

Senior Newsletter

December 2010

COLLEGE APPLICATION DAY



College Application Day was a huge success and we had a great response! Thanks to the following for their support:

Steve Brown

Haywood Co. Schools Foundation

Lynsey Newhouse

Western Carolina University

Allison Francis & Travis Hipps

State Employee's Credit Union

Nancy Moore

AB Tech

Dominique Benson

Southwestern Community College

Angela Uhl-Kalev & Jennifer Herrera

Haywood Community College

A special thanks to

**Carla Brookshire, Maggie Melville,
Robbie Robles, & Karen Sutton!**

We are privileged to have such wonderful teachers at Tuscola who support the Counseling Center's efforts to prepare our students for the world beyond high school! Thanks so much for all you do!

Scholarship Database

Please visit our website for the updated scholarship database.

Remember to meet the deadlines required by colleges to be considered for scholarships at their school!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!



Haywood County
Big Brothers/Big
Sisters

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Haywood County is in need of current seniors who are planning to stay in the area next year whether attending HCC, WCU, or in the work field. There are numerous children on the waiting list and they are especially in need of adult males.

The commitment requires that you spend a few hours twice a month to spend with a child in Haywood County in the traditional program. This is also a 1 to 2 year commitment. The child benefits **greatly** just by having an adult friend who cares about them.

If interested, please call
Martha Barksdale at 273-3601.



December To Do List

- Review all application details and keep copies of everything you send to colleges. Make sure the colleges have received all needed materials including transcripts.
- You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to establish income on aid forms that you'll file early next year & start getting tax information organized so you will be ready to file.
- Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Men, who are 18 years of age or older, must register with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything sent.



SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS: TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. **Here are some common signs of scams.**

Exclusive scholarship info! If a service claims to have "exclusive" information—not available anywhere else—this is almost certainly a fiction. In fact, the vast majority of financial aid comes from the federal government and from universities themselves. Those private foundations and organizations that do offer scholarships are eager to spread the word so they can attract the best candidates—they have no interest in keeping secrets.

No work—free money for college! Another red flag is a claim from any service that it will do "all the work" for applicants. Any legitimate scholarship sponsor will want to hear from the student herself, and that means filling out paperwork, writing a letter or essay, and so on. There is simply no way around it.

Scholarship guaranteed! No service can guarantee students a scholarship. Money-back guarantees are a common feature of scholarship scams—the fine print reveals a list of virtually impossible stipulations in the event the student wants to reclaim her money. Every true scholarship has some parameters—for example, grade point average, professional interest, volunteer service, or club affiliation. So if a service claims it can obtain funds for anyone, it's not being honest.

You've been selected! Unsolicited offers are always suspect and any notification that comes over the phone is almost sure to be a scam. If a student receives information she has not requested, she should investigate before she gives out any personal information or "processing" fees. She can ask how the organization got her name, make follow-up phone calls to check their answer, conduct an online search on the organization, and, of course, come to your office for advice.

Application fees: As a general rule, no one should have to pay more than postage to apply for a scholarship. Legitimate foundations rarely charge applicants, and if they do the fee is minimal.

"Advance-fee" loans: Tell families to be wary of any offer for an unusually low-interest educational loan that requires the student to pay an up-front fee before the loan will be approved or disbursed. Real loans will deduct their processing fees from the student's check when they send it. Families should be especially suspicious if they don't recognize the lender's name—it's worth showing the offer to their local bank officer for a professional opinion.

"Free seminar" or candidate interview: This is often a glorified sales pitch for a financial aid or scholarship consulting service, or a pricey student loan.

Information Provided By: www.collegeboard.com



Get Ready To File For Financial Aid!



NextStepU.com



Learn from college students firsthand, share ideas, help with college matching, chances to win free tuition, and scholarship searches!

College Information

- Randolph-Macon College—For scholarships, please see www.rmc.edu/financialaid
- UNCW Pre-Engineering Transfer Program—For more information visit www.uncw.edu/preeng/
- Catawba College—Open House Events—Please visit www.catawba.edu/openhouse
- Sweet Briar College—Engineering Programs—Visit www.engineering.sbc.edu