NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO

2013 Scholarship Program

**Building Opportunities for the Blind in Education and Beyond**

**Award   \*  Encourage   \*   Achieve**

**This year the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will be awarding up to $15,000 in scholarship funds for deserving students.**

**If you are a legally blind student who is a resident of Colorado, please apply immediately!**

**If you are a teacher, counselor, family member or friend of a legally blind student who is a resident of Colorado, please encourage them to apply now!**

Each year at its state convention, the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado (NFBCO) gives a broad array of scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars.  The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado is an organization dedicated to creating opportunity for all blind persons. Recipients of Federation scholarships need not be members of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado nor the National Federation of the Blind.

 All applicants for these scholarships must be

* (1) legally blind ***(***[***official documentation of blindness is required***](http://www.nfbco.org/library/documents/Scholarship_Information/Confirmation_of_Legal_Blindness_in_Word.doc)***)***
* (2) a resident of Colorado, and,
* (3) pursuing or planning to attend a full-time post-secondary course of study in the fall semester of  20123 or spring semester of  2013 (leave or not).  One scholarship may be given to a full-time employee also attending school part-time.

 Students who have previously won an NFBCO scholarship are encouraged to apply again.

 All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, service to the community, and financial need.

 Applications are due by Friday, April 15, 2013

 **WINNERS:**

The Scholarship Committee reviews all applications and selects the scholarship winners.  These winners will be notified of their selection by telephone no later than June 1, 2013.  Winners will be brought to the 2013 National Federation of the Blind of Colorado’s annual state convention and be awarded their scholarship at the banquet ceremonies. Family members are encouraged to join us at the state convention banquet.

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado state convention is the largest gathering of blind persons to occur anywhere in the state.  It is held in late October or early November of the year.  The state NFBCO convention offers the opportunity to meet other blind students for the exchange of information and ideas.  Students are able to meet and talk with blind people who are successfully functioning in a wide array of professions and occupations  which might be of interest. Federal and state officials, members of Congress, and the makers and distributors of new technology attend Federation conventions. Above all, a broad cross section of the most active segment of the blind population of Colorado are present to discuss common problems and plan for concerted action.

 **In addition, scholarship winners must make the commitment to attend (expenses paid) the national convention of the National Federation of the Blind in during the first week of July 2013.**

This expense-paid National Federation of the Blind convention education experience is in addition to the scholarship grant.  Winners will participate in the entire convention and in the scheduled scholarship program activities.  Although family members are welcome to join us and participate in convention activities (at their own expense), the scholarship winners will have an assigned  roommate for the duration of the convention and will have assigned daily mentors.  It is our hope that the national convention will be a wonderful learning experience for our scholarship winners.

 **All decisions by the Scholarship Committee are final.**

 For additional information about the scholarship program or the NFBCO state convention, contact Buna Dahal, NFBCO Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at 303-758-1232 or email her at bunadahal@dynamicbuna.com or contact  her assistant, Lorinda Riddle, at 303-778-1130, extension 236 or email her at lriddle@cocenter.org.

**AWARDS:** The day of the state convention banquet the Scholarship Committee meets to determine the scholarship amount to be awarded each winner.  The scholarship awards will be announced and presented at the banquet.

**MAKING APPLICATION:**

To apply for the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado scholarship, complete and return the application, attaching to the application all documents requested.  [The 2013 Scholarship Application may be accessed by clicking here.](http://www.nfbco.org/library/documents/Scholarship_Information/2013_Application_Form_with_Cert.doc)

 Mail completed applications to:

*Buna Dahal*

*Scholarship Committee Chairperson*

*National Federation of the Blind of Colorado*

*2233 W. Shepperd Avenue*

*Littleton, CO 80120.*

**Completed application must be received by Monday, April 15, 2013.**