

School COUNSELOR Quarterly



September 2007

Starting the School Year

Welcome Back! It's that time of year again for counselors to advise and inspire another graduating class towards personal and academic progress. The Center for College Planning is pleased to assist by presenting the first in a series of electronic newsletters to help counselors and students prepare for the challenges ahead. The School Counselor Quarterly, previously the Guidance Gazette, covers a range of topics and issues related to the college process. From new admissions policies and college savings plans to scholarships, we hope to offer local insight to issues that impact your students and their families. In order to make this effort especially relevant, we'd love to hear from you. Please consider contributing ideas, stories, questions and comments for future editions. Send us your thoughts to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org or call us at 1-888.7.GRADUATE x 119. Best wishes for a successful year!

Working Together

Many NH counselors have utilized our office to supplement college and career curriculum already in place. As part of our charitable mission, The NHHEAF Network is committed to providing New Hampshire students with the best information about planning and paying for college. If you have not already worked with us, know that we are here for you with a host of presentations, materials and supporting services – all free! Looking to schedule a presentation? Visit our website at www.nhheaf.org/events.asp to review the descriptions and register your school. Presentations for NH Students, Parents and Educators include:

K-5 Programs

- [Get On the Bus: Seminar for Fifth Grade Students](#)
- [College Bear Events \(new\)](#)
- [Early College Planning for Parents](#)

6-8 Programs

- [College Jeopardy: Seminar for Eighth Grade Students](#)

High School Programs

- [Transition to High School: Seminar for 9th Graders](#)
- [Get Centered - 10th Grade Presentation](#)
- [It's Never too Early....College Preparation for Juniors](#)
- [Student-Athlete Workshop \(new\)](#)
- [College Overview for Seniors](#)
- [Financial Aid Presentation](#)
- [Award Letter Seminar](#)

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

Submit your college essay for feedback to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Sponsored by



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



This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Enjoy our Free Publications

The Center for College Planning has updated many of its publications, handouts and workbooks for the 2007-2008 school year. Please call 1-888.7.GRADUATE x 119 to order any of the following:



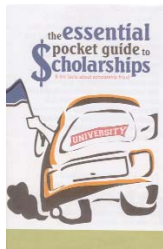
The College Insider

College planning guide with information about college interviews, NCAA regulations, career exploration, college admissions criteria and applying for financial aid. (This is up-to-date with current year information)



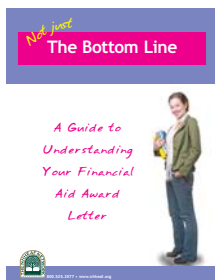
Financial Aid Organizer

This organizer offers great information, a planning calendar and frequently asked questions. The folder is the perfect place to store copies of financial aid applications and materials from college.



The Pocket Guide to Scholarships

This guide provides a list of local and national scholarship resources and is designed to help educate students about scholarship fraud.



Not Just The Bottom Line

A guide to understanding your financial aid award letter. You have received your financial aid package. Now what? What do all of those numbers mean?

Attention School Counselors

New to the School Counseling Profession? College 101 for the New School Counselor Professional

In addition to the everyday responsibilities of managing schedules, meetings, graduation requirements, counseling and advising, school counselors are often expected to be experts on college admission and financial aid. On Friday, January 11th, the Center for College Planning will be hosting College 101: Workshop for the New School Counselor Professional. Over 120 new counselors have “graduated” from this unique program. Topics include: the campus visit, the college essay, letters of recommendation, the college interview, ABC’s of financial aid, and what admissions

counselor are really looking for in an applicant. Counselors receive free materials and resources to help guide students and parents through constantly changing and complex environment of college planning. Lunch is included. Seats are limited. Reserve a spot today by calling Patty Smith at 1-800-525-2577 x143

Financial Aid 201: For School Counselor Professionals
Thursday, November 8, 2007
8am-12pm @ NHHEAF, Concord

Have you been getting questions about college costs, funding options and the financial aid process? The Center for College Planning would like to help. This 2nd annual workshop provides both the experienced guidance director AND even the newest school counselor with a comprehensive and understandable overview of financial aid.

Learn about:

Types of aid	Special circumstances
Filing the forms	Funding options
Scholarship opportunities	Updates within the industry

Reserve a spot today by calling Patty Smith at 1-800-525-2577 X143
We'll see you there.

Save these Dates

- *NH Jumpstart'S Financial Fitness Fair: One-day workshop for high school students and their parents with sessions designed to get them thinking about the benefits of learning how to manage money.*

www.nhjumpstart.org

Saturday, January 19, 2008

- *Destination College: 9th Annual College Prep Convention for High School Juniors and their Parents.*

www.destinationcollege.org

Saturday, March 29, 2008 at Southern New Hampshire University.

- *Discover U: Early College Awareness Program for 8th Graders and their Parents.*

www.NHDiscoverU.org

October 12th at Keene State College

November 10th at Colby-Sawyer College

April 19th at Franklin Pierce University

April 26th at Southern New Hampshire University

Fafsa4Caster

The idea of paying for higher education can be so overwhelming to parents. Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce FAFSA4caster, their newest tool designed to help families plan for college. The FAFSA4caster provides parents and students with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student financial assistance.

This FREE tool can be used to:

- Calculate eligibility for federal student aid, including grants
- Reduce the time it will take to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the qualifying form for all federal student financial aid

Students and their families interested in assessing their eligibility for federal student financial assistance can access FAFSA4caster by visiting www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

FAFSA: Change in Distribution for 2008-2009

In the beginning of September, The U.S. Department of Education announced a change in the distribution of the 2008-2009 paper FAFSA's. For 2008-2009 paper FAFSA's will not be available for schools (or The Center for College Planning) to order via FSAPubs. Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Students may request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in 3 to 7 business days. Also, new for 2008-2009 is the introduction of a PDF version of the FAFSA that students will be able to submit for processing. The PDF version of the FAFSA will be available for download on various Federal Student Aid web sites, such as, www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov. Schools will also be able to access the PDF from www.FSAPubs.org.

News Around the State

So, how are New Hampshire students doing on the SAT?

New Hampshire's 2007 graduating seniors scored higher in reading and writing but slipped slightly in Math compared to the class of 2006, according to a national SAT score report released last month. Even still, NH student scores remained above the national average in all three sections of the test. 83% of NH high school seniors took the test, which was the fifth highest participation rate in the country. Go NH! Click here to read the full story:

<http://www.wmur.com/education/13992703/detail.html?rss=man&psp=news>

Please have your students take full advantage of our free SAT Test Gear on www.bridges.com to help boost those averages. Call one of our counselors for free online access, (800) 525-2577 x119.

If you do not want to receive further School Counselor Quarterly e-mails, please respond to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org.

Upcoming:

December: A look at the financial aid process and a preview of Destination College.

Your next School Counselor Quarterly will be sent in December. Until then, good luck writing senior recommendations and easing the transition for your freshmen! Thanks and enjoy the fall.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four nonprofit corporations dedicated to helping New Hampshire students and families plan for and fund higher education. As a guarantor, lender and servicer of student loans, the Organizations are consistently recognized for providing outstanding service before, during and after the college experience. The NHHEAF Network Education Foundation administers the charitable giving programs of the Organizations. Since their inception, the Organizations have made the higher education dreams of more than 270,000 students a reality. To learn more visit www.nhheaf.org or contact us at 1-800-525-2577.