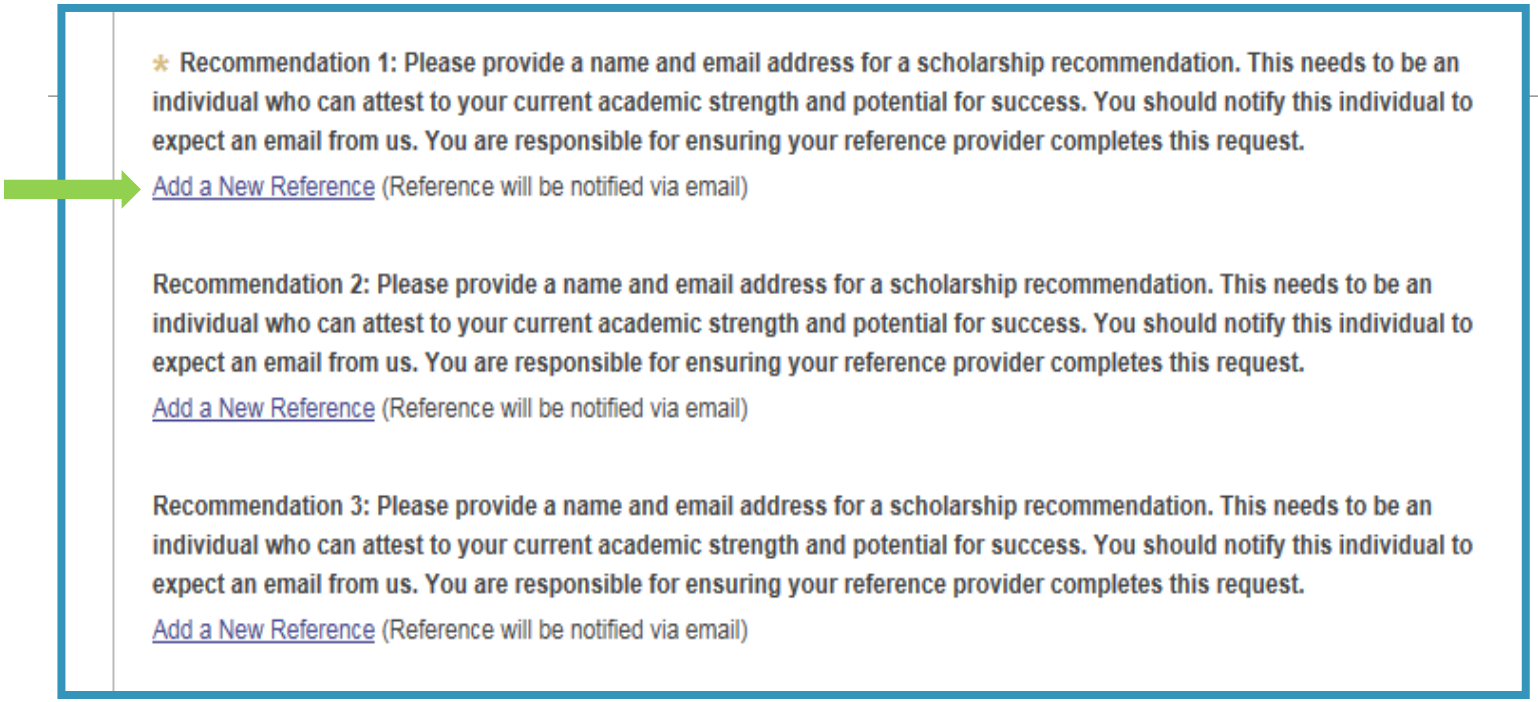
General Application



- An asterisk means information is required
- Answer all questions



- Type in or cut and paste (recommended) answers to the essay questions
- Complete all edits and revisions before submitting; updates/corrections can be made up to the deadline



- Enter email address of the person from whom you want to request a recommendation
- One is required; advisable to request three

From: Paula Farish [mailto:paula.farish=rcc.edu@academicworks.com] **On Behalf Of** paula.farish@rcc.edu
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 4:36 PM
To: Lynch, Nicole
Subject: [External Sender] Please serve as a reference for Paula Farish

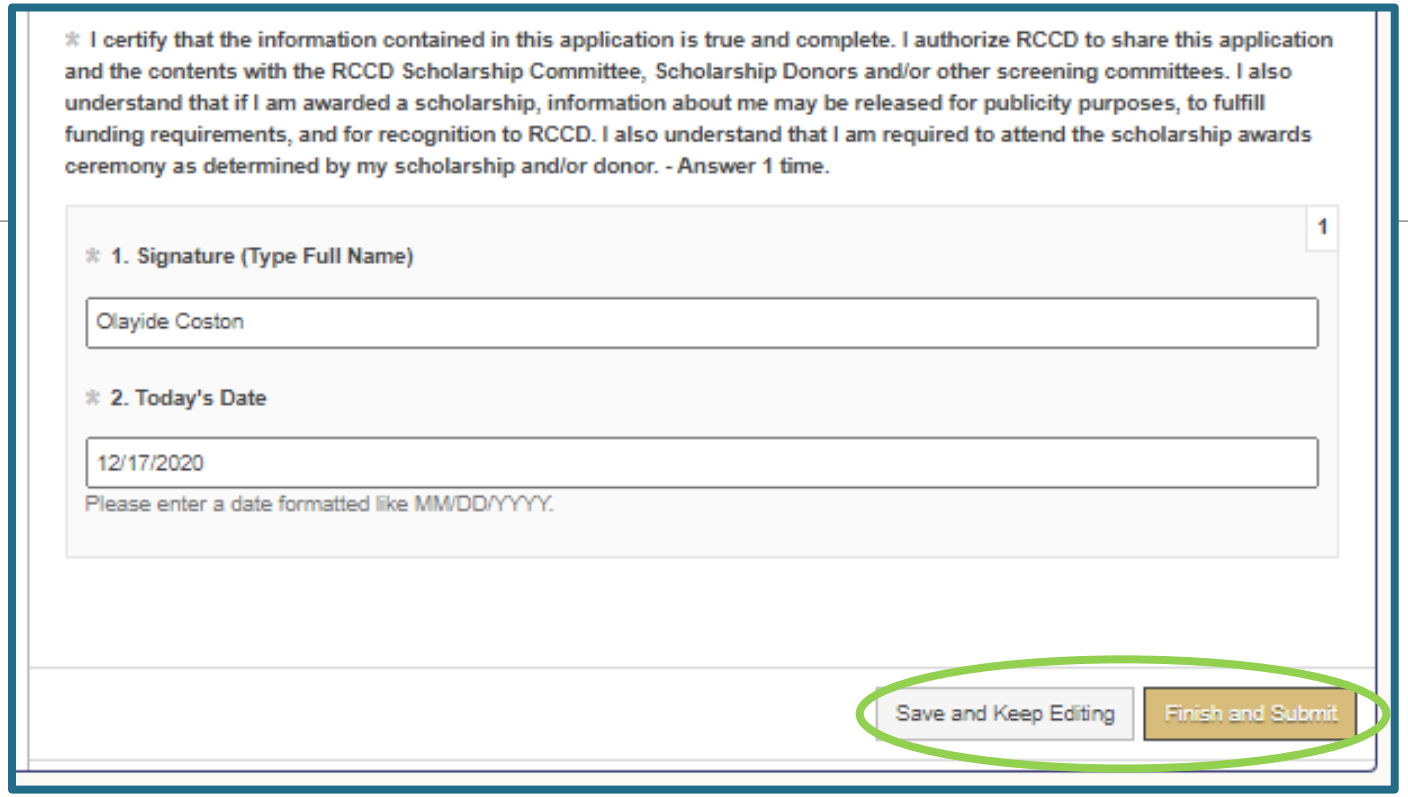
Dear Nicole Lynch,

Paula Farish has requested that you serve as a reference for a scholarship opportunity. The scholarships offered by the RCCD Foundation require a recommendation questionnaire to be completed by you, the reference provider. Please note that your recommendation will remain confidential and not viewable by Paula Farish. Your recommendation will only be viewed by those reviewing his/her application, though he/she will be able to see that you have successfully completed the recommendation questionnaire. You can complete the recommendation questionnaire via the following link:

http://rcc.academicworks.com/users/invitation/accept?invitation_token=ach5fpXF9YtDGCHFR1tM&email_id=nicole.lynch%40rcc.edu

Thank you for your time and consideration.

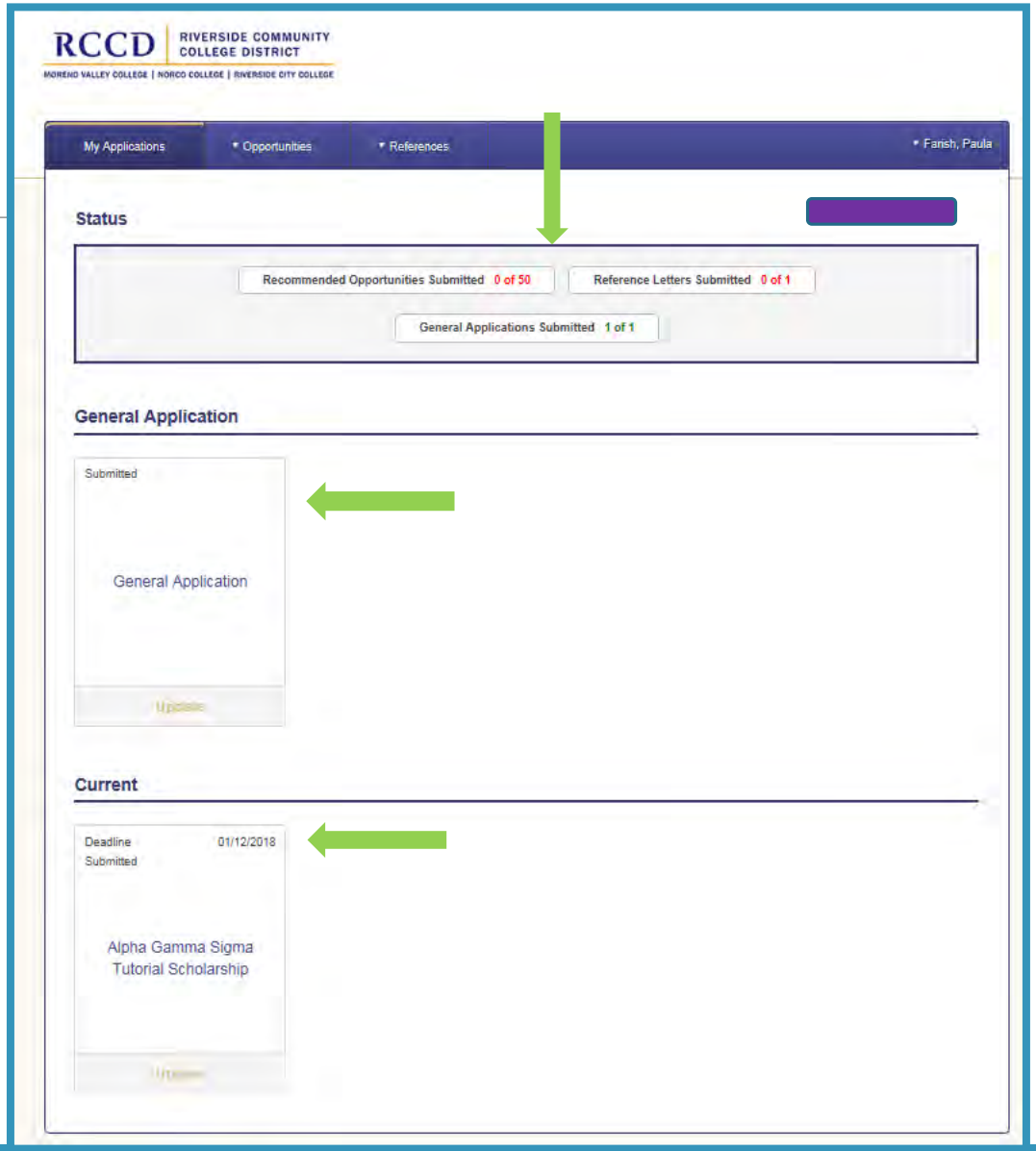
- Example of the email that is sent to references for a recommendation

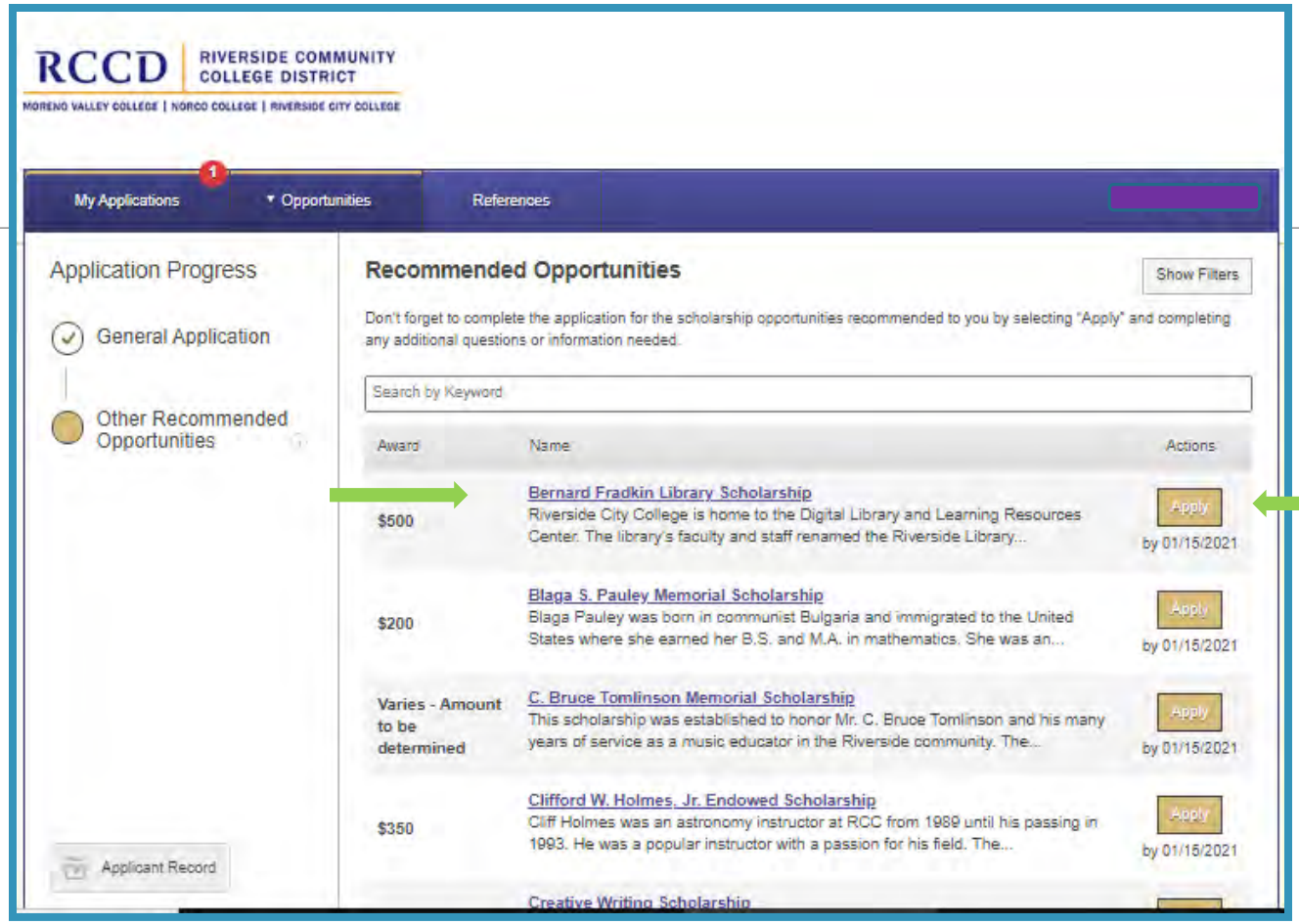


- Read the certification
- Sign by typing your name and the date
- Finish and Submit; you may return and update your application until deadline

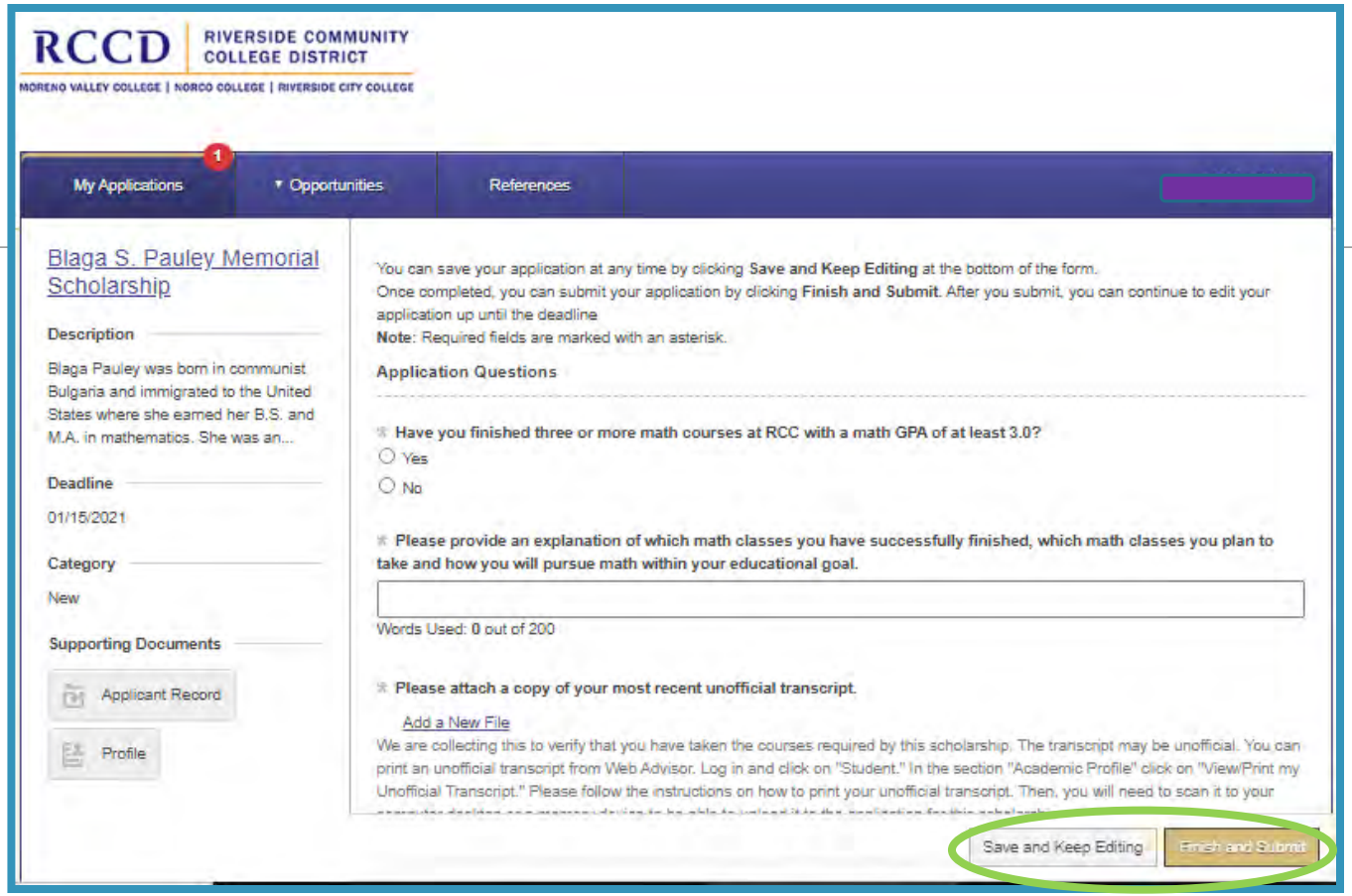
Home Page/Dashboard

- General Application - click on Update to view and change your application information
- Current – Select Apply-To Scholarships
- Status: SUBMITTED means no more action is required of you; DRAFTED means you *have not* completed applying;
- Click on “Opportunities” then select “Recommended” for a list of Apply-To scholarships you may also be eligible for; further action is required





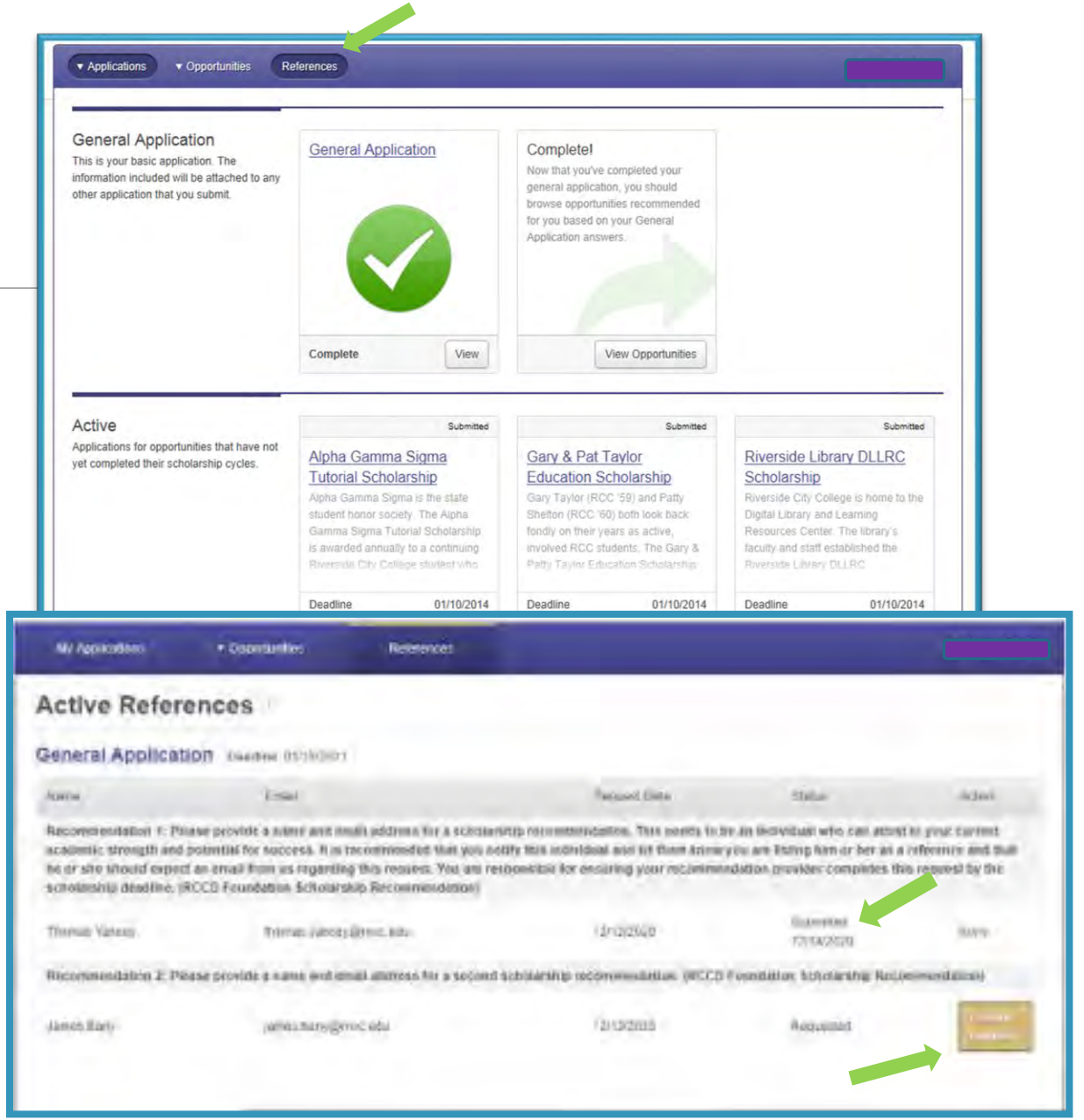
- List of recommended scholarship opportunities
- Click on the opportunity name for more information; click Apply to see what further action is required



- Answer supplemental questions, provide additional information, upload required documents, etc. to finish applying for recommended scholarships
- Click “Save & Keep Editing” to save or “Finished & Exit” to complete applying for the opportunity

References

- Click “References” for the status of Recommendations requested
- A Recommendation that has been submitted will say “Submitted”; if not it will say “Requested”
- Click “Resend Request” to send a reminder email



What Happens Next?

- Applications go through a review process:
  - RCCD Scholarship Committees (**MVC**, **NC**, **RCC**)
  - Faculty, Department Staff, Foundation
- If you are selected as a recipient, you will receive an "Offer" email from the scholarship application system
- You must log-in and accept the award; you will then be given more information as a recipient
- Check your application status by logging in

What Happens Next?

- Check your application status by logging in:
  - "Submitted" = Application is complete; no further action
  - "Drafted" = Application process is not properly completed
  - "In Review" = In scholarship pool; review in progress
  - "Finalist" = You are one of the final students to be reviewed
  - "Not Selected" = you were not selected as a recipient
  - "Offered" = you have been selected as a recipient
  - "Accepted" = you have accepted the scholarship offer
- Award ceremonies: Late May and early June
- You are strongly encouraged to attend the scholarship award ceremonies. If unable due to circumstances beyond your control, please contact the SFS office at your college

What Happens Next?

- Scholarships will be disbursed during Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
- Transfer scholarships will be sent to the transfer university in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025; enter your school information in the system or email the SFS Office
- If you are awarded a scholarship and you have a change in your situation such as transfer plans or number of units, contact the financial aid office at your home college

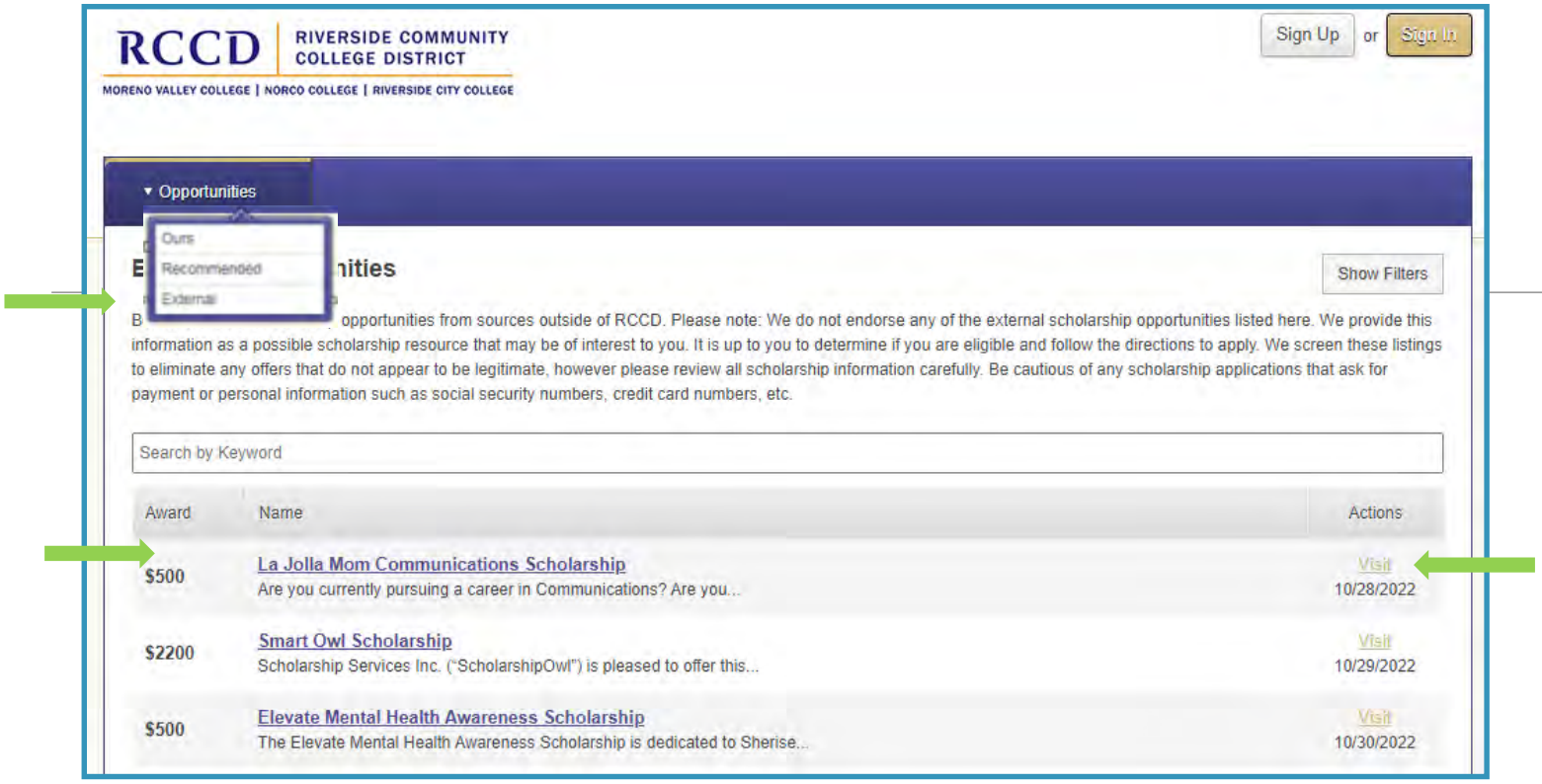
Re-cap & Submission

- Read the scholarship information on the web page www.mvc.edu/scholarships
- One Recommendation is required - get their email address
- Complete a list of your volunteer, community, and club activities, awards, etc.
- Other documents may be needed - unofficial transcripts, special essays, creative writing sample, DD214
- Sign-up/create a scholarship account
- Submit a *complete* application on or before

Friday, January 12, 2024, 5:00 PM

External Scholarships

- These are Scholarships from sources outside RCCD
- Listed under the “External Scholarships” tab
- Use *free* internet search sites
- Beware of Scams:
  - Don’t pay money to get money
  - Nobody can “guarantee” a scholarship
  - Legitimate foundations do not charge application fees
  - Never give credit card numbers
  - Beware if they offer to do all the work or say that you can’t get the information anywhere else
  - If you are suspicious or it sounds too good to be true, it probably is a scam



- To view a list of External Scholarships, click on "Opportunities" then select "External"
- To view requirements and apply for the scholarships listed, click on the name of the scholarship or "Visit"
- You will be directed to the scholarship opportunity's website
- We do not endorse any external scholarships; this list is informational only

Questions

Contact Student Financial Services at MVC

In Person: Welcome Center Building
By Phone: (951) 571-6139
By Email: Studentfinancialservices@mvc.edu
ConexEdVirtual: https://mvc.edu/student-support/online-services.php

Enroll in SFS Canvas: