

## **Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship** **(Find Out If You Qualify – Apply By June 1)**

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship deadline for students planning to be enrolled in college this fall is June 1, 2010. This deadline is for 2010 high school graduates and also for students already in college who qualify. A November 1, 2010 deadline is set for those who are out of high school who qualify as current nontraditional students or who are not enrolled and plan to enter college.



According to Mary Standerfer, RMCC Financial Aid Director, the new Challenge Scholarship can be a bit confusing, but anyone planning to attend college this fall needs to get the details because with the new rules many students may qualify that did not in the past.

When asked about the requirements for Challenge, Standerfer shared she would like to try to get the word out so students can know if they qualify. She states the first thing to know is college students already receiving Challenge do not need to apply again. As long as they continue to meet the 2.75 gpa and 30 credit hours per year requirement. The amount of money they are awarded each year will depend on if they are at a two or four year institution.

One big change in Challenge this year is that it is available for not only 2010 graduating high school students who meet qualifications, but also possibly for students who have been out of high school and are now going to college. Another change that should work as an advantage for many students is the Challenge is no longer based on financial need.

To apply, students must complete the YOUniversal application online. The application is located at Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) website at [www.adhe.edu](http://www.adhe.edu). From the ADHE webpage, click on the YOUniversal logo, click Search Now, and answer the questions as applicable to the student. Not all students will qualify, however students must apply to determine eligibility. Also, if the student is declined this year, he/she can reapply next year.

Standerfer concluded, "It is so important for students to get information about the Challenge to determine if they are eligible. Anyone needing help is encouraged to call or stop by RMCC and visit with us about Challenge. The other thing is the deadline is approaching quickly so it is important for students to take care of this now."

Call RMCC at 479-394-7622 in Mena or 479-637-5502 in Waldron for complete details regarding Challenge.