



# CollegeNET.com Student News

Information, ideas and resources for the CollegeNET.com community

*"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." - Malcolm X (1925 -1965)*

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## Congratulations to Tournament 4.0 Winners!

CollegeNET.com is pleased to bring you the top three finishers in Tournament 4.0:

- Rianna Hidalgo (Reeses15)  
Grand Prize: \$25,000
- Alexandra Bowman (Alexandrea)  
2nd Prize: \$7,000
- Tristan Basingthwaight (TenkenNoKaiten)  
3rd Prize: \$3,000

Visit our blog!

Have you checked out CollegeNET.com's blog yet? Go to [blog.collegenet.com](http://blog.collegenet.com) to read about the latest trends and hottest topics on life before, during and after college, profiles of recent winners and more.

### Student Loan News Flash!

On July 1st, the interest rate for Stafford federal loans increased from 3.4% to 6.8%. Does this impact you? What do you need to know? Read all about the increase on [Washington Post](#).

CollegeNET.com is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Google+](#).



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to Participate!

## Sara Brannman: WINNER PROFILE

Sara (PrincessFirefighter) is a rising Junior at the University of Washington, Bothell. She has won a total of \$11,288.42 from CollegeNET.com.

### CollegeNET.com: Where is your hometown? Where do you live now?

Sara Brannman: I was born, raised and still live in Seattle, Washington. I'm a Washingtonian at heart. I need the mountains, the rain, and the trees of my home state.



### CN: What are you using the CollegeNET.com scholarships for?

SB: I rely on CollegeNET.com for badly needed tuition money. Like most college students, I am struggling to help my family pay for the ever-increasing costs of higher education while simultaneously striving to be as financially independent as I can be.

### CN: What do you study and what is your ideal profession?

SB: I am double majoring in Environmental Studies and Law, Economics, and Public Policy. In a dream world, I would be Indiana Jones. I always wanted to be an archaeologist and discover lost civilizations, but following that career doesn't match up with my wishes of having a close family someday. Ideally, I will be able to continue teaching ballet on the side and have a career in Environmental Law or related activism.

### CN: What should others know about CollegeNET.com?

SB: The most important thing for people to know about CollegeNET.com is that it is a challenging learning opportunity that, with hard work, pays off. It is something to be respected and appreciated, and rewarded with thoughtful contributions. It is a community of intellectuals and competitors, as well as friends and family. And most of all, that it has changed lives.

### Topics Introduced on [www.CollegeNET.com](http://www.CollegeNET.com)

**Treason:** "What do you think about Snowden's decision to release this information? Is every act of whistleblowing treasonous, or is there a time and a place when a loyal citizen is obligated to reveal unsavory details about his or her country? Can you suggest any guidelines for determining when, if ever, such actions are appropriate?" — Bruce Watson

**Social Media Privacy:** "Facebook and many other social media sites enable users to put out personal information for the world to see. You may limit who sees your profile, but social media is no joke, and I don't think people realize how easy it is for your information to get stolen and be used as someone else's. Have any of you ever experienced something like this?" — farahb