

## **Scholarship and Outreach Details**

State grants scholarships pay particular attention to applicants pursuing certain high-needs fields. Many states have well-funded education programs, for example, as they are constantly in need of new recruits, especially in low-income communities where turnover is common. These awards often come with conditions- recipients of state scholarships may be required to work in a certain field or specialty or remain in the state for a certain period of time in the aforementioned, high-needs fields, post-graduation.

State grants and scholarships can be merit and/or are needs-based. Merit scholarships will recognize high school academic achievements and standardized test scores, while needs-based scholarships examine finance and individual ability to pay for further education.

Outreach will be a primary advocacy strategy for high technology programs. Reaching out and working with individuals, groups, and systems is how we can generate awareness and interest on this initiative. However, it is often the case that outreach to underserved communities receives limited attention. Both the issue of diversity and the limited access to high technology programs within underserved communities need to be addressed. Significant steps must be taken. The term underserved often refers to individuals or communities which are subject to various barriers that deny or limit access to quality services. These barriers may include racism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, sexism, and ableism. When such barriers are present, it is difficult for underserved communities to seek and obtain the quality and culturally competent services and resources they need.

The methods for conducting outreach range from the fairly simple to the complex and must include both long-term and short-term strategies. When devising strategies, these strategies must reflect an understanding of a particular group's frame of reference and perception.