

# FINANCIAL AID 101

*a training for counselors  
and advisors*

## FAME's 13th Annual Financial Aid 101 Agenda

Augusta Civic Center  
March 15, 2019

8:00 – 8:30	Registration/Breakfast - Augusta/Capital/Pine Tree		
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome		
8:40 – 9:35	Augusta/Capital/ Pine Tree	Washington	York
	<b>A. FSA ID Problem Solving</b>  Presenter <b>Nikki Vachon, FAME</b>	<b>B. Why College?</b>  Presenter: <b>Maria MacDougal, FAME</b>	<b>C. Going Merry! A Resource for Students and Advisors</b>  Presenters <b>Charlie Maynard, Co-Founder/CEO, Going Merry &amp; Jessica Whittier, FAME</b>
9:40 – 10:35	Augusta/Capital/ Pine Tree	Washington	York
	<b>D. Filing the FAFSA</b>  Presenter <b>Floreka Malual, FAME</b>	<b>E. Award Letter Comparison</b>  Presenter <b>Mary Dyer, FAME</b>	<b>F. Maine Specific Incentive Programs</b>  Presenter <b>Jessica Whittier, FAME</b>
10:35 – 11:05	<b>Opportunity to Visit with Exhibitors</b> - Participate in the exhibitors' scavenger hunt for a chance to win!		
11:10 – 12:00	Augusta/Capital/ Pine Tree	Washington	York
	<b>G. Unique Circumstances</b>  Presenter <b>Mila Tappan, FAME</b>	<b>H. Navigating Higher Education with New Mainers: Immigrant/Refugee/ELL/ESOL Students</b>  Panelists: <b>Safia Ahmed, Samuel Gahima, Imti Hassan</b> Moderator: <b>Floreka Malual, FAME</b>	<b>I. Okay, But What Actually is Adult Ed?</b>  Presenters <b>Robyn Raymond, Director, Spruce Mountain Adult &amp; Community Education &amp; Maria MacDougal, FAME</b>
12:05 – 1:00	<b>Lunch and FAME Resources</b> <b>Martha Johnston, FAME</b>		
1:10 – 2:00	Augusta/Capital/ Pine Tree	Washington	York
	<b>J. Verification</b>  Presenter <b>Nikki Vachon, FAME</b>	<b>K. CSS Profile 101</b>  Presenters <b>Susan S. McCrackin, The College Board, Jill Pierce, Colby College &amp; Stephanie Haines, Bowdoin College</b>  Moderators <b>Mary Dyer &amp; Martha Johnston, FAME</b>	<b>L. Selecting an Affordable College</b>  Presenter <b>Mila Tappan, FAME</b>
2:00 – 2:15	Turn in scavenger hunt and evaluation		
2:15 – 2:30	Prizes and closing		

## FSA ID Problem Solving

Nikki Vachon, College Access Counselor FAME

The FSA ID is a critical part of the applying for financial aid, but has many related challenges. Tips will be shared to help find where the problem lies, share ideas on how to avoid problems, followed by problem solving strategies to try when the username and password have been forgotten or will not work to access and/or sign the FAFSA

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## Going Merry!

Charlie Maynard, Cofounder & CEO, Going Merry  
Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

Going Merry is a new and innovative scholarship search website that aims to make it easy for students to find and apply for scholarships. It also has features that allow counselors and advisors to track student scholarship applications and add supporting documents. It will even allow schools to upload their local scholarships for their students to find. In this session Going Merry founder, Charlie Maynard will join us to discuss this new scholarship platform and answer your questions.

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## Why College?

Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor FAME

There are many compelling reasons to pursue education after high school and having that information at our fingertips can be helpful when working with students. In this session we'll share some tools and data to you encourage students to pursue education beyond high school. We'll discuss national and state trends, return on investment of education, and why credentials of value matter.

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## Filing the FAFSA

Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor FAME

Have you noticed that the FAFSA filing experience (including the number of questions asked) isn't the same for every student? In this session we'll explain why that is by walking through the FAFSA and demonstrating how skip logic works. We'll also discuss whose information is required on the FAFSA, share tips to avoid pitfalls, and answer other common questions.

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## Award Letter Comparison

Mary Dyer, Financial Education Officer, FAME

College and university award letters are apples and apricots; same category, but they all look different. In this webinar, you'll get an in-depth overview of award letters including how to interpret what is listed on the letters, what to look for on each one, and how to compare financial aid awards to determine the bottom line and help students and families make an informed decision.

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## Maine Specific Incentive Programs

Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

There are a number of unique opportunities available to Maine residents when it comes to paying for college or paying off student loan debt. Join us to learn about programs that may benefit you or your students!

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## Special Circumstances & Appeals

Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

Do you have students with unique circumstances that can't be explained on the FAFSA, including students who don't meet the "independent" criteria, but can't provide parent information? Have students asked you what they should do when their financial situation is different than what had to be reported on the FAFSA? Do you wonder how to help students advocate for themselves in these situations? If so, this session is for you! We'll review a variety of situations and discuss the steps students should take to navigate the process and maximize their financial aid.

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## Navigating Higher Education with New Mainers: Immigrant/Refugee/ELL/ESOL Students

Students: Prabh Jot (PJ) Singh, Safia Ahmed, Samuel Gahima, Imti Hassan  
Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor FAME

In this session a panel of immigrant students will discuss their paths to accessing funds for college. The panel will discuss pathways for federal aid eligible students as well as strategies for students not qualifying for federal financial aid. Join us to learn more about the challenges faced and opportunities AVAILABLE to our New Mainer students and how you can play a role in their success.

## **Okay, But What Actually Is Adult Ed?**

Robyn Raymond, Director, Spruce Mountain Adult & Community Education  
Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

You may think you know what adult education does for Maine students, but there's likely a lot that you don't know. In this session, we will discuss the multitude of offerings adult education provides to Mainers, the pipeline through which people flow to adult ed., and ways you can identify students who may benefit.

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## **Verification – The Next Hurdle After the FAFSA**

Nikki Vachon, College Access Counselor FAME

Last year more students than ever were selected for verification and getting through this process was a challenge for many. In this webinar we'll discuss what verification is, who is being selected, what is required and new guidance received on documenting income for verification purposes. We'll also focus resolving the challenges around completing the requirements, including ways to support our most needy students. Sample verification forms and request for information will be shared

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## **CSS Profile 101:**

Susan McCrackin, Senior Director Financial Aid Methodology, The College Board  
Stephanie Haines, Associate Director of Student Aid, Bowdoin College  
Jill A. Pierce, Director of New Student Financial Aid, Colby College  
Moderators: Mary Dyer & Martha Johnston, FAME & CSS Profile completers

CSS Profile 101 introduces you to the institutional aid application used by over 400 colleges, universities, and scholarship programs. This session explains the CSS Profile and highlights some of the common mistakes applicants make.

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## **Selecting an Affordable School – Info to Help Families and Students Make an Informed Financial Decision**

Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

Selecting an Affordable School – Information to Help Families and Students Make an Informed Financial Decision

While there is certainly more to school selection than affordability, too often students are deciding to attend schools that make little sense financially. The end result is that many end up borrowing more than they should or having to transfer to a more affordable school. In this session we'll discuss concepts (like Net Price and ROI) and share information and tools that can help students and families have increased choices and be better prepared to make informed decisions.