No Dollar Left Behind:
Organizing a Community-Based Approach to FAFSA Completion

September 18, 2018
Welcome!

Amy Bolick, MA
Community Engagement and Programs Manager

abolick@FloridaCollegeAccess.org

@abolick_FCAN
Today’s Panel

Jessica Manchette
Senior Director of Program Initiatives

Douglas Griesenauer
Director of Workforce Development & Financial Stability Initiatives

United Way Suncoast

Future Makers Coalition

Champions For Learning™
Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions
• Share on social media
  @FLCollegeAccess
  #FCAN
  #FAFSAChallenge
  #FAFSA

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Florida College Access Network

**Our mission:** To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career readiness, access, and completion for all students

**Our vision:** At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025
Our Work

Local College Access Networks (LCANs)

Research & Policy

Statewide Initiatives

Register at www.floridacollegeacces.org/initiatives
The Florida FAFSA Challenge

• Challenge schools and communities to adopt the goal of increasing FAFSA completion by 5% over the previous year
• Runs October 1-March 31
• Awards for FAFSA Champions, MVP, and Most Improved
• NEW: FAFSA Innovator Award
FAFSA in Florida

• Florida ranks #3 in the nation for number of students eligible for a Pell Grant, but #31 for FAFSA completion
• By June 30, 2018, fewer than 50% of Florida public school students had completed the FAFSA
Nearly 10% of FAFSAs submitted in Florida in 2018 were incomplete or incorrect, making Florida the 4\textsuperscript{th} highest in the nation for FAFSA errors.

- If every submitted FAFSA in Florida had been completed, we would have exceeded our 5% goal.
- 30% of all FAFSA filers are selected for verification; 50% of low-income students.
FAFSA Resources

http://floridacollegeaccess.org/initiatives/florida-fafsa-challenge/
http://www.futuremakerscoalition.com/fafsafirst/

• FAFSA Challenge Toolkit
• Top FAFSA Mistakes Students Make
• FAFSA Verification Handout
• FAFSA Challenge Data Dashboard
• FAFSA Story Blog Posts
• Webinar: FAFSA is Not Enough
FAFSA Stories

Contact Amy Bolick
abolick@floridacollegeaccess.org
Community Partner Perspective
Douglas Griesenauer
LEAP’s vision is to reach 60% of working age adults (age 25-64) in Tampa Bay holding degrees and credentials by 2025.
How does United Way help?

- Recruits volunteers
- Reaches parents or adult FAFSA recipients through other programming
- Provides volunteer trainings
- Shares lessons learned
Value of Cross-trained volunteers

FAFSA

VITA
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

SNAP
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Who is a good volunteer?

- Anyone!
  - The biggest hurdle is demystifying the difficulties of FAFSA
  - That being said, easy sells are those who are already comfortable with FAFSA or government documents
    - Retired individuals are always golden
    - College students are good, if they’re the right ones
Value to Cross-aware programs

• VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers can be aware of anyone taking Education credits to ensure that complete FAFSA
• SNAP recipients completing forms can be informed of FAFSA if they disclose college-bound family members
• FAFSA clients can be referred to free tax prep services if they express frustration at tax section of FAFSA

• BE AWARE OF ADULT FAFSA USERS!
  • (aka non-high school)
Training details

• Held in the community
• Typically one LCAN community member and one College Financial Aid staff
• About two hours long (can be longer or shorter)
  • First quarter is gathering buy-in and building confidence
  • Middle two quarters is educating on details and special circumstances
  • Last quarter is just them practicing
    • Expect LOTS of questions
A typical volunteer training:

- Who helps make this happen? – sharing partnerships
- Why should we care? – setting the stage
- Common things to watch for – the real stuff
  - Student Dependency Status
  - Who counts as ‘Parents’ for the FAFSA?
  - Undocumented Parents or Students
  - What counts as Income & Assets?
- Line-by-line review – practice time!
As low-income rates rise, FAFSA completion goes down slightly

- Robinson High School: 44.5%
- East Bay High School: 63.6%
- Middleton High School: 80.3%
- Spoto High School: 48.0%
- Armwood High School: 48.0%
- Chamberlain High School: 80.3%

**Low Income Rate (2016-17)**

**FAFSA Completion Rate**
FAFSA Lab Example – Armwood High School

FAFSA Completion Rates 2016-17 (Oct. – Mar.)

12th graders: **555**

Low-income rate: **60.1%**

LEAP FAFSA Lab @ Armwood HS, Jan. 31st
How Can I Help Increase FAFSA Completion Rates?

• Volunteer to attend county-wide College Nights and Financial Aid Nights to share information about FAFSA completion -- already scheduled for the fall and seeking volunteers
• Volunteer for college-hosted FAFSA Labs to provide technical support
• Volunteer at individual school events to provide information and technical support:
  • Day-long College Application Days
  • FAFSA Labs scheduled at schools during the day, evening or on Saturdays
  • Many schools already have these events scheduled and are seeking volunteers
  • More events are being added to the schedule – so stay posted
Practice Time!!

user name: eddemo
password: fafsatest

SSN: 966-08-3013
Last Name: Lastname
First Name: Maxine
Date of Birth: 11/02/2000

**NOTE NEW BIRTHDATE!!**

FSA ID username: newuser33
FSA ID Password: Firstyear33
I can help!

Online FAFSA training:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQPVNmItMfM&t=1880s

My slides are always up for grabs – just ask:
• dgriesenauer@uwsuncoast.org

Happy to work with other communities (United Ways especially) on how they can best partner with their LCAN or community (if no LCAN available)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Projected Cost</th>
<th>Actual Cost</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage or rent</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second mortgage or rent</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>$54.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$46.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>$44.00</td>
<td>$56.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total:
- Projected Cost: $1,395.00
- Actual Cost: $1,436.00
- Difference: $41.00

UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY.

LIVE UNITED®
A network of more than 60 organizations, businesses, schools and community members working to ensure every child is ready for Kindergarten, and every young person enters adulthood with a vision and plan to accomplish that vision.
Future Ready Collier

FutureMakers Coalition

Goal:

To transform Southwest Florida’s workforce by increasing the number of college degrees, certificates or other high-quality credentials from 27 percent to 55 percent by 2025.
Resources

SCHOLARSHIPS
- Home
- List of Scholarships
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA Tutorial)
- Create an FSA ID Guide (English)
- Create an FSA ID Guide (Spanish)
- Create an FSA ID Guide (Chinese)
- Create an FSA ID Guide (Korean)
- Student Scholarship Application Form
- College Night Schools Financial Aid Links
- Application for Bright Futures
- Scholarship Volunteer Center for Bright Futures
- Steps on How to Apply for Scholarships
- Types of Financial Aid
- How to Apply for Financial Aid
- Rebuilding Scars
- Community Service Pre-Approval Documentation Form
- Scholarship Preparer Form
- Champions for Learning Community Resources
- Community Foundation Community Resource
- Florida College Access Network Community Resource
- 10 Top Ways Students Can Have More Money This School Year
- Savings Guide for College Students

FAFSA OPENS ON OCTOBER 1, 2018
- The 2019-20 FAFSA can be filed as early as October 1, 2018. The earlier you submit the FAFSA, the more opportunities for financial aid for your student.

- Income and tax information from 2017 will be used.

- See the resource links to the right for information on how to obtain an FSA ID and how to complete the FAFSA.
Common Errors on the FAFSA

What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2019-2020 school year?

High school diploma ▼

What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2019-2020 school year?

Never attended college/1st yr. ▼

What degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2019-2020 school year?

1st bachelor’s degree ▼

Are you interested in being considered for work-study?

Yes ▼

Will you have your first bachelor’s degree before you begin the 2019-2020 school year?

No ▼
• List up to 10 schools on the FAFSA
  • You can include schools that you have not yet applied or been accepted to
• List a Florida Public State College/University FIRST to ensure eligibility for state aid
  • Schools can not see the order of schools on a students FAFSA
  • Schools can not see the other schools listed on a students FAFSA
District-Wide Financial Aid Night

Collier County Public Schools
VIRTUAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, September 13, 2018
5 - 6 pm: FSA ID Labs Open
6 - 8 pm: Financial Aid Presentations
Q&A Session

PARENTS - Do you have questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid available for students?
The second annual Virtual Financial Aid Information Night will be held LVNC at multiple locations throughout the District. Experts will be available to share important financial aid information and help you understand the process of applying for this FAFSA. Topics will include:
- Creating an FSA ID
- Required documents for the FAFSA
- Important application deadlines
- Types of financial aid
- Searching for scholarship opportunities
- Financial aid myths vs facts

CCPS is holding this districtwide virtual event so parents can attend on one date at any of the locations listed below. The event will also be streamed LVNC online and on The Education Channel (page 96).

LOCATIONS
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center
- Golden Gate High School
- Gulf Coast High School
- Immokalee High School
- Lely High School
- Lorenzo Walker Technical High School
- Naples High School
- Palmetto Ridge High School

SPEAKERS
- Sharon Bayeta
  Education/Scholarship Director
  Community Foundation of Collier County
- Jessica Manchette
  Senior Director of Program Initiatives
  Champions for Learning
- Tidiana Merchante
  Associate Director, Financial Aid
  Florida SouthWestern State College

18
College Night

Monday, September 17, 2018
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Golden Gate High School Gym
(2925 Titan Way, Naples)

Visit with college and university representatives from throughout the country!

STUDENT REGISTRATION
Log in to Naviance

PARENT/GUARDIAN REGISTRATION
Register by visiting collierschools.com/CollegeNightRegister
FAFSA Completion Events

Need help with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
Get free on-site help in completing the FAFSA and speak with financial aid professionals about resources available to pay for higher education.

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**
Lorenzo Walker Technical High School
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3702 Eddy Avenue - Naples, FL

**Saturday, October 27, 2018**
Immokalee High School
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
701 Immokalee Drive - Immokalee, FL

**Saturday, November 10, 2018**
Gulf Coast High School
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
7678 Shark Way - Naples, FL

Who should attend?
Dependent students (parent(s) income under 241) need to attend with a parent or legal guardian. Parent(s) or legal guardian must bring the tax information listed below and the items listed on the “Things You Need to Bring” sheet.

- Independent students (age 24 or over) will not require a parent’s income, but must bring the tax information listed below and the items listed on the “Things You Need to Bring” sheet.

What to do 3-5 days BEFORE going to a FAFSA Completion Event
- Student and parent need to submit their FAFSA.
- Visit CollegeBoard.org
- If you have filed your 2017 tax return, bring:
  - Your (or applicable parent’s) most recent Federal income tax return
  - IRS Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ
  - Foreign tax return, if applicable
  - Tax return from Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia
- If you have NOT filed your 2017 tax return, bring:
  - All applicable IRS forms
  - A list of all income received not listed on a W-2 form

Things you need to bring
- You and your parent need to bring your Filling ID.
- Social Security numbers for you and your parent(s) if they have one.
- 2017 Federal income tax return for you and/or your parent(s) or W-2s if applicable (if new contact in your parent’s name for 2017)
- If you are not a U.S. Citizen, bring your Alien Registration Number

Spanish and Creole translation services will be available.
FAFSA Mobile App
Join us for our next webinar

Meet ALICE: A Look at Florida’s Financially Struggling Population and How Communities are Using Data for Change

Tuesday October 2, 1 pm

Register at FloridaCollegeAccess.org/tag/upcoming-webinar/
Questions

@collegeaccess
@FormYourFuture_

#FAFSA
#FAFSAChallenge