



News Release

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College Goal Sunday Helps Students, Families File for College Financial Aid

LANSING – Hundreds of volunteers will help college-bound Michigan students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at more than two dozen *College Goal Sunday* events across the state on February 13, 2011.

College Goal Sunday is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association, and EduGuide. The program was created to increase the number of students who continue education beyond high school and earn post-secondary degrees.

“For many families, the prospect of a college education seems overwhelming because the process is difficult for them, and too intimidating,” said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. “College Goal Sunday can be the gateway to getting financial aid for students wanting to go to college and pursue their dreams.”

The FAFSA is required of any student seeking financial aid including grants, loans, and many scholarships. Last year, more than 1,900 students received assistance at *College Goal Sunday* events.

"It is critical that high school seniors and their parents are aware of these *College Goal Sunday* events," said Bryan Taylor, President of EduGuide. "Students must complete and file a FAFSA in order to secure financial aid and should file by the March 1st priority date to ensure eligibility for federal and state programs." Statistics show that students who complete and submit FAFSA forms are more likely to go on to college.

On *College Goal Sunday*, financial aid experts will be available to guide students and their parents through each step of completing and filing the FAFSA. Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Parents and students should bring their completed 2010 Federal tax return (1040) if possible, or their W-2 and 1099 forms.

Dozens of sites across Michigan will be hosting *College Goal Sunday* on February 13, 2011. For a complete list of locations and additional information, visit www.micollegegoal.org. Two events

will be held on Saturday, February 12th, one at Delta College near Saginaw and the other at the Urban League of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, located at 15770 James Couzens in Detroit.

Valuable prizes will be awarded during *College Goal Sunday* events, including a \$1,000 scholarship, three \$500 scholarships, an iPod Nano, and a Dell laptop computer.

Additional support for College Goal Sunday was provided by the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Lumina Foundation for Education, and the DTE Energy Foundation.

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