



SSG Newsletter

SSG released its first newsletter in September 2011. We had three separate newsletters to promote SSG programs/information: Colleges/Universities Newsletters, SSG Partners Newsletters, and High School Counselors Newsletters. In an effort to streamline our processes we have decided to transition our newsletter to one electronic newsletter.

GovDelivery® has made it possible for us to increase the number of people with whom we communicate with by allowing individuals to subscribe to receive our e-newsletter.

If you know someone who is not getting our newsletter currently, direct them to our Web site, where they will find a link to subscribe. Visit www.michigan.gov/ssg.

This is our first e-newsletter. We hope that you find the new format easier to read, helpful, and informational.



New SSG Publications

Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) publications have been revised and new ones are now available! If you are interested in receiving copies of our publications, students/families/partners/financial aid professionals, please contact Shannon Price at 517-335-4884 or prices4@michigan.gov. If you are a high school counselor or administrator,

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MI College Goal

The 2014-15 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was released on January 1, 2014. SSG encourages Michigan families to attend the MI College Goal event to receive assistance on FAFSA completion. The event is Sunday, February 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. This event is held at locations across the state. Visit www.micollegegoal.org for location information or contact Patty Hill at 517-373-6051 or hillp@michigan.gov.

Michigan Student Financial Aid Association Winter Training

The Michigan Student Financial Aid Association (MSFAA), an SSG partner, is holding its Winter 2014 training on January 26-29. The theme is "Maneuver the Rapids - Regroup, Reorganize, Rebuild." At this event, SFSB Acting Director, Anne Wohlfert, will provide a State Update session that will outline policy issues and changes for the 2014-15 academic year. She will also introduce SSG's new manual for financial aid professionals, *Working with SSG*. Shannon Price, Coordinator of Outreach Activities, will be speaking at a session about financial education and provide an overview of SSG's financial education program "Collegiate Reality." Information can be found at www.msfaa.org.

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Our new publications include: Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Flyer, TIP Poster, SSG Programs at a Glance flyer, and an Informational Card/QR Code (business card size); all available now. *The Affording College in Michigan - A Guidebook for Students and Families* will be available in February.

Student Financial Services Bureau (SFSB)

We are excited to announce that the Michigan Department of Treasury has recognized the importance of student aid programs and has re-established SFSB. The new bureau includes SSG, the Student Loan Programs division, which includes the Michigan Guaranty Agency (MGA), and the Michigan Education Trust (MET) division. Anne Wohlfert is the Acting Director of the bureau. Anne will continue to head the bureau and SSG until a new director for SSG is named. "We are pleased for the opportunity to form a stronger presence within the department as we work with our partners like MSFAA, MCAN, EduGuide, and others to bring information and resources to Michigan students and their families," Anne said. Contact Anne at wohlferta@michigan.gov.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)

Recently SSG sent high schools a list of students who achieved qualifying ACT scores, meeting the merit criteria for MCS consideration. Because the scholarship is based on merit and financial need, students with qualifying scores must file the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need at the college they plan to attend in order to receive a monetary award. The ACT exam no longer requires students to report their Social Security Number (SSN). Since the main identifier for FAFSA is the SSN, it is often hard to match records. SSG sent information to high schools to



Outreach Activities

SSG's Outreach Activities unit works to assist Michigan families navigate college access and the financial aid process. We participate in financial aid nights, FAFSA completion events, classroom presentations, and college fairs. The following are some upcoming events:

Upcoming College Fairs

- Jan. 25: Wayne County College Resource Fair for Foster Youth
- Feb. 25: Marian High School
- March 11: Schoolcraft College
- March 11: St. Joseph High School
- March 12: Concordia University-Frankenmuth Center Birch Run Expo Center
- March 19: Gaylord High School
- March 20: Charlevoix High School
- March 27: Anchor Bay High School
- March 31: Metro Detroit National College Fair Suburban Collection Showplace
- April 1: Metro Detroit National College Fair Suburban Collection Showplace
- April 2: NACAC Grand Rapids-DeVos Place
- April 3: Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District Big Rapids
- April 17: Kalamazoo Central High School
- April 23: Saline High School

Upcoming Financial Education

be forwarded to parents. Please contact SSG at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687) to check the status of a student's record.

Tuition Incentive Program

SSG will mail application/eligibility letters to TIP eligible high school senior students at the end of January. Students can also check on their eligibility by contacting SSG at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687). Recently SSG produced a TIP promotional video that will be available for viewing in Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) lobby stations, Michigan high schools, and on our Web site. The video is an overview of the eligibility requirements and program details. The video will be available in February.

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Presentations

- Jan. 22: Davenport University-Warren Campus
- Feb. 3: Davenport University-Saginaw Campus
- Feb. 5: Schoolcraft College
- Feb. 6: Davenport University-Grand Rapids Campus
- Feb. 10: Early College of Macomb
- Feb. 10: Davenport University-Midland Campus
- Feb. 12: Davenport University-Kalamazoo Campus
- Feb. 13: Davenport University-Lansing Campus

Upcoming SSG Overview/FAFSA Presentations

- Jan. 16: MI Collegiate High School
- Jan. 21: Speaker for Fostering Success MI Webinar
- Jan. 23: Jackson High School
- Feb. 9: College Goal Sunday

For information on upcoming outreach events, please contact Shannon Price at 517-335-4884 or prices4@michigan.gov.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 26 - 29: [MSFAA Conference, Grand Rapids](#)

Feb. 2 - 5: [NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity-Building Workshop, Orlando, FL](#)

Feb. 9: [MI College Goal, state-wide](#)

Mar. 27 - 28: [MACAC Conference, Novi](#)

Mar. 30 - Apr. 1: [Equity Within the Classroom Conference, Ann Arbor](#)

Apr. 14: [MCAN Conference, Lansing](#)

Apr 24: [Governor's Education Summit, East Lansing](#)

