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College Goal Sunday
January 27, 2008
2:00 p.m.

College Goal Sunday is a free service for anyone needing assistance in completing the FAFSA form. During this event, students and parents can receive help completing the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday will be held on Sunday, January 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the following areas:

Augusta	Calais	Fort Kent	Portland	South Paris
Bangor	Dover-Foxcroft	Houlton	Presque Isle	Wells
Bath	Ellsworth	Lewiston	Rockland	
Belfast	Farmington	Machias	Saco	

Locations and directions will be listed on FAME's Web site as they are confirmed. If you would like to volunteer at a CGS site or need more information, please e-mail adostie@famemaine.com.

Visit our Web site for more information: www.collegegoalsundaymaine.com.

The FAME Educator

For Counselors & Advisors



Dear Counselors,

Greetings! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful fall weather.

We are pleased to bring you this third edition of The FAME Educator. This newsletter was designed to keep you informed on current issues regarding financial aid, as well as any important updates at FAME. A copy of this and past editions of the newsletter are also available on the FAME web site. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Angela Dostie, Manager of Outreach & Default Prevention

Financial Aid 101

Financial Aid 101: *A Training for Counselors and Advisors* was held at the Augusta Civic Center on Friday, October 5th. The training was a great success and over 150 counselors and advisors from high schools, college access programs and financial aid counselors attended the training. Financial aid administrators from around the state presented topics such as, "Understanding the EFC", "FAFSA Overview" and "Loan Basics". Copies of the PowerPoint presentations are available on the FAME web site. If you would like an electronic copy of the materials and handouts, you can request them by emailing Mary Dyer at mdyer@famemaine.com.

FAFSA Distribution Change for 2008-2009

From the Department of Education:

For 2008-2009, paper FAFSAs will not be available for order in bulk. Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or from the web site www.edpubs.org. Students may request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in three to seven business days.

New for 2008-2009 is a PDF version of the FAFSA that students can submit for processing. Beginning in mid-November the PDF will be available for download on various Federal Student Aid Web sites, such as www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov. Students can access the PDF, complete the form on the computer or by hand, and mail it to the address provided for processing. Schools will also be able to access the PDF from www.fsapubs.org.

The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, the most effective tool students can use to facilitate the online application process, will still be available for bulk order by schools.

What's Inside this Edition:

- Update on FAME Publications
- Promoting your high school's financial aid night
- Default Prevention
- Mapping Your Future
- New FAME Tools & Calculators
- FAFSA4caster
- College Goal Sunday

Volume 2, Issue 1
 October 2007

FAME Publications

The Financial Aid Tool Kit: The Fall 2007 *Tool Kit* was distributed to students and high schools at the end of September. The *Tool Kit* was designed to provide an overview of federal, state and local resources available to assist students with achieving their educational goals.

If you need additional copies, please contact Angela Dostie at adostie@famemaine.com. A copy of the *Tool Kit* is also available for download on the FAME web site.

Life 101—A Magazine for Maine High School Students: *Life 101* is scheduled to be delivered to high schools in mid-November. This publication is designed for underclassmen to help them as they prepare to pay for and attend college.

Planning a Successful Financial Aid Night: This brochure was created to assist counselors in planning and conducting a successful financial aid night. Included, you will find helpful information on how to select a time and a location, as well as tips regarding how to plan an informative session. This brochure is available on the FAME web site under FAME Publications. If you are interested in offering a financial aid night, please contact Angela Dostie at adostie@famemaine.com.

How Do I Get Parents to Attend a Financial Aid Night?

After hearing this commonly asked question, FAME staff kept notes on some of the things they heard that worked at various high schools.

- An English teacher offered 10 extra credit points on a quiz for students who attended. If both the student and parent attended, the teacher gave an extra 20 points.
- One school offered pizza. Since financial aid nights are often right after work and can interfere with dinner time, offering an alternative can help.
- The senior class at one high school sold coffee, donuts, cookies and other goodies before and after the financial aid presentation. Not only did this help raise money for the senior class, it encouraged student and parent attendance.
- Another high school offered a chance to win a scholarship. In order to be eligible for the drawing, both the student and the parent(s) had to attend the financial aid night.

If you have not yet planned your financial aid night, call your local college financial aid office or FAME to schedule a date and time.

★ NEW: Default Prevention Initiatives

Like many of you, FAME is concerned by the ever-increasing amount of student loan debt that Maine students are borrowing in order to pursue their educational goals. Because of this, we are in the process of implementing a series of new default prevention & outreach initiatives. We have recently hired Mary Dyer as Default Prevention Specialist. Mary brings over 15 years in higher education experience to FAME and she is looking forward to developing a array of default prevention and financial literacy tools to assist Maine students in borrowing responsibly.

Mapping Your Future

Mapping Your Future is a provider of free information and services for schools, and for students and families as they consider college and careers. There is information for middle and high school students, parents and school counselors. One of the most popular sections on the web site is CareerShip. This online tool helps student explore different careers and the level of education required.

Because FAME is a sponsor of this site, you and your students can access the information without any charges or fees.

Visit this site at: www.mappingyourfuture.org

FAME Tools & Calculators

FAME has recently updated the Tools & Calculators section of the web site. In addition to offering the FAFSA4caster (see below), FAME also offers the following loan calculators and financial literacy tools:

The **Debt/Salary Wizard** helps students determine how much they need to earn to repay the loans they borrow while in college.

The **Budget Calculator** helps students create a monthly budget and identify the types of expenses they should be prepared to have when they get to the “real world.”

The **Checkbook Balancing Tool** provides instruction on how to balance a checkbook.

FAFSA4caster: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

The Department of Education has created a new program called FAFSA4caster. This online tool provides families with an early estimate of their financial aid eligibility before their senior year in high school.

Benefits of using the FAFSA4caster include:

- ◆ Provides an estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- ◆ Calculates a student’s estimated eligibility for federal financial aid, including grants
- ◆ Reduces the time it will take to complete the FAFSA
- ◆ Automatically generates and e-mails the Federal PIN
- ◆ The FAFSA4caster is Free.

Remember: This tool provides an *estimate* and is only as accurate as the information provided. The student must still complete the FAFSA and the financial aid office will determine the actual award a student is eligible to receive.