

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

National Society of Collegiate Scholars



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—Jen Castillo, Senior Manager of Scholarships

Members of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars positively influence their campuses and communities through service efforts while connecting with fellow high-achieving students. The organization gives out over \$1 million in scholarships annually, including merit award scholarships, study abroad scholarships, graduate-study scholarships, program-specific scholarships, and more.

The Search for a More Efficient Solution

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is a national honors society that provides access to over \$1 million dollars in scholarships and resources to high-achieving college students each year. Jen Castillo, senior manager of scholarships, has been with NSCS for six years. Jen manages the scholarship program from development to disbursement. She creates the qualifications for new scholarship opportunities, executes the application and review processes, and collaborates with the marketing team to promote scholarships to internal and external audiences. She also oversees the scholarship budget for the organization.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars is powered by:

Blackbaud Award Management

Before the implementation of Blackbaud Award Management, students applying for scholarships would complete applications using Google® Forms. The responses from the forms were then exported into Microsoft Excel® for distribution to reviewers via a mail merge. “The biggest challenge we faced with this process was the volume of applications we received. We received over 10,000 applications, and it wasn’t an efficient process,” Jen explained.

When NSCS started looking for new technology to support its process, the organization had a list of general requirements it was looking for. “We specifically wanted something that was user friendly for both the applicant and our administrators,” said Jen. They were also looking for something that would integrate with their Salesforce® database so that users could have a single-sign-on experience.



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100%

Complete integration with their Salesforce database

Choosing Blackbaud Award Management

NSCS chose Blackbaud Award Management for several reasons, including the integration with its Salesforce database. “We also liked that the user would have a seamless NSCS experience,” Jen said. “Administrators can easily send branded emails to applicants and award recipients directly from Blackbaud Award Management,” she continued. The team at NSCS also liked that it was easy to see the statuses of all the reviews from within the product without having to continually remind reviewers. “With everyone working from one central place, it is easy to keep an eye on the entire scholarship process,” added Jen.

Using Blackbaud Award Management, NSCS can make scholarships available for applicants throughout the year. With one website, it is easy to advertise scholarships on social media and in newsletters to students. It is also easy to remind students of scholarship opportunities and upcoming deadlines. They can also see when scholarship recipients have started an application and then create communications specifically to remind students of that deadline.

Once applications are collected, review committee members can log in to Blackbaud Award Management directly, which helps start the review process more quickly than before. Review committees are made up NSCS alumni who donate their time as a way of giving back to the organization. The committee is given a set number of applications to review, and it ranks applicants based on their scoring rubrics. Jen makes the final awarding decision, choosing from the finalists presented by the committee. Once the scholarship is awarded, the committee asks the student for a testimonial and a photo. This information is easily collected through Blackbaud Award Management and is used on social media and to promote future scholarships.





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Simplifying Scholarships for Students and Reviewers

Since the implementation of Blackbaud Award Management, NSCS has seen an increase in the number of completed applications submitted, a decrease in duplicate applications, and a decrease in time spent on the entire process. Jen said, “The best part of Blackbaud Award Management for us has been the improvements to our reviewing process. I can see the status of all my reviewers and can easily reassign any incomplete review. Blackbaud Award Management has sped up our review process and helps me to make awards faster.”

Discover how you can achieve the same success with Blackbaud tools.

[Learn more](#)



10,000

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars received over 10,000 applications

About Blackbaud

Leading uniquely at the intersection point of technology and social good, Blackbaud connects and empowers organizations to increase their impact through software, services, expertise, and data intelligence. We serve the entire social good community, which includes nonprofits, foundations, corporations, education institutions, healthcare institutions, and the individual change agents who support them.