

Class of 2021

Year One Results

250+
STUDENTS & PARENTS
took advantage of
resources available on the
Inspired Pathways website

150
SCHOLARSHIPS
provided to students

53
COLLEGES ATTENDED
by Inspired Pathways Scholars



Upcoming Events

All scheduled times are in Eastern Standard Time (EST.)

Office Hours Available Weekly
Schedule an appointment online

MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.
10:00AM-3:00PM	10:00AM-3:00PM	10:00AM-3:00PM	10:00AM-3:00PM
	4:00PM-7:00PM		4:00PM-7:00PM

Juniors & Seniors Financial Aid Presentation

NOVEMBER 23	DECEMBER 9
Noon	Noon
7:00PM	7:00PM

Juniors Researching Colleges & Building a College List

DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 15
Noon	Noon
7:00PM	7:00PM

→ [Zoom Link](#) for Presentations



Scholar Profile: Tien Dang

What college are you attending?

I am enrolled in Butler Community College in Wichita, Kansas.

How did you find out about the scholarship?

My father has worked at Hormel for over 20 years and we are all very happy about the Inspired Pathways Scholarship. I was awarded the scholarship this year and my brother is in the process of applying for it now.

Why is college important to you?

College is important to me because it is the key step towards a brighter future. The Inspired Pathways scholarship is helping me pursue my dreams of becoming an Engineer.

What do you hope to do after you graduate from Butler Community College?

After I graduate from Butler Community College, I plan on transferring to a 4-year university to get my Bachelors in Industrial Engineering.

What are your future career goals?

Originally when I enrolled in college, I wanted to be an Aerospace Engineering, but after taking courses this year I've made up my mind to pursue industrial designing and working to become an automotive designer.

What has been the best part of college so far?

The best part of college so far has to be the experience itself. All of my professors are great. It's definitely a new and fun experience being a part of a college community.

Do you have advice for current seniors or other high school students thinking about college?

I'm not sure if I am qualified for giving advice because I'm still in my first year, but I would give this advice to seniors: do not procrastinate. Time management is important and you want to get started on your applications for colleges and scholarships right away.

SATs & ACTs: What's Up With Testing?

For decades colleges and universities have relied heavily on two tests to help them make their admissions decisions. For just as long, educators have argued that these tests don't accurately reflect a student's ability to be successful in college. Placing so much weight on a single standardized test has led students to ignore the activities that are indicators of future success like enrolling in challenging classes, having a job, or engaging in experiential learning opportunities so that they can spend a significant amount of time preparing for a test.

Due to the pandemic, colleges in 2020 were forced to remove their testing requirements. This prompted the testing companies to implement some long-desired changes. The essays, arbitrary vocabulary sections, and point deductions for incorrect answers have been removed in favor of more reading and evidenced based questions, and options for taking the test remotely.

Colleges have taken it a step further. Currently, there are nearly 1600 colleges and universities that have announced

that they will continue to make testing optional, and the entire University of California system (including UCLA and UC Berkeley) have said that they will never again consider either the SAT or ACT as part of the application process.

What does this mean for current high school students who are planning on college?

One of my former colleagues at UC Berkeley noted, "Colleges are really starting to value students who take initiative and make an impact.

They want to find students who are:

→ Taking the most challenging classes at their high schools, especially the APs (Advanced Placement).

→ Engaging in some sort of meaningful work outside of the classroom. That can be clubs, volunteering, internships, sports, or jobs.

→ Making a positive impact on a community they are a part of, including but not limited to their town, school, or even their own household."

While standardized testing will likely never go away totally, it is no longer recommended to spend hundreds of hours or thousands of dollars on test prep. Your time would be much better utilized by working to improve your grades, and finding an area outside of school that you're passionate about and can become more involved in.

If the college you're applying to does still require the SAT, I would strongly recommend using Khan Academy's test prep program. It was created in collaboration with the organization that oversees the SAT, it is absolutely free, and most importantly after taking their diagnostic exam, it tailors its questions to the specific needs of the student studying.

Financial Aid Awards Explained

These are the four different types of Financial Aid awards you can receive. While the amounts may vary, the same types of awards are given at both 4-year and 2-year colleges.

Scholarships & Grants → These awards are the best. They're free money that never needs to be paid back. When offered, always accept Grants and Scholarships.

Subsidized Loan → If you need to take out a loan to finance your education, these are the ones you should use. Their main advantage is that the money you borrow does not accrue any interest while you're in college, including if you continue on to graduate school.

Unsubsidized Loan → These loans do accrue interest and should only be used if absolutely necessary. For example, on a \$10,000 Unsubsidized Loan with a standard 6.8% interest rate, the amount of interest that accrues per day is \$1.86. Meaning after 4 years of college, you'll owe over \$12,750.

Work-Study → Unlike the other awards, the student has to work for this money. However, the jobs are often very easy, giving the student time to study while at work. There's nothing like getting paid to do your homework. Colleges don't always offer these awards in their initial letter, so if you don't see it listed, you can reach out to the college's financial aid office and often they will update their offer.

What To Do Now?

Seniors

Complete FAFSA application now:
[StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

Complete Inspired Pathways scholarship application:
HormelInspiredPathways.com/apply

Complete your community college application:
available on each college's website.

Juniors

Begin College search ([click here to see guide](#))

Create SAT/ACT testing plan (see article above)



 **Reminder**

To apply for a scholarship, schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our advisors at HormelInspiredPathways.com