

Guidance Notes

To: All Central City High School Seniors and Parents

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

Date: March 15, 2012

Seniors and Parents - Please note these important times and dates:

***Prom** will be held on Saturday, April 14th.

***Please** provide to Counselor Anderson by 8 am on Monday, April 30th, 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 7th at 7 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

***Graduation for the CCHS Graduating Class of 2012** will be on Sunday May 13th in the Middle School Gym 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 20, 2012. An application can be picked up at CCC or accessed on their website at www.cccneb.edu under Financial Aid.

The Nebraska Career Information System

The Nebraska Career Information System (CIS) for the Internet is full of interest inventories, occupational, college, scholarship, and job listing information. Just go to...

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

USERNAME: 09centralhs

PASSWORD: H005709

Free Tuition for College:

College Bound Nebraska provides a wonderful opportunity for college bound seniors from families with financial need. Accepted UNL, UNO, and UNK students may attend tuition free. To be eligible, a student must have been accepted by the scholarship deadline, complete a FAFSA and send the results to the college by April 1st, and be eligible for any portion of a Federal Pell Grant. Students may also qualify for assistance even if they aren't Pell Grant eligible. A typical family of four with one member in college and an income of \$50,000 or less may qualify. For more information, visit www.collegeboundnebraska.com. There is a similar program through Wayne State, Chadron State, and Peru State called the **Advantage Program**.

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."

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.

This year 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:

- 2011 federal income tax forms for parent and student and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2011 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)
- 2011 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2011 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2011 (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.

Central Community College will also assist students planning to attend CCC with the FAFSA through their Financial Aid Office.

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](http://www.educationquest.org) for more college planning information, or call the EducationQuest Office for help with financial aid questions.

Scholarship Information:

The **US Bank Internet Scholarship Program** runs through March 2012. Forty \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend a two or four year college in a random drawing. We have had students awarded these scholarships before! Apply online at usbank.com/scholarship.

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

Central City Junior Wrestling Program has a scholarship available. Contact Counselor Anderson for an application.

The **ISM Nebraska "Excellence in Business"** \$1500 Scholarship is due on March 16, 2012. This is for seniors who plan to major in business administration.

The **Gus Swanson Memorial Communications Scholarship** is for seniors interested in advertising, marketing, mass communications, communication studies, public relations, journalism, graphic design and desktop publishing. The deadline is March 16, 2012. Contact Counselor Anderson for an application.

The **Nebraska Rod and Custom Association** is offering a scholarship for students entering an automotive program of study. The deadline is March 16, 2012. See Counselor Anderson for an application.

The **Omaha Chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)** is offering several \$1,000 scholarships to help further the education of students who are planning to attend or continuing to attend a college, university, or technical school in Nebraska or western Iowa with the goal of achieving an undergraduate degree in Information Systems, Information Technology, Computer Science, or a related field. Forms are available at www.aitpomaha.org. The deadline is March 16, 2012.

The **SAMMY "Scholar Milk Mustache of the Year" Award Program** recognizes outstanding scholar athletes. Applications will be accepted online at sammyapplication.com until March 19, 2012.

The **Odenza Marketing Scholarship** may be found at www.studentscholarships.org/scholarship.php. The deadline is March 30, 2012.

The **Lincoln Builders Bureau** has a scholarship for member company employees and their dependents. The deadline is March 30, 2012.

The **Nebraska School Counselor Association** has a scholarship available to seniors planning to attend college. The deadline is March 31, 2012. Contact Counselor Anderson for an application.

Merrick County Farm Bureau has scholarships for area students. Pick up an application from the Guidance Office. The deadline is March 31, 2012.

The **Conestoga Mall** has a scholarship for \$500. Students who have been active in activities in school and their community will be considered. Scholarship materials must be received by the Conestoga Mall Office by March 31, 2012.

Southern Power District is offering \$1000 scholarships to individuals who plan to attend an accredited school to begin a utility line study program. The applicant must agree to complete a 12 week summer internship with Southern Power in cooperation with the school attended. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

The local **River Rats Association** is offering two \$500 scholarships to the child, grandchild, stepchild, step grandchild, or child member of the River Rats Association. Contact Counselor Anderson for an application. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

The Nebraska Agri-Women have a \$250 scholarship for a boy or girl interested in an agricultural related major in college or technical school. Diesel mechanics would also qualify. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

The **Jim Johnson Scholarship** will be awarded to a person going into meteorology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science or a related field. The deadline is April 1, 2012. Contact Counselor Anderson for details.

Merrick County 4-H Scholarship and the **Dan and Susan Monaghan 4-H Scholarship** applications and further information are available to 4-H members through the Merrick County Extension Office with an April 1st deadline.

This is a wonderful opportunity for any senior with a financial need... If a student is eligible for any portion of the Pell Grant through the FAFSA - **College Bound Nebraska** will guarantee total grant assistance equal to, or greater than, the full cost of tuition to any student planning to attend any University of Nebraska Campus - Omaha, Kearney, or Lincoln - as long as the college application deadline is met and the FAFSA is completed and submitted to the college by April 1, 2012. A similar program called the **NSCS Advantage Program** is available through Wayne, Chadron, and Peru State Colleges.

Cornerstone Bank will have a \$1,000 scholarship for students to apply for in the spring. Contact Counselor Anderson for an application. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity will be awarding two Balanced Man \$1,000 scholarships to male high school students planning to attend UNL. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

The **Grand Island Area Retired School Personnel** will award scholarships of \$500 each for selected students who plan to pursue a degree in education. The deadline is April 2, 2012.

The **Johnny Baxter Carriage House Foundation** has \$1000 scholarships available for students interested in training for an automotive career. The deadline is April 6, 2012.

Litzenberg Memorial Hospital Auxiliary has three \$1000 awards available for students with a Merrick County address who plan to enter a health care profession. The deadline is April 13, 2012.

The **James M. Cox** is one of the best scholarships available to students with some financial need. We have had a number of students receive this \$1,000 scholarship. The deadline is April 13, 2012.

Lone Tree Medical Associates have 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, 2012.

Our local **Eagles Club** has scholarships available to children of members of the Eagles Club. Applications may be picked up at the Eagles Club. There is an April 15, 2012 deadline.

Central Community College has a Summer Scholarship of \$150 for current high school junior and senior students who are interested in taking a summer course at CCC. These scholarships can be found at [www.ccnneb.edu/Summer\\$](http://www.ccnneb.edu/Summer$) will be awarded after an application/review process with an April 20, 2012 deadline.

The **Hordville Lions Club** Scholarship is for a senior who is a resident of the High Plains Community School District. Pick up an application from Counselor Anderson. The deadline is April 25, 2012.

Our local **Eastern Star Organization** has scholarships for selected high school seniors. Pick up an application from the Guidance Office. The deadline is April 29, 2012.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity will be awarding a **Balanced Man** \$1,000 scholarship to a male high school student planning to attend UNK. The deadline is April 30, 2012.

Attention students interested in an agricultural field, you may wish to check out the \$1000 **Nebraska Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Greater Horizon Scholarship**. The deadline is May 1, 2012.

The **Vancouver Restaurant Scholarship** may be found at www.studentscholarships.org/scholarship.php. The deadline is May 30, 2012.

The **Big Dig Scholarship** for \$3,000 may be found at www.studentscholarships.org/scholarship.php. The deadline is June 1, 2012.

The **Jim Hurlbert Memorial Baseball Scholarship** is for a senior legion baseball player with a financial need. The deadline is June 15, 2012.

The **Man Mac Automatic Transmission Scholarship** may be found at www.studentscholarships.org/scholarship.php. The deadline is June 15, 2012.

The **Big Sun Organization** is proud to be able to continue to help young athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. The deadline is June 22, 2012. Go to www.bigsunathletics.com for more information.

The **American Legion Baseball Scholarship** application may be found at www.legion.org/baseball. All materials are due no later than July 16, 2012.

Your family's **church** and/or **employers** are sometimes good sources of scholarship opportunities.
