

MASFAP/STLGraduates PDI Workshop on Financial Aid and Student Support Resources: MDHEWD, MOCAN and My Scholarship Central

November 20, 2020

- I. Kayla Klein welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda. Kayla then provided a walk through of housekeeping and a reminder to give others grace and space in these challenging and ever-changing times.
- II. MASFAP Updates: MASFAP is dedicated to service and advocacy.
 - a. Reminded the group of the MASFAP Scholarship, which is due November 30th. Open to students anywhere in Missouri and relatively short applications.
 - b. MASFAP will continue to do workshops with St. Louis Graduates in the spring.
 - c. Chris Bowen will be the new early awareness chair.
 - d. Melissa invited everyone to join for the final fall workshop, which is December 4th with Felipe Martinez on supporting undocumented students.
- III. Participants were sent to small breakout rooms to meet a colleague and introduce themselves to one another and check-in. Melissa Findley than welcomed us back.
- IV. Lisa Wilson spoke about Journey to College: Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy,
 - a. Journey to College includes:
 - i. Apply Missouri
 - ii. FAFSA Frenzy
 - iii. Decision Day
 - b. "College" refers to any post-secondary training beyond high school.
 - c. FAFSA Frenzy:
 - i. In 2018, 40% of Missouri seniors did not compete a FAFSA.
 - ii. FAFSA Frenzy is designed to provide 1:1 assistance to help students file the FAFSA.
 - iii. Students who attend a FAFSA Frenzy event are eligible to apply for Journey to College Book Scholarship.
 - iv. Hosted by high school, college, or community organization.
 - v. How can you participate:
 1. Register as site coordinator; use resource manual; recruit volunteers; promote scholarship; submit sign-in sheet and survey.
 2. Register at DHEWD website. Form is used for all three programs (Apply MO, FAFSA Frenzy, and Decision Day).
 - d. Contact office with any questions or concerns.
- V. Show-Me FAFSA Challenge: Kara Brietzke
 - a. Brand new statewide FAFSA completion competition among Missouri public high schools.
 - b. Schools will compete for scholarship prizes to be awarded in various categories.
 - c. Open to every public Missouri high school, which is already automatically entered. Schools sorted by size. The list of schools and groups will stay the same throughout the year.
 - i. 0-500 students
 - ii. 501-1200 students

- iii. 1200+ students
 - d. Four categories of award prizes:
 - i. Highest overall completion percentage. October 1, 2020-April 1, 2021
 - ii. Most improved completion percentage. October 1, 2020-April 1, 2021
 - iii. Greatest percentage of filers who are Pell Grant eligible
 - iv. Most innovative strategy: Not automatic. Schools must apply to be considered
 - e. Statewide Drawing: Would like to reach 60% threshold of eligible students filing a FAFSA. Schools meeting the 60% threshold are eligible for a statewide drawing.
 - f. Prizes:
 - i. Category Prize: \$750 Scholarship
 - ii. Statewide Prize: \$1,000 Scholarship
 - iii. MDHEWD recommends choosing prize recipients by random drawing of eligible students.
 - iv. Prizes will be sent to the student's school.
 - g. For more info: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/fafsachallenge>
 - h. Kara thanked the FAFSA Completion Advisory Group
- VI. State Aid Update: Kelli Reed
 - a. A+ COVID Accommodations for 2021 Seniors:
 - i. Different from 2020 accommodations
 - ii. Balancing student assistance and program integrity
 - iii. Attendance:
 - 1. On-Site (even if virtual) = Actual attendance
 - 2. Off-Site, virtual: DESE Guidance for A+ candidates: <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/sf-AAttendanceReporting.pdf>
 - 3. Schools may file blanket appeals for attendance.
 - iv. Tutoring/Mentoring:
 - 1. Reduced from 50 to 25 hours (12.5 can be job shadowing)
 - 2. Be creative
 - v. Mid-year, late graduates:
 - 1. Can receive spring A+ after graduation if allowed to enroll
 - 2. Stamped transcript must be on file at A+ institution to receive award.
 - vi. NO Accommodations for:
 - 1. Algebra 1 EOC. Can qualify on:
 - a. Proficient or advanced on higher level math EOC
 - b. ACT math/HS GPA combination
 - 2. 2.5 cumulative GPA
 - b. Bright Flight Awards
 - i. As of October, awards were revised to \$2,170 (\$900 for fall/\$1,270 spring)
 - c. Kelli.reed@dhewd.mo.gov
- VII. MOCAN: Keri Gilbert, Senior Associate Director
 - a. History
 - i. Launched in August, but first planning committee meeting occurred in December 2018.
 - ii. Collaboration with National College Attainment Network (NCAN)

- b. Mission is to increase career and college awareness, preparation, access, and completion in Missouri.
- c. We believe:
 - i. College does not just refer to bachelor's degree—it is attainment of any postsecondary credential beyond high school.
 - ii. Success in college and career begins in K-12 but can be achieved at any point.
 - iii. Postsecondary opportunity and attainment are a public good critical to create a just and equitable society, robust economy, and healthy communities.
- d. How?
 - i. **Advocating** for public and institutional policies...
 - ii. **Coordinating** statewide career preparation and college access and success activities for service providers
 - iii. **Leveraging** and connecting providers, professionals, and other stakeholders to strengthen and grow programs, and to eliminate service and equity gaps.
 - iv. **Centralizing** knowledge-sharing and technical training for career and college program providers.
 - v. **Identifying**, summarizing, and actively sharing standardized data collection measures and relevant research regarding career preparation and college access and success.
 - vi. **Fostering** a collective voice to communicate postsecondary educational and training opportunities for all in Missouri.
- e. Why MOCAN?
 - i. Focus on Missouri
 - ii. Collaboration
 - iii. Convenor and Conveyor
 - iv. Equity
- f. Homepage: <http://mocollegeaccess.org/>
 - i. Students:
 - 1. Scholarship Resources
 - 2. Financial resources information
 - 3. Resources by region
 - a. Resource Guide
 - 4. Glossary
 - 5. Other Helpful Information
 - ii. Professionals:
 - 1. Advocacy
 - 2. Glossary
 - 3. Resources by Region
 - 4. Toolkits
 - 5. Training
- g. Additional Areas of Focus:
 - i. Educational Dashboard
 - ii. Internet Access and Affordability
 - iii. MyScholarshipCentral

- h. Contact: www.Mocollegeaccess.org
- VIII. MyScholarshipCentral: Kaitlyn Venta
 - a. What is it?
 - i. Collaborative, free scholarship search and application website. Not a business; organization striving to help students find funding for college.
 - ii. Three foundations and 45 community organizations.
 - iii. 130+ opportunities
 - iv. Free for students—no advertisements.
 - b. New Search Tool:
 - i. Connects students to scholarship providers across the state
 - ii. Select region where you live
 - iii. Click “View Scholarship Providers” button
 - iv. Review information about the scholarship providers
 - v. Click “Apply Now” button to apply directly with the organization:
www.myscholarshipcentral.org
 - c. Two Step Process
 - i. **General Application:**
 - 1. Profile
 - 2. Seen by all scholarships a student applies to.
 - 3. Information used to determine scholarship qualifications
 - 4. Just completing the general application does NOT qualify a student for any scholarships or interest-free loans.
 - ii. **Opportunity Applications:**
 - 1. How a student actually applies for a scholarship
 - 2. Recommended list of scholarships
 - 3. Read criteria and eligibility
 - 4. Complete applications for specific scholarships
 - 5. Deadlines vary.
 - d. Updates:
 - i. ACT/SAT Requirements: Kaitlyn is working with providers to be flexible.
 - ii. Start dates—as a reminder, a lot opens January 1st
 - iii. Opt-in to texting: Remind them of important deadlines or notify they have been awarded a scholarship.
 - iv. Really important to update their high school transcript in January; fall 2020 grades are required by many scholarship providers.**
 - v. Journey to College Book Scholarship:
 - vi. Opportunities -Grants: In a separate place because it does not require the general application.
 - e. Last year over \$9 million was awarded in scholarships and interest-free loans.
 - f. Students who complete one scholarship application—about 50% receive one scholarship.
- IX. Additional Resources:
 - a. Federal Student Aid website and YouTube
 - b. Scholarship Foundation Financial Aid Basics videos

CHAT NOTES

- 10:07:03 From Kaitlyn Venta : MASFAP Scholarship - deadline is November 30 - <https://stlouisgraduates.academicworks.com/opportunities/3678>
- 10:07:22 From Kaitlyn Venta : Open to students anywhere in Missouri
- 10:08:26 From Becca Diskin : Welcome Chris! :)
- 10:08:35 From Laura Winter : Thank you, Kayla! and welcome, Chris!
- 10:08:59 From Laura Winter : Final Fall 2020 PDI - Dec. 4th - Supporting Undocumented Youth with Felipe Martinez of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemL3DNfYt1GMhcrjN7V98WNUq7KaK2NQOXY87w2K3jngXgbw/viewform>
- 10:16:52 From Ritenour- Julie Kampschroeder : Tara my email is kampschroederj@ritenourschools.org
- 10:17:20 From Kristen Seabaugh : Asia my email is klseabaugh@semo.edu - I will be sending you something shortly
- 10:18:01 From Becca Diskin : Yay Lisa! :)
- 10:20:18 From Kaitlyn Venta : Journey to College Book Scholarship - Deadline Feb 28 - <https://stlouisgraduates.academicworks.com/opportunities/3656>
- 10:20:52 From Kaitlyn Venta : Open to all Missouri students attending or planning to attend college in Missouri - best of all - no essay required!
- 10:31:17 From Ashley June Moore : <https://dhewd.mo.gov/afsachallenge>
- 10:37:54 From Meladee Patterson : Will this session be recorded? I must leave early and don't want to miss anything. Thank you.
- 10:38:49 From Kayla Klein : Meladee, We are recording the session and it will be posted on the St.Louis graduate page and an email will be sent out when it is posted
- 10:39:12 From Laura Winter : Yes. I send out the links after every PDI and they are all on our website and YouTube channel
- 10:39:46 From Meladee Patterson : Our district will probably be all virtual until the end of the year. What do students need to do for the EOC?
- 10:40:04 From Meladee Patterson : Thank you Laura.
- 10:41:44 From Beth Gandy : So those Bright Flight amounts are for current college freshman, not the class of 2021?
- 10:42:15 From Kelli Reed : kelli.reed@dhewd.mo.gov, (573) 751-2444

10:43:37 From Lisa Wilson-MDHEWD : For Journey to College programs you may contact our team at JourneytoCollege@dhewd.mo.gov Thank you!

10:59:37 From Ashley June Moore : <https://mocollegeaccess.org>

11:02:47 From Ashley June Moore : Scholarship Central: <https://myscholarshipcentral.org/>

11:05:54 From Tamara Harris : Once the general application is completed, will students get a notification when scholarships are available/open to start applying?

11:10:40 From Ashley June Moore : Journey to College Book Scholarship - Deadline Feb 28 - <https://stlouisgraduates.academicworks.com/opportunities/3656>

11:28:35 From Pattonville HS Michelle Luraschi : Thank you for encouraging scholarship providers to focus less on the ACT with the challenges of access this year! Do you feel like scholarship providers are receptive to talking about a permanent elimination of test scores in scholarship consideration since testing tends to perpetuate educational inequities?

11:53:11 From Ellen : if HS seniors uploaded 11th grade transcripts, they will need to upload a first semester senior year transcript in January.

11:54:20 From Helene Slinker - MCAC/Belton : Do you ever give these virtual walkthrough presentations directly to high school seniors/parents? If so, how can we set one up with you?

11:55:13 From Kaitlyn Venta : kventa@myscholarshipcentral.org

11:55:36 From Melissa Findley : Thanks Kaitlyn

11:56:56 From Pattonville HS Michelle Luraschi : Thank you!

11:56:58 From Marvin Bullard : Thank you

11:57:01 From Robert Sagastume : Thank you! <3

11:57:08 From Lisa Wilson-MDHEWD : thank you Kaitlyn!!