

Important Dates

Friday, March 7
**SDP Professional
Development; Half Day for
Students**

Sunday, March 9
**Daylight Saving Time
Begins**

March 27-28
**SDP Report Card
Conferences; Half Days
for Students**

Monday, March 31
SDP Closed for Eid al-Fitr



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

Get ready to spring forward this month by setting your clocks ahead one hour on March 9 and officially welcoming the new season on March 20.

We hope to see you at a Talent Search activity soon! Read on for info on our upcoming Career Day event and this month's College Corner session, reading recommendations for middle schoolers and high schoolers, and more.

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu.



Penn TRIO Programs

Career Day

Build Your Resume
Practice Interview Skills



TRIO Career Day

Along with the Penn Upward Bound program, Talent Search invites scholars in grades 9


Network with Industry Professionals

 **Saturday, March 29**

 **9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

 **On campus at Penn**



 For Upward Bound & Talent Search 9th–12th graders

 Lunch will be provided

 Sign up by Friday, 3/21!

through 12 to join us on campus for a **Career Day on Saturday, March 29.**

Students will attend sessions on resume-building and interview skills and have the opportunity to network with professionals from a variety of industries.

Lunch will be provided, and business casual attire is encouraged.

Spots are limited! **[Click here to sign up no later than Friday, March 21.](#)**

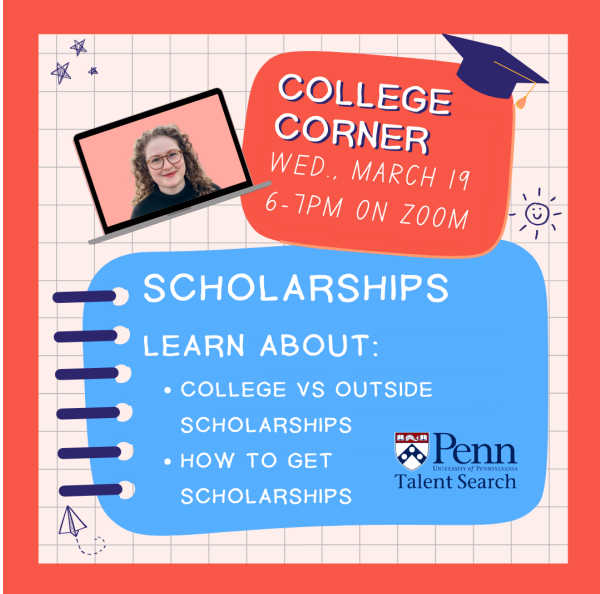
March College Corner: Scholarships

Scholars, parents and guardians, join Talent Search on **Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm** for our this month's College Corner session on **Scholarships**. We'll go over the differences between scholarships from colleges and outside organizations, and how to get both kinds!

Hosted by Talent Search counselor Ms. Sofia, College Corner is a free, virtual webinar series covering all things college. Although College Corner is especially helpful for high school seniors, all Talent Search scholars (and parent/guardians!) are welcome to attend.

Zoom Link:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/98004055663?pwd=JM4SCmbQPF6BWDOn3na187AcqKcJyb.1>

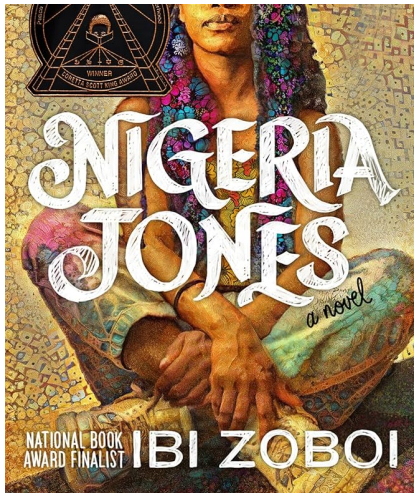


The graphic features a red background with a white grid. At the top, a laptop shows a woman speaking. To the right, a graduation cap icon is above the text 'COLLEGE CORNER WED., MARCH 19 6-7PM ON ZOOM'. Below this, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text 'SCHOLARSHIPS LEARN ABOUT:' followed by a bulleted list: 'COLLEGE VS OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS' and 'HOW TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS'. The Penn Talent Search logo is in the bottom right corner.

Philadelphia Stories: Books Set in Our City

The City of Brotherly Love is rich in history, culture, and diverse experiences, making it the perfect backdrop for your next great read. Check out these books for teens and tweens that are all set in Philly and sure to spark your imagination. Each of these titles is available to borrow from the **[Free Library of Philadelphia!](#)**





Nigeria Jones by Ibi Zoboi (also available in **e-book** format)

Warrior Princess. That's what Nigeria Jones's father calls her. He has raised her as part of the Movement, a Black separatist group based in Philadelphia. Nigeria is homeschooled and vegan and participates in traditional rituals to connect her and other kids from the group to their ancestors. But when her mother disappears, Nigeria's world is upended.

Nigeria's mother had secrets. She wished for a different life for her children, which includes sending her daughter to a private Quaker school outside of their strict group. Despite her father's disapproval, Nigeria attends the school with her cousin, Kamau, and Sage, who used to be a friend. There, she begins to flourish and expand her universe.

As Nigeria searches for her mother, she starts to uncover a shocking truth. One that will lead her to question everything she thought she knew about her life and her family.

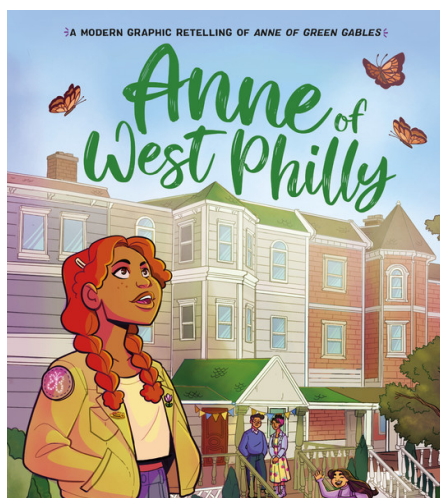


With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo (also available in **audiobook** and **e-book** format)

From the New York Times bestselling author of the National Book Award-winning title *The Poet X* comes a dazzling novel in prose about a girl with talent, pride, and a drive to feed the soul that keeps her fire burning bright.

Ever since she got pregnant freshman year, Emoni Santiago's life has been about making the tough decisions—doing what has to be done for her daughter and her abuela. The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness.

Even though she dreams of working as a chef after she graduates, Emoni knows that it's not worth her time to pursue the impossible. Yet despite the rules she thinks she has to play by, once Emoni starts cooking, her only choice is to let her talent break free.





Anne of West Philly by Ivy Noelle Weir (also available in **e-book** format)

Anne of Green Gables with a twist: this full-color graphic novel moves Anne Shirley to modern-day West Philadelphia, where she finds new friends, new rivals, and a new family.

When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert decide to foster a teenage girl for the first time, their lives are changed forever. Their redheaded foster daughter, Anne Shirley, is in search of an exciting life and has decided that West Philly is where she's going to find it.

Armed with a big personality and unstoppable creativity, Anne takes her new home by storm as she joins the robotics club, makes new friends in Diana and Gilbert, experiences first love, and turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. But as Anne starts to get comfortable, she discovers one thing she wasn't looking for: a family.



The Rhythm of Time by Questlove and S.A. Cosby

Seventh grader Rahim loves testing out the gadgets invented by his brilliant friend Kasia. Rahim is excited to use the new cell phone she built for his birthday to search for videos of his favorite old-school rap group. What he doesn't know is the phone has a special battery that interfaces with a secret government satellite, which spells trouble when the phone transports him back to 1997.

Almost immediately, he learns what every time traveler before him has: Actions in the past jeopardize the future. With Kasia as his only lifeline to the present, Rahim works with her to get home unscathed, all the while dodging bullies and suspicious government agents.

Philadelphia in the late nineties is a new world for Rahim and Kasia, but it is a familiar place for Questlove, who, alongside S. A. Cosby, delivers a high-velocity tale where two best friends discover that sometimes the best beat is the one that brings you back home.

Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

Cooke Young Scholars Program

The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for exceptionally promising **7th grade students** with financial need. It provides comprehensive academic and college advising, as well as financial support for school, Cooke-sponsored summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities.

Each scholar receives a unique combination of opportunities that may include:

- Guidance in selecting a high school and, if necessary, support in applying to a private or magnet high school;
- Summer academic or enrichment programs;
- Computers, software, or other learning technology;

Summer Teen Research Internship Program (TRIP)

The Summer Teen Research Internship Program (Summer TRIP) at Fox Chase Cancer Center offers high school students hands-on experiential learning in science and medicine. TRIP is designed for motivated students eager to explore these fields while developing resilience, communication, and critical thinking skills outside the traditional classroom.

Who Can Apply?

- Philadelphia-area students who will be at least 14 years old by July 7, 2025
- **Current 9th–12th graders**
- Residents of New Jersey and Delaware are also eligible

Academic Background

- Specialized support in music, art, science, math, or other subjects;
- and more!

[Click here to get more information and apply no later than April 30.](#)

Black at Microsoft (BAM) Scholarships

The BAM Scholarship was created to enable Black and African American students to attend college and pursue a career in technology.

BAM will award 55 scholarships totaling \$150,000.00: **five renewable awards of \$5,000** and 50 one-time awards of \$2,500

To be considered for a BAM Scholarship, you must:

- Be a **high school senior** of African descent (for example, African American, African, Ethiopian, etc.)
- Plan to attend a four-year college or university in the fall immediately following your high school graduation
- Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study in Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, or one of the following Business programs – Business Administration, Finance, or Marketing for the entire upcoming academic year
- Demonstrate a passion for technology
- Demonstrate leadership at school or in the community
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
- Require financial assistance to attend college

[Click here to get more info and apply by March 13.](#)

- Completion of at least one high school Biology or Chemistry course is recommended but not required.

[Click here to get more information and apply no later than March 16.](#)

Summer Healthcare Experience (SHE) in Oncology

The Abramson Cancer Center welcomes applications from rising high school juniors and seniors to the Summer Healthcare Experience (SHE) in Oncology program, a **two-week online program** that introduces students to cancer biology and the wide range of careers available in cancer research, clinical care, and patient support.

Acceptance is limited to **rising juniors and seniors**, with priority given to students enrolled in the School District of Philadelphia.

Preference will be given to applicants who will:

- be available to participate in the 2-week program from start to finish, 4 hours/day
- pledge to engage in online activities and group discussions with their cameras on
- demonstrate their interest in entering a profession in the biomedical sciences, especially cancer/oncology
- proudly represent Philadelphia and generously contribute to group work with peers in Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Texas.

A **\$500 stipend** will be awarded to each participant upon successful completion of the full 2-week program.

[Click here to get more info and apply no later than April 4.](#)



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