



# LC FINANCIAL AID/FAFSA EVENT



## THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

### AGENDA

6:00–6:30 p.m.: Opening Session

6:35–6:55 p.m.: Breakout Session 1

7:00–7:20 p.m.: Breakout Session 2

7:25–7:45 p.m.: Breakout Session 3

### Auditorium – OPENING SESSION: FAFSA Financial Aid Overview – (all grade levels)

*Joan Henning & Helen Van Blaricom, Gonzaga Financial Aid Department*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### Room 133 – COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION – (\*all grade levels)

*Dave Rovick, College Success Foundation*

(\*must have signed up for CBS in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade)- The College Bound Scholarship is state aid to help cover the cost of post-secondary education for families who document high financial need. This presentation is for eligible students and families who signed up in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We will discuss what you need to be doing now, what the scholarship covers, how to get the scholarship, and which institutions accept the College Bound Scholarship.

#### Room 135 – Scholarships: There Are No Secrets But There Are Strategies! – (all grade levels)

*Stan Pichinevskiy, EWU Admissions Office*

Stan was a first generation student who had no idea scholarships existed until his senior year. Once he was introduced, he made applying for scholarships his part-time job and it paid really well! He received over \$30,000 in scholarships and graduated with small student debt. Come hear him share his strategies for finding, writing and applying for scholarships.

#### Room 131 – Washington State Opportunity Scholarship – (seniors) – Sessions 1 & 2 ONLY

*Terrie Ashby-Scott, WSOS*

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) is a unique partnership with businesses helping to support the next generation of scientists, engineers, health care professionals, and other professionals in high-demand STEM fields. Come learn more about this 5-year, renewable scholarship opportunity for current seniors from low- and middle-income families. Annual scholarship awards range from \$2,500-\$7,500 per year!

#### Room 105 – Funding a College Education: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

*Tom Coffin, Financial Planner; Brian Spraggins, LC T-2-4 Counselor and former Admissions Officer*  
Mr. Coffin and Mr. Spraggins will lead a Q & A around frequently asked questions regarding college savings, funding, and general concerns about paying for college. Session attendees can ask questions via index cards to protect personal information.

#### Room: LIBRARY – (Computer access available)

*Jessica Hernandez, EWU Financial Aid Department,*

*Joan Henning & Helen Van Blaricom, Gonzaga Financial Aid Department*

(12<sup>th</sup> grade)            **FAFSA application filing and questions**

(11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade)    **FSA ID sign up**

(9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> grade)    **Scholarship searches**



## **Every Year in High School Students TO DO:**

- ( ) Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aid using FAFSA4caster at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov), and continue to save for college.
- ( ) Continuing updating your **Naviance** account!
- ( ) Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- ( ) Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school.

### **STUDENTS TO EXPLORE:**

- ( ) Check out KnowHow2Go: The Four Steps to College, which suggests some actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school. The online version of the brochure is at [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org).
- ( ) Get answers to common questions about college by watching our videos on the "Prepare for College" playlist at [www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid](http://www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid).
- ( ) Learn about managing your money from "Start Smart: Money Management for Teens" at [www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum06/sum\\_06\\_color.pdf](http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum06/sum_06_color.pdf).

### **Parents TO DO:**

- ( ) Use FAFSA4caster at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to find out how much federal student aid your child might receive.
- ( ) Continue saving for your child's college education. If you have not opened a savings account, you can find information about tax advantages and links to state plans at [www.collegesavings.org](http://www.collegesavings.org).
- ( ) Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major and career.
- ( ) Help your child develop good study habits, such as studying at the same time and place every day and having the necessary materials to complete assignments.
- ( ) Stay in contact with your child's teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child's behavior or schoolwork.
- ( ) Keep an eye on your child's grades on his or her tests and report cards, and help him or her find tutoring assistance, if necessary.

### **PARENTS TO EXPLORE:**

- ( ) Get tips from the following documents at [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents) (click on "Helping Your Child"): - Helping Your Child With Homework offers suggestions on assisting your child with successfully completing assignments - Helping Your Child Through Early Adolescence addresses issues that parents of 10- to 14-year-olds generally find most challenging.
- ( ) Browse Parent Power at [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents) for ideas to help you support your child as he or she transitions into high school.

## **9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST**

- ( ) Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers about Advanced Placement courses.
- ( ) Make a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities and document in **Naviance**.

## **10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST**

- ( ) Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- ( ) Research majors that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on "About Me" in **Naviance**.
- ( ) Create CollegeBoard and Khan Academy accounts for SAT prep: [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org); [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org).

## **11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST**

### **DURING SPRING**

- ( ) Register for and take exams for college admission.\* Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what admission tests they require.
- ( ) Checkout [washboard.org](http://washboard.org) and **Naviance** for scholarship searches and potential matches.
- ( ) Create your FSA ID <https://fsaid.ed.gov>.

### **SUMMER BEFORE 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE :**

- ( ) Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- ( ) Contact colleges to request information about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- ( ) Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action program, if applicable.

## **12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST**

- ( ) Apply to colleges and, in **Naviance**, indicate where you have applied. Check to see if your school's application needs to be submitted through the Common Application. <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- ( ) Complete and file your Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- ( ) After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- ( ) Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.
- ( ) Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you and see if there is additional paperwork you need submit.
- ( ) When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.
- ( ) Check your email often for correspondence from colleges re: application and financial aid information.