

Guidance Notes

To: All Central City High School Juniors, Seniors, and Parents

From: Debra J. Anderson, Guidance Counselor djanders@esu7.org

Date: March 25, 2013

Students and Parents – Please note these important times and dates:

*The next **ACT** will be the morning of Saturday, April 13th.

***Prom** will be held on Saturday, April 13th.

***Please** provide to Counselor Anderson by Monday, April 29th, information about the scholarships that you have been offered so that the information may be included in the local newspaper, the Grand Island Independent, and the Honors Night Program. Copies of the award letters are best.

***High School Honors Night** will be on Monday May 6th at 7 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

***Graduation** for the **CCHS Graduating Class of 2013** will be on Sunday May 12th at 2 pm!

CCC Summer Scholarship

Central Community College has a scholarship for current junior and senior high school students interested in taking a summer course at CCC. Students will be asked to supply ACT, COMPASS, or ASSET scores for the scholarship. The award is valued up to \$150 in the form of tuition and the deadline is April 19, 2013. An application can be picked up at CCC or accessed on their website at www.cccneb.edu under Financial Aid.

ACE Scholarship

Current sophomores and juniors - If you plan to take a summer class through CCC or another college and you have a financial need, see Counselor Anderson in April or May about an Access College Early - ACE Scholarship.

The Nebraska Career Information System

The **Nebraska Career Information System** is full of interest inventories, occupational information, and links to colleges across the nation. Please take time to check NCIS out. If you do not have the Internet, you are welcome to use a computer in the public library, school library, or in my office. Here is the information that you will need for Internet NCIS:

URL: <http://necis.intocareers.org>

NEW USERNAME: 09centralhs

NEW PASSWORD: H005709

Most of our students already have a Personal Learning Plan established and can log in at:

URL: <http://necis.intocareers.org>

USERNAME: (first four letters of their first name, first six letters of their last name)

PASSWORD: (first initial, last initial, student ID number)

ACT and SAT

Many students who are college bound have already taken the **ACT**. The December test date is the last date that will typically meet scholarship guidelines for seniors (October test date for Wayne State). It is very important to know if a certain ACT score is needed for acceptance into a specific college or program of study that a student may be wishing to pursue. College bound juniors (and some gifted sophomores) will choose to take the ACT a number of times yet. College bound students should take the ACT three or more times, to have the best composite score.

ACT has an optional Writing Test. Students should plan to take the Writing Assessment also if they have excellent writing skills and wish to demonstrate these to prospective colleges or if the college the student is interested in attending recommends it. At this point most colleges in Nebraska do not require the optional writing test, but to be sure, a student may log onto www.actstudent.org to check the recommendations for specific colleges.

Some of our students are also planning to take the **SAT** Reasoning Test. (Few schools in this area require the SAT Subject Tests.) Some students score even better on the SAT than on the ACT, depending on their particular strengths. Some out-of-state schools require the SAT instead of the ACT. Most Nebraska colleges will use either an ACT or SAT score. Scholarship committees

and colleges always ask for the best scores that a student has achieved, even if a student has taken the ACT or SAT a number of times.

With both the ACT and SAT deadlines are very important. If a student chooses to register after a registration deadline, there are additional costs. I have registration materials available in my office. Students may register for the ACT online at www.actstudent.org or the SAT at www.collegeboard.com, but they **must** remember to put in our high school code which is **280-440**. Also student now need to upload a **picture** of them when they register... A picture can even be taken with a cell phone and uploaded.

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline
ACT	April 13	March 8
ACT	June 8	May 3
SAT	March 9	February 8
SAT	May 4	April 5
SAT	June 1	May 2

There are numerous ways that a student can prepare for the ACT/SAT –

- In my office I have free practice tests available for the ACT and SAT.
- There are daily ACT practice questions for free on the ACT website at www.actstudent.org.
- On the **Nebraska Career Information System** under Personal Learning Plans there are free practice tests and information for the ACT and SAT, as well as for the PSAT, ASVAB, GED, CLEP, and TOEFL exams.
- There is a way to practice for numerous tests for free at the military website called www.march2success.com.
- Students may take a wonderful online ACT course through John Baylor at their own expense at <http://www.BaylorTestPrep.com>.
- Some students complete ACT/SAT Test Prep Classes through Sylvan Learning Center in Grand Island at their own expense.

College Bound Nebraska

Senior parents – Check out this wonderful opportunity for students from families with a financial need... Accepted University of Nebraska students at Omaha, Kearney, and Lincoln are guaranteed total grant assistance equal to, or greater than, the full cost of tuition through College Bound Nebraska. To be eligible students, with the help of their parents, would need to:

- Apply and be accepted to the University of Nebraska and
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 1 each year and
- Be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant (federal grants for students from low income families)
- Finish the Financial Aid process by June 1, 2013.
- Must be enrolled in at least 12 on-campus credit hours.

Nebraska State College System Advantage Program

Nearly one-third of all students in the Nebraska State College System — Wayne State College, Peru State College, and Chadron State College - receive federal Pell Grant funding. Through the NSCS Advantage Program Pell-eligible first-year students will have free tuition. Students can continue to receive this tuition assistance throughout their college career as long as they remain eligible to receive federal Pell Grant awards and as long as they continue to enroll in at least 12 credit hours. Students must meet five criteria to qualify for the NSCS Advantage Program:

- They must be a Nebraska resident
- They must be a recipient of a federal Pell Grant
- They must be a student attending Wayne, Chadron, or Peru State
- They may not be a transfer student
- They must be enrolled in at least 12 on-campus credit hours

Financial Aid for College

There are various types of Financial Aid available to students planning to go on to college. Below is a summary of what is offered to students currently. These include:

Grants are awarded to students who show financial need. The FAFSA results determine your eligibility. Pell Grant is the largest grant program with amounts ranging from \$555 to \$5,550. Other grants are: Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Academic Competitiveness Grants, State Grants, and College-based grants.

Scholarships may be based on financial need, but many reward talents such as academics, leadership, music, athletics, or community involvement.

Work-Study allows you to earn money while attending college. You get paid for the hours worked just like a regular job.

Student Loans are a type of financial aid that must be repaid with interest.

FAFSA Filing Information

Parents of college-bound seniors should plan to complete a FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid whether or not you think your senior would qualify for any need based assistance.

Preparation is the key to successfully completing and filing the FAFSA. Before a parent applies for financial aid, the parent and their senior should first apply for a **Personal Identification Number** or **PIN**, which is used as an electronic signature for the on-line FAFSA. Visit www.pin.ed.gov, click on the "Apply for PIN graphic", and enter the requested information. You'll have the PIN numbers within a few days.

Parents should go to this free website to apply **online** at www.fafsa.ed.gov and may also receive information about the U.S. Department of Education's student aid programs at www.studentaid.ed.gov. Parents of seniors should generally complete the FAFSA by April 1 (and for some schools as early as March 1st) to receive the best types of financial aid. Check with the college that your senior has applied to for their specific FAFSA filing deadline.

You may use the IRS Data Retrieval Process to complete your FAFSA. Approximately two weeks after electronically filing your tax forms, your IRS data will be available to retrieve and transfer into your FAFSA form. Look for this option when completing the income portion of the FAFSA online.

You will need the following information to complete the FAFSA process:

- 2012 federal income tax forms for parent and student and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2012 W-2 forms for parent and student
- PIN numbers for parent and student (obtained ahead of time as outlined above).
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that your family lives on and operates)
- 2012 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2012 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2012 (veteran's benefits, housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy)
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Many parents of seniors have decided to get free assistance with the FAFSA through their nearest Education Quest Office. You may wish to contact them now for an appointment. It is important to have your taxes figured as early as possible; so that you can complete the FAFSA by the deadline required. Last year the Education Quest Foundation helped to figure and file more than half of all of the FAFSA forms filed in Nebraska. Parents are also encouraged to go to the Education Quest website at www.educationquest.org to view the FAFSA tutorial and related information. You may contact the College Planning Office at Education Quest at 800-303-3745 if you have specific questions when filing the FAFSA yourself.

If you did not use the new IRS Data Retrieval process when you initially filed your FAFSA, EducationQuest encourages you to "correct your FAFSA" and use the IRS Data Retrieval process to input income tax data for you and your senior. If you did not use the IRS Data Retrieval process, your college may require you to provide a copy of your IRS tax transcript.

Education Quest has been offering totally free college planning services for over 20 years. They specifically help with scholarship and college searches, student loan counseling and, as mentioned, with FAFSA completion and electronic filing (which is much faster). Education Quest is supported through an endowment and may be contacted by calling the office in Kearney at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745, or Omaha at 888-357-6300. Their website is www.educationquest.org.

SAR - Student Aid Report

A Message to Parents from Education Quest:

Dear Parent,

If all went as planned, you completed the FAFSA recently, and your student will receive the **Student Aid Report (SAR)** soon. The SAR will arrive via email if your student supplied their email address on the FAFSA, otherwise it will arrive in the mail.

The SAR acknowledges that the FAFSA was processed -- and indicates your student's Pell Grant eligibility and Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The same information is supplied to the colleges your child listed on the FAFSA. The colleges use the EFC to award financial aid.

The college may request copies of your federal tax returns to **verify your FAFSA** information. If they ask for them, send them directly to the Financial Aid Office at the college -- along with anything else they request. It may feel like they want your first-born, but they're just following Uncle Sam's rules.

Your college will send your child a **financial aid award letter** detailing the assistance they're offering -- the award letter may arrive in the mail or electronically via email. Have your child accept the financial aid package and return the award letter to the college by the deadline (each college will have its own deadline). **If your child applied to more than one college, have her/him accept all the award letters and make a final selection later.**

Financial aid award letters can be confusing. Don't be afraid to call the Financial Aid Office at the college if you have any questions.

Check out [EducationQuest's web site](#) for more college planning information, or call the EducationQuest Office for help with financial aid questions.

Lincoln Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

If you are interested in being **paid while you learn** to work in the electrical field, please see Counselor Anderson about this paid training program. It has been in existence in Lincoln for over 60 years. There are two types of programs:

*The Inside Program -- all types of electrical work, other than outside lineman work. This is a five year program.

*The Installer Technician Program -- working on lower voltage systems, such as data communication, fire alarms, security, and fiber optics. This is a 3 year program.

Vocational Rehabilitation Opportunity

If you are working with Vocational Rehabilitation and are interested in welding, see Counselor Anderson for information about earning a certificate from CCC in Welding through a special program. Vocational Rehabilitation also has another opportunity in the electrical field for those who qualify, see Counselor Anderson for information about earning this certificate from CCC.

Alert -- Scholarship Scams

If you receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services, *disregard them* if a fee is involved. How do you know if the offer is a scam? Watch for this type of language... If you have questions about offers or invitations you receive, ask EducationQuest or me about them.

- "You've been selected" or "You're a finalist."
- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "May I have your credit card number or checking account routing number?"
- "The scholarship will cost some money."

Senior Scholarship Information:

If you have a parent with a disability you may wish to check out the scholarship opportunity at www.lookingglass.org.

Seniors in the Central City **TeamMates** Program should contact Counselor Anderson about scholarship opportunities through the TeamMates Program.

Contact our local **Eagles Club** if your relative is a member for a scholarship application.

See Counselor Anderson about a local **Eastern Star Scholarship** opportunity.

Central City Junior Wrestling Program has a scholarship available. Contact Mr. Maresh or me for an application.

Cooperative Producers, Inc. (CPI) has scholarships for the children of their employees; and also for the children of their patrons. See Counselor Anderson for details.

The **Gilbraitti Scholarship** is a \$500 award for a senior who plans to attend college. Applications can be found at www.langleymortgagebrokers.com and all materials are due prior to the March 30, 2013 deadline.

The **Nebraska Legal Professionals Association** has a scholarship for students who wish to pursue an education in law or a legal support field. The deadline is March 31, 2013.

The **Conestoga Mall Community Services Scholarship** is for students who have a high academic average while working to improve the quality of life in their school and community. All applications must be submitted in person or postmarked no later than March 31, 2013.

The **American College Foundation** has Visionary Scholarship money for students planning to attend college. Go to http://americancollegefoundation.org/college_planning/visionary_scholarship_terms.aspx. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

The **Nebraska Agri-Women** have a scholarship for male or female applicants who plan to enter into the field of agriculture. The Deadline is April 1, 2013.

CCC has another scholarship opportunity, the **Davis/Chambers Scholarships**, for students who come from diverse backgrounds who find financial concerns as a major obstacle. Go to www.cccneb.edu/downloads/DavisChambersApplicationInformation.pdf. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

The **Norden Club of Lincoln** has grant opportunities for students who wish to pursue an educational experience or project pertaining to any of the five Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, or Sweden. This can include study abroad programs and travel. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

The **River Rats Association** has two \$500 scholarships available. Applicants must be related to a paid member of the association (child, grandchild, step-child, and step-grandchild). The deadline is April 1, 2013.

If you are planning to attend college and major in physical science (including the areas of chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, or social science) see Counselor Anderson for the **Jim Johnson Scholarship** application. It is due April 1, 2013.

Southern Power District has a scholarship for an individual who plans to enroll in the utility line program. Go to www.southernpd.com, then to careers, and scholarships. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

The **Nebraska School Counselor Association** has a scholarship for seniors planning to attend college. The deadline is April 1, 2013. Contact Counselor Anderson for more information.

The local **River Rats Association** has scholarships for students who are related to a River Rats member. See Counselor Anderson for an application. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

The **Grand Island Area Retired School Personnel Association** has a scholarship for seniors hoping to enter the field of education. The deadline is April 2, 2013.

If you are interested in automotive related career, apply for the **Carriage House Foundation Scholarship**. The application is due by April 5, 2013.

Nebraskans for Peace have scholarships for seniors who wish to pursue a college education. The scholarships are designed for those who wish to go into such areas as community building, education, and political action. The deadline for submission is April 8, 2013. Go to NFPscholarship@gmail.com for more information.

Litzenberg Hospital Auxiliary plans to award three \$1,000 scholarships to seniors with Merrick County addresses who plan to go into a health care career. You may pick up an application in my office or go to www.lmchospital.org to the scholarship link on the left side of the screen. Applications must be received or postmarked by April 10, 2013.

The **Central City FFA Alumni Chapter** has a scholarship for seniors in FFA. The deadline is April 10, 2013.

The **Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award** is for \$500 and is designed for a student who has completed at least 50 hours of community service over the past two years. Go to www.bbgcommunicationunitedstates.com and the deadline is April 15, 2013.

The **James M. Cox Scholarship** application may be picked up in Counselor Anderson's Office. It is a wonderful \$1,000 Scholarship that has been given to a number of our students over the years, both for 4 year and community college training. A one page essay is required. The deadline is April 15, 2013.

Lone Tree Medical has four \$500 scholarships for students who are patients and who plan to earn a degree in a health care field. The deadline is April 15, 2013.

The **Clarks Public School Endowment Fund** has a scholarship for the child or grandchild of Clarks High School graduates. If your parent or grandparent graduated from Clarks, see Counselor Anderson for an application. Applications must be received before April 15, 2013.

Student Insights is once again sponsoring a scholarship contest for high school seniors. Simply log on to www.student-view.com and complete a 20 minute application survey about colleges in your area. The scholarships will be awarded via a random drawing. Student Insights is a market research firm helping colleges and universities communicate more effectively with HS seniors. The deadline is April 21, 2013.

The **Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska** have a scholarship for the children of their members. See Counselor Anderson for an application. It is due by April 30, 2013.

The **Healthy Choices Scholarship** deadline is April 30, 2013. Additional information may be found at www.chiropractorkelowna.ca.

The **Hispanic Professional Engineers** scholarship application is now available at www.shpefoundation.org/scholarships/ahetems-general-scholarships/ with a May 1, 2013 deadline.

Scholarship by Design Award deadline is May 1, 2013. Students can find out more information at www.studentscholarships.org/scholarshipsforcollege.php.

Phi Delta Theta has a scholarship for a male who plans to attend UNK. See Counselor Anderson for an application. The deadline is May 27, 2013.

If you are a young man who plans to attend UNK, see me about the UNK Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity **Balanced Man Scholarship** for \$1,000. The deadline is May 31, 2013.

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity has a scholarship opportunity for male students planning to attend UNK. The deadline is July 1, 2013. See Counselor Anderson for more information

Listed are some scholarship search sites from Education Quest:

Scholarship Quest at My.EducationQuest.org
Fastaid.com
ScholarshipExperts.com
SchoolSoup.com
Scholarships.com
ScholarshipMonkey.com

Please provide to Counselor Anderson copies of your scholarship award information by Monday April 28th, so that the information may be included in the Grand Island Independent, the Republican Nonpareil, and the Honors Night Program.