Disabled, Homeless Veteran to Outstanding University Scholar

John Harwell first enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) in September 2006. Unemployed and living in a veterans' homeless shelter, John hoped to enhance his employability in a field that would accommodate his physical disabilities. Right from the start, John demonstrated strong academic ability as he began to forge a new path for himself with the help of VUB.

Immediately upon graduation from VUB, John entered East Los Angeles College in January 2007. He completed his Associate of Arts degree and graduated Cum Laude with a 3.82 GPA in June 2008. He was then accepted by California State University, Los Angeles, and became the first veteran ever to receive a prestigious Corporate Scholars Award from CSULA that covered the costs of full-tuition and books.

Despite such a promising start, John's academic career nearly ended when he was notified that he would not be eligible to begin classes at CSULA because he was living in a shelter. Undeterred by this setback, John sought out the assistance of a Los Angeles County veteran services officer, obtained a housing supplement and left the shelter in April. He also applied for VA Vocational Rehabilitation (Ch 31) benefits, which were granted in January 2010.

When John attempted to reenroll at CSULA for the upcoming quarter, he was told he would have to wait until the Fall 2011 quarter, forcing him to look to other campuses if he wished to enroll immediately. Once again, John's determination prevailed. He was accepted by California State University, Dominguez Hills, for the Fall 2010 quarter, where he is currently enrolled in the Computer Technology Homeland Security degree program. In addition to his full-time course load, John is an active member of several student professional organizations on campus and in the community. He is a member of Disabled American Veterans, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the CSUDH Veterans Alliance.

Based on his previous challenges, John felt that he needed to ensure that finances would not prevent him from completing his degree, so he searched the CSUDH financial aid website to identify scholarships. With the help of the VUB work study team, John applied for nearly a dozen scholarships.

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John's dedication paid off when he was awarded the Ebell of Los Angeles Scholarship, the Nathaniel R. and Valerie Dumont Scholarship, the CSU/Edison Transfer Scholarship, and the TELACU Education Foundation Scholarship.

Through these awards, John has been recognized as an exceptional Scholar with a promising academic future. He fully embodies the mission of Veterans Upward Bound—to empower veterans to succeed through higher education.

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**Scholarship Opportunities for Veterans**

**National Scholarships for Veterans**

**Contact:** Program Department, 46047 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD 20706. Phone number: 877.726.8387

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be a U.S. veteran, a U.S. citizen, and demonstrate financial need.

**Award:** $4,000 over four years. Three awards are available. Awards must be used for full-time study in the pursuit of undergraduate studies or a certificate from an accredited technical/trade school.

$1,000 will be awarded each year for a maximum of four years.

**Deadline:** Application must be postmarked by April 15, 2011.

**AMVETS National Scholarship Program**

**Contact:** Dr. Aurelio M. Caccomo Family Foundation Memorial Scholarship

**Contact:** Program Department, 46047 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD 20706. Phone number: 877.726.8387

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be a U.S. veteran or a member of the National Guard or Reserves, a U.S. citizen, and demonstrate financial need.

**Award:** One $3,000 scholarship will be awarded nationwide per year for the duration of the grant. The scholarships are for veterans, including members of the National Guard and Reserves. The one-time award must be used for part-time or full-time undergraduate courses.

**Deadline:** Application must be postmarked by April 15, 2011.

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**U.S. Army Women's Foundation Legacy Scholarship**

**Contact:** Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 5030, Fort Lee, VA 23801. Phone number: 804.734.3078

**Web site:** www.awfdn.org

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be a woman who has served or is serving honorably in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves or National Guard, or is the child of a woman who served honorably in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves or National Guard.

Applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university, have academic credits by summer session 2010 or junior or senior standing, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

**Award:** This award may be used to assist with tuition fees, books, and documented expenses.

**Deadline:** Application must be postmarked by February 1, 2011.

**National Association Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel Scholarship**

**Contact:** Yesenia Guerra, VUB Program Coordinator, 323.832.5331, yguerra@TELACUtrio.org

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current or former participant of the VUB project enrolled or admitted to an institution of post-secondary education in pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

**Award:** One $500 award will be paid to the student for the following Fall semester.

**Deadline:** Application must be postmarked by May 8, 2011.

**TELACU Education Foundation Scholarship**

**Contact:** Yesenia Guerra, VUB Program Coordinator, 323.832.5331, yguerra@TELACUtrio.org

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be a first-generation, low-income college student; have a minimum GPA of 2.5; and attend a partnering college or university full-time for the entire 2011-2012 academic year.

**Awards:** Scholarships range from $500 to $5,000. There are Continuing Scholarships (for up to 5 years) and One-Year Scholarships.

**Deadline:** Completed applications with all required documentation must be hand delivered or postmarked no later than March 19, 2011.