

SENIOR NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) needs to be completed by every Senior who is going to any post-secondary institution. This includes technology centers and beauty schools. The FAFSA is your application for any financial aid including the HOPE Scholarship. If you need help or have any questions we have help available in Guidance. Kristen Moon and Sarah Randals are our Financial Aid Peer Counselors from UTC and Chattanooga State. They are trained in Financial Aid and the FAFSA and will be glad to help you. They are available Tuesday through Thursday and Friday mornings. They will also see your parents if they need help.

FAFSA website is www.fafsa.gov

You need a pin number to sign the FAFSA. You and one of your parents will need a pin number. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to get your pin. Place this number in a safe place for you will need this same number again next January when you file the FAFSA. You file the FAFSA every year you are in college after January 1.

COMPARING FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

Financial aid award letters will be arriving soon from different colleges where you have applied. Keep the following in mind when making your final decision.

Look carefully at your award letters: Letters from different schools will probably have their figures and costs in different formats. Compare award letters to see how their offers measure up. Ask if outside scholarships will affect your aid.

Compare loan offers: Interest rates, how interest compounds, repayment terms and cancellation provisions can vary widely from loan to loan.

Compare affordability of aid offers over time: Ask how your financial aid package will change over time. The aid package made available to you in

your senior year may look very different from the one you were offered freshman year.

Look beyond the “sticker price”: The school with the lowest cost of attendance may not be the most affordable. The amount and type of aid offered will influence affordability.

Don’t accept an offer just because it has the lowest “unmet need”: You may save more by accepting an offer with a higher unmet need, if the aid package offers scholarships, grants and work study instead of loans.

Compare like terms: How do the schools determine cost of attendance? Do they all include direct costs as well as indirect costs? How do they handle outside scholarships? What work-study options are available? What are wages like? Can you substitute work-study for a loan?

ACT Test is April 10th. Last day to register without a late fee is March 5th. Packets are in Guidance or register online at actstudent.org. If you are on free or reduced lunch you may get a voucher. See Mrs. Reagan or Mrs. Delbonis.

ACT Practice websites:

actstudent.org

march2success.com

collegefortn.org

number2.com

Scholarship Update

If you are majoring in Education three scholarships are available in Guidance.

Central Teacher Scholarship-March 19th deadline

Chattanooga Hamilton County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship
Deadline is March 23rd
PTA Scholarship February 28th deadline

Chattanooga State Scholarships are due on February 23rd. You must apply online and have already turned your application in for admittance.

Go to chattanoogaastate.edu

Future Students

Financial Aid

Scholarships

Central Scholarships are available in Guidance:

Principals

Etter

Farmer

Mackey

Moss

Teacher

March 23rd deadline and all are \$1000.00 each

ROBERT C. BYRD HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

3.5 GPA OR 24 ACT & 3.0 GPA

application is online @ www.collegepaystn.org

March 1 deadline

Minority Teaching Fellow Program (Loan Forgiveness Program)

Must be a minority with a minimum 2.75 GPA and a minimum 18 ACT, or 860 SAT.

Applications are online at www.collegepaystn.org Must be received by April 15th.

Check out the scholarships at the Community Foundation at www.cfgc.org

UTC Chattanooga YES Grant

Must have at least a 3.0 GPA and a 19 ACT

Maximum award is \$3000.00 and is renewable for four years

Apply online at www.utc.edu/FinancialAid

Violet, William, David and Earnest Hampton Memorial Scholarship

Application in Guidance and must be turned in to Mrs. Reagan by March 23rd. Only one student will be nominated from Central.

Optimist Club of Brainerd

\$1000 renewable for 4 years

Application is in Guidance

Must be postmarked no later than April 1st.

UTK Art Scholarship

Additional application forms and additional information can be found on the website <http://art.utk.edu/scholarship>

March 19 deadline

Bi Lo Charities

March 1 deadline to have turned application in to Mrs. Delbonis.

Application is in Guidance

UTC Marjorie Watson Mathematics Scholarship- \$5000.00

Must be majoring in Math at UTC

See Mrs. Reagan for scholarship application

Deadline is March 15th

Must have at least a 3.0 GPA