

News Release

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FAFSA Workshops Connect Students With Financial Aid

Anchorage, AK – Alaska’s 9th annual “College Goal” FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion program kicks off this week with events all across Alaska – from Barrow to Unalaska and Ketchikan. College Goal Alaska (CGA), part of the national College Goal SundaySM program, brings application assistance to help students, particularly low-income and first-generation college goers, complete the FAFSA—an essential annual step to receiving financial aid for postsecondary education.

“The FAFSA is the single avenue for students to access federal and most state financial support, including grants, scholarships, the lowest-cost education loans and work-study opportunities. And, because it is also the Alaska Performance Scholarship application, it is now more important than ever for Alaska’s students to complete the FAFSA.” said Diane Barrans, Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, which coordinates CGA.

FAFSA submission deadlines vary for the many aid programs that rely on the FAFSA. Students should aim to complete the FAFSA by mid-February, if possible, to be considered for the most available financial aid. Parents and students are encouraged not to wait to until after they complete their 2012 income tax return because they may miss some opportunities by doing so.

This year, financial aid professionals from Alaska’s postsecondary institutions and other volunteers will help students complete the FAFSA at more than 33 events between January 23 and March 30. Students living in a community without a CGA event can get assistance online via live video presentations in January and February.

For more information about College Goal Alaska events, including event locations, dates, and times, as well as how to prepare and what to bring, visit CollegeGoalAK.org or call 877-577-3367 (269-7980 in Anchorage).

The College Goal SundaySM program was created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc., and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.