

Opportunity Award

Year Established:	December 2003
Scholarship Purpose:	To provide financial assistance to those students who are the first in their families to attend college
Sponsoring Department:	Los Angeles City College Foundation
Contact Info:	LACC Foundation (323) 953-4011
Award Amount:	\$500.00

Application Criteria:

1. Student must have completed a minimum of nine (9) semester units
2. Must have at least 2.0 GPA
3. Must be a California resident
4. Demonstrate financial need
5. Complete application and a one-page, typed self-profile

Requirements to Apply:	Essay
Semester Awarded:	Spring
Deadline to Apply:	March 26

The Opportunity Award Story

Dr. Lynne Jacobs, Los Angeles psychologist and psychoanalyst, was inspired to create this award; her story is as follows:

I am white, and I grew up in a town with a "color-line". That experience helped to sensitize me to racial injustice, and I have long had an interest in contributing, in some small way, to racial healing. To that end, I wrote an article for psychotherapists about being a white therapist in a racially divided country, titled "For Whites Only".

A few years after the article was completed, the Governor of California raised tuition at community colleges, and I heard a radio interview with an African-American student who spoke about the financial hardship she was already suffering before the tuition hike. I felt inspired. That story propelled me to call LACC and find out if I could assist an African-American student with his or her college fees. Further discussion led to the establishment of this fund. In addition, I have invited my friends and colleagues to contribute to the fund.