

FINANCIAL AID 101



FAME's 15th Annual Financial Aid 101 Agenda

March 17th, 2021

8:30 – 9:25	<p>Welcome & Keynote:</p> <p>A Historical Perspective of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Education Presenter: Margaret Brownlee, M.Ed., CCSP Vice Chair of the South Portland Human Rights Commission and MECA's first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RAFFLE DRAWING</p>		
9:30 – 10:20	<p>A. The Lucky Charms to Unlocking the FSA ID and More Presenter: Mila Tappan, FAME</p>	<p>B. Navigating Higher Education with New Mainers: Immigrant/Refugee/ELL/ESOL Students Panelists and Floreka Malual, FAME</p>	<p>C. FAME Financial Wellness Resources: Don't Leave Your Finances to Luck! Presenters: Mary Dyer, FAME Todd Woodlee, iGrad®</p>
10:20 – 10:35	<p>Break</p>		
10:35 – 11:25	<p>D. Getting the Gold: Tips to Filing the FAFSA Presenter: Nikki Vachon, FAME</p>	<p>E. It's Not Just Luck: Pathways to a Credential of Value Presenters: Maria MacDougal</p>	<p>F. The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Loans Presenter: Betsy Mayotte, TISLA Moderator: Jessica Whittier, FAME</p>
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Lunch Break</p>		
12:00 – 12:50	<p>G. Financial Aid Appeals: How to Get More Green When Circumstances Have Changed Presenter: Mila Tappan, FAME</p>	<p>H. Find The Rainbow At The Start Of Your Scholarship Search Presenters: Jessica Whittier, FAME</p>	<p>I. Why Education After High School is a Pot of Gold Presenter: Maria MacDougal, FAME</p>
1:00 – 2:00	<p>J. Financial Aid Tailgate Party – social hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RAFFLE DRAWING</p>		

Session Descriptions & Presenters

A Historical Perspective of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Education

Margaret Brownlee, M.Ed., CCSP

Vice Chair of the South Portland Human Rights Commission and MECA's first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

Access to higher education hasn't always been equal for communities of color. This lack of access in the higher education pipeline has led to disparities in social mobility, family resources, and wealth. Join the conversation as we talk about improving racial inequalities in your campus by promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion both in and out of the classroom with keynote speaker, Margaret Brownlee

The Lucky Charms to Unlocking the FSA ID and More

Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

A working FSA ID is a critical to the FAFSA process. However, challenges abound for many students and parents when it comes to the FSA ID. In this session we'll offer tips to help avoid problems, followed by problem solving strategies to try when the FSA ID has become locked or doesn't work or the username and password have been forgotten.

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

Panelists and Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor FAME

In this session a panel of immigrant students will discuss their paths to accessing funds for college and navigating our New Mainer website. 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.

FAME Financial Wellness Resources: Don't Leave Your Finances to Luck!

Mary Dyer, Financial Education Officer, FAME

Todd Woodlee, Vice President, iGrad®

If the past few months have taught us anything, it's that saving for a rainy day and safeguarding our finances are critical steps to ensuring lifelong financial stability. During this session, participants will learn about the latest free financial education resources available through FAME and its trusted financial wellness partner, iGrad®. Resources featured were designed to support both in-person, remote, and hybrid learners.

Getting the Gold: Tips to Filing the FAFSA

Nikki Vachon, College Access Counselor, FAME

The FAFSA filing experience (including the number of questions asked) isn't the same for every student by design. 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 talk about upcoming changes that help you get your students the gold!!

It's Not Just Luck: Pathways to a Credential of Value

Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

The pathway to a credential of value is not linear, and especially during the pandemic, many students had to pivot. In this session, we'll discuss various pathways to a credential including how things shifted during the pandemic, the benefits of employer sponsored credentials and support, and strategies for students taking a gap year. No matter what your students' plans are (or lack thereof) you will be able to guide them through the various options to educational attainment.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Student Loans

Betsy Mayotte, President & Founder of The Institute of Student Loan Advisors (TISLA)
Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

Student loan borrowers and those of us who receive questions from them have seen some things we've never seen before in 2020. This session will provide an overview of the student loan related CARES Act waivers, particularly those options that affect borrowers in default or those pursuing Public Loan Service Forgiveness. We'll also talk about the scenarios we're hearing about from borrowers – both those eligible for the CARES Act waivers and those that aren't – and how we are advising them. Finally, we do some prognosticating on the coming year based in part on the new Administration.

Financial Aid Appeals: How to Get More Green When Circumstances Have Changed

Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

Students and families have always been encouraged to pursue appeals when current circumstances are different than what is reflected on the FAFSA. But during these times of continued economic instability, it is especially important that students understand what options exist. In this session we'll discuss the various types of appeals, as well as explore the process and timing of appeals. We will also share some resources that can make pursuing requests for review easier.

Find The Rainbow At The Start Of Your Scholarship Search

Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

Today's high school and college students have access to more scholarship opportunities than ever before. There is also an ever-increasing number of websites hoping to connect students with those opportunities. In this session we'll explore a few platforms that provide students with access to unique funding opportunities, while also keeping their personal data private.

Why Education after High School is a Pot of Gold

Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

Making the case for students to pursue education beyond high school can sometimes be difficult, especially given the uncertainty of a global pandemic. In this session, we will discuss why college still matters, the social, wellness, and perhaps most importantly, financial benefits of education after high school. You will leave with more information and tools to encourage your students to make a plan for higher education.

Financial Aid Tailgate Party – social hour

It's been far too long since you've had time to talk with your colleagues around the state. We miss you. We all wanted a time to be able to just turn on your cameras and mics and give you all a chance to see how you are doing and to talk to each other.