

Guidance

Gazette

Summer 2006



Summer News Flash

Changes with financial aid

Just when we thought our seniors had graduated and we could start focusing our efforts on the incoming senior class, Congress has made some changes that may impact your recently graduated seniors.

There are two new federal grants available right now for students. These funds are currently available for the 2006-2007 school year. Some financial aid offices may not even have all of the details yet, but if eligible, the students can receive these funds for the fall.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

Students entering their freshman or sophomore year in college who are also Pell Grant eligible, may in deed be eligible for the ACG as well. Freshman may be awarded up to \$750 while sophomores may see awards up to \$1,300. As you know, the requirements for the Pell Grant are need-based. The ACG is also need-based. But here's the catch. It also requires the student to have an impressive high school transcript as determined by the admission and/or financial aid offices. So, if they determine their course load was challenging AND they are Pell Grant eligible, they will receive the ACG. Sophomore students who fit these criteria and have a 3.0 GPA at the college level may be awarded up to \$1,300.

Students who are potentially eligible for the ACG should be receiving either an email or a letter notifying them about this grant. However, if you have any recently graduated seniors whom you think may qualify, they can simply go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov, click on "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA" and new questions will appear to gauge their eligibility for ACG.

Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART)

Congress didn't forget about the upperclassmen. In an attempt to encourage more student's to take math and science courses, this grant is awarded to college juniors and seniors in specialized majors. This money is available now and can be awarded to Pell Grant eligible, full-time students who have a 3.0 GPA. Their major must be listed in one of these categories: physical, life or computer science, engineering, mathematics, technology or a critical foreign language.

The Center for College Planning

provides parents and students with the information, materials and guidance they need to begin the process of applying for college admission and financial aid. We offer free services and materials for every population. Call our Concord office with questions or to schedule an appointment with one of our college counselors, 800.525.2577 x119.

- Individualized college counseling in our Concord office
- Specialized lists of colleges that match search criteria
- Calculation of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for financial aid purposes
- Access to career surveys and popular college majors
- Assistance filing complicated financial aid paperwork

Students can submit their college essays for feedback to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Sponsored by



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.800.525.2577 x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Upcoming:

September: An overview of outreach programs and publications to assist your students.

Below are a few links to some of the sites that explain these new grants in detail. If you are working with a student or have questions yourself, please do not hesitate to call our office and our counselors would be happy to review these with you.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/NewPrograms.jsp>

<http://ifap.ed.gov/FSACounselors/clcf/AcademicGrants.html>

We hope this is helpful. Enjoy your summer. Remember to schedule your outreach programs early to ensure we can book your first-choice dates. Visit www.nhheaf.org/events.asp or call 800.525.2577 x444.

New Counselor Training

There are still some spots available for our Guidance Counselor 101 Training this summer. If you have new staff or someone new to the field looking for all of the details on college admission and financial aid, we'd love for you to join us for professional development on Friday, August 18, 2006. It is scheduled for 8am-3pm at our Concord office. Email Zanna Campbell to reserve your staff member's spot at zcampbell@nhheaf.org or (800) 525-2577 x443

Next issue: September 2006

Your next Guidance Gazette will be sent in September. Meanwhile, enjoy your summer and we'll be in touch next fall. If you don't want to receive further college planning emails, please respond to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four independent, nonprofit organizations: The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation, which was established by the banking community in 1962 to guarantee student loans; the New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation, which was designated by the State of New Hampshire in June 1993 to be a lender and holder exclusively for student loans; Granite State Management & Resources, established in 1986 as the loan servicing arm of the Organizations and the NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation, established in 2004 to administer the Organizations' charitable giving. Collectively, the NHHEAF Network Organizations offer complementing services to families including information and materials about planning for higher education, education loan funding and life-of-loan servicing. The NHHEAF Network Organizations can be reached at 1-800-525-2577 or online at www.nhheaf.org.