



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TENNIS PLAYERS

The **United States Tennis Association Northern California** offers four Champions of Character Scholarships every year. These four-year scholarships are designed to support and encourage multicultural tennis participation among high school students entering college.

Even though applicants must be tennis players, the scholarships are awarded based on the merit of the character of the applicant, and how they embody and connect with the scholarship's namesake. The review committee looks at the following criteria.

1. Academic Merit
2. Written Narrative
3. Financial Need
4. Unusual Force of Character (X-Factor)
5. Community Service Leadership



“There are more students of colors playing but having financial help like this scholarship will definitely facilitate bringing tennis and higher education possible to them.”

Kindness Nwakudu, Oakland, CA
2013 Althea Gibson College Scholarship Recipient



USTA Northern California began awarding these scholarships over two decades ago, making a difference in the lives for many our youth. The four categories are:

Arthur Ashe College Scholarship
\$2,000/year - Open to: All applicants

In 1994, the section enacted in perpetuity the Diversity Committee Arthur Ashe College Scholarship in memory of the valuable contributions Arthur Ashe made to tennis and the world at large.

Pancho Gonzalez College Scholarship
\$2,000/year - Open to: Hispanic applicants

In 2005, USTA Northern California enacted the Diversity Committee Pancho Gonzalez College Scholarship in honor of the valuable contributions Pancho Gonzalez made to tennis for his play and his sportsmanship. As the only Latino player of his time, Pancho Gonzalez experienced great adversity and obstacles in his life. It could be argued that this helped his tennis career.

Michael Chang College Scholarship
\$2,000/year - Open to: Asian American applicants

In 2003, USTA Northern California enacted the Diversity Committee Michael Chang College Scholarship in honor of the valuable contributions Michael Chang has made to tennis for his play and his sportsmanship.

Althea Gibson College Scholarship
\$2,000/year - Open to: African American applicants

In 2007, USTA Northern California enacted the Diversity Committee Althea Gibson College Scholarship in honor of the valuable contributions Althea Gibson made to tennis, as well as in honor of her memory, life, and achievements of this exceptional pioneer who paved the way for millions who followed.

Quick overview of Requirements

- Please include this cover page.
- Essay of Application and details of the individual's participation in tennis. The essay should explain how the applicant's participation relates to the life of and values embodied by Ashe, Chang, Gonzalez or Gibson.
- Two letters of recommendation from persons other than parents or relatives.
- Most recent tennis record, if available
- High School transcript/academic records.
- Current photograph
- Letter of intent and/or acceptance letter of university you are attending
- FAFSA Application.
- Additional supporting materials, including letters, publicity, awards, etc. are welcome and encouraged
- If awarded, recipient must adhere to giving back to USTA and/or USTA NorCal (volunteering, tennis on campus, coaching, etc)

The deadline to apply is April 16, 2018.

The application, list of requirements, past recipient spotlights, and more can be found at usta.com/norcalcollegescholarships.

WHO WE ARE

Located in Alameda, CA, the United States Tennis Association, Northern California Section (USTA NorCal) is a not-for-profit volunteer-based organization with approximately 34K adult members, 16K junior members and over 300 organization members. USTA Northern California is one of the 17 sections of the USTA, the governing body of tennis in America.

WHAT WE DO

As one of the larger geographic sections, USTA NorCal has been promoting, servicing, and administering tennis programs since 1953. With our volunteer Board of Directors, a staff of over 35 members, and hundreds of volunteers, USTA NorCal is devoted to promoting and developing the growth of tennis as an inclusive and inviting lifetime activity in Northern California and Northwest Nevada.



I wasn't very outgoing and had no self-confidence. But, like Michael Chang said: "You know, I feel like if I don't change something, then the results maybe are going to continue the way they have. That for me is not something I want to really be a part of." I didn't want to spend the rest of my life standing in the corner. I wanted to stand out.

Taylor Chan

2015 Michael Chang Scholarship Recipient

