



News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Entzel
College Goal Sunday, North Dakota
(701) 328-5653 work
(701) 425-1585 cell

College Goal Sunday Helps Students Get Money for College

Bismarck, ND – February 17: As high school graduations approach and adult learners consider a college career, many are thinking about how to pay for their higher education.

A special event called College Goal Sunday will take place February 21 to help college bound students begin the financial aid process. More than 130 financial aid experts and volunteers will gather at locations across the state to answer questions and help students, both traditional and non-traditional, fill out the necessary paperwork. This is the 3rd Annual event in North Dakota.

"Last year volunteers for College Goal Sunday helped more than 350 families learn about how to get federal and other sources of aid, as well as fill out the forms to get that started," said Laura Entzel, a coordinator for College Goal Sunday. "This year we hope to help even more begin the process of paying for college."

Eleven sites across the state will host College Goal Sunday: Belcourt, Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Fort Totten, Fort Yates, Grafton, Grand Forks, Minot, New Town and Williston.

In recognition of this event, Governor John Hoeven recently proclaimed February 21, 2010 as College Goal Sunday for the state of North Dakota.

"Financial aid is available to help those who wish to further their education," said Gov. Hoeven.

Many students, especially those whose families have no prior college experience, are unaware of the types of funding available and how to apply.

As part of this year's College Goal Sunday program, students completing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at the event will receive a flash drive. They also will be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 scholarship or a laptop computer.

Prizes were generously donated by Alerus Financial of Grand Forks, Bank of North Dakota, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bremer Bank of Grand Forks, North Dakota College Access Grant Program and Student Loans of North Dakota.

Interested students and parents are asked to bring their Social Security numbers, 2009 Federal Tax Return, W-2, other income records, driver's license and other valid ID to the session.

"The more information you bring along, the more likely it is you will be able to complete and submit your FAFSA while at the event on the 21st," said Katie Nettell, a coordinator for College Goal Sunday. "If you don't have everything, you should still attend to get the application process started."

To learn more about College Goal Sunday and specific time and site information, visit www.collegegoalnd.org or call toll free (866) 454-3308.

College Goal Sunday was created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. and supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education. This year's effort in North Dakota is coordinated by the North Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NDASFAA) with grant funding from Lumina Foundation and volunteer support from School Counselors Association, TRIO, Vocational Rehabilitation and other organizations.

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