

## **Universal Technical Institute and Ignite Worldwide \$100,000 Grant Program for Women Entering STEM Fields Now Accepting Applications**

**Deadline to apply is April 29, 2022; recipients announced on May 18, 2022**

PHOENIX, Nov. 29, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- As announced earlier this year, as part of its effort to diversify the workforce and increase recruitment of women into the skilled trades, [Universal Technical Institute](#), Inc. (NYSE: UTI) teamed up with [Ignite Worldwide](#) to provide \$100,000 in tuition grants for female and female-identifying students interested in pursuing a technical education at UTI and careers in STEM-related fields.

Applications are now being accepted until April 29, 2022. Winners are to be announced on May 18, 2022. [Applications](#) for these grants are open now and will be accepted until April 29, 2022. The review process will begin in early May, with winners announced on May 18, 2022.

"We're constantly hearing from employers about the demand for more trained technicians - particularly women, who have traditionally been underrepresented in STEM and skilled-trade sectors," said Universal Technical Institute CEO Jerome Grant. "We hope this scholarship opportunity will open doors for women who may be considering careers in these high-tech, high-skilled fields and encourage them to pursue that route with a technical education from UTI. We're proud to partner with Ignite Worldwide on this important initiative. Together, we can drive more qualified workers into these growing industries and contribute to the diverse workforce employers and our economy demand."

Currently, women represent [just over 1 in 4 STEM workers](#) in the U.S. Research by both [McKinsey](#) and Harvard Business School has found gender-diverse employers tend to be more productive and exhibit stronger financial performance relative to their non-diverse competitors. Workforce demand in the transportation sector remains strong nationally, with the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) estimating there are approximately 100,000 total new openings each year for automotive, diesel, and collision repair technicians nationally, including net employment changes and net replacements.

Students who would like to apply for a UTI/Ignite Worldwide tuition grant must [complete an application](#), including an essay-based component that may be completed either as a traditional written response or 90-second selfie-style video. UTI and Ignite Worldwide will review all applications and award tuition grants as follows:

- First Place: \$25,000
- Second Place: \$15,000
- Third Place: \$10,000
- Fourth through 28<sup>th</sup> Place: \$2,000

Grants may be used toward programs at any of UTI's campuses located across Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- Be female, non-binary or identify as female
- Be a junior or senior in high school at the time of application submission
- Participate in at least one IGNITE Worldwide event - either [virtual](#) or [live](#) - and provide the name and location of that event
- Provide proof of high school diploma or GED prior to starting school at UTI
- Provide written consent forms from any other individual(s) depicted in video (if applicable)
- Provide authorization from a legal guardian (if the applicant is under the age of 18)

For additional information on UTI, please visit [uti.edu](#).

### **About Universal Technical Institute, Inc.**

Founded in 1965 and headquartered in Phoenix, Universal Technical Institute's (NYSE: UTI) mission is to serve our students, partners, and communities by providing quality education and support services for in-demand careers. More than 225,000 students have graduated from one of UTI's 14 campuses located across Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Texas. UTI's campuses are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), while its employer-aligned technical training programs are offered under four brands: Universal Technical Institute, Motorcycle Mechanics Institute / Marine Mechanics Institute, NASCAR Technical Institute, and MIAT College of Technology. For more information and a complete list of all programs offered, please visit [www.uti.edu](#) or follow on LinkedIn @UniversalTechnicalInstitute.

**About IGNITE Worldwide**

The IGNITE Worldwide Program works to directly address the gender and racial disparity experienced in STEM fields. By reaching the students at a young age, during the school day, we are able to encourage participating students to explore non-traditional STEM opportunities at their school, after graduation, and beyond.

IGNITE Worldwide provides a sustainable, scalable, and effective program that works with teachers and other educators to reach students during the school day. The overwhelming success and increased demand of our virtual programming this past year has encouraged us to increase our Program, by expanding into rural and underserved communities throughout Washington that previously faced barriers due to location and access. The upcoming 2021-2022 school year will now include more program offerings, including not just our standard in-person events but also virtual and hybrid opportunities. By working even more closely with our educators, volunteers, and sponsors we were able to provide engaging and successful events to rural communities. Currently the IGNITE Worldwide Program primarily serves Washington State and California.

For more information, visit <http://www.igniteworldwide.org>. Like IGNITE Worldwide on [www.facebook.com/igniteworldwide](https://www.facebook.com/igniteworldwide) or follow IGNITE Worldwide on Twitter @IGNITEWorldwide.

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