

September 2015

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College Fairs

September and October are typically the months that schools host college fairs. This is an important time for many students to gather information about institutions of higher learning. Some students do not have the family support to make campus visits and this event may be the only time they ever speak with a college representative.

Prepare students ahead of time for this event by printing out and distributing College Board's [College Fair Checklist](#).

If you haven't planned to host a college fair at your school, network with other school counselors in your area to see if your students can visit their college fair. Seek out district-wide college fairs. Also check with nearby postsecondary institutions for times they are hosting open house or campus tours.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



FLVC IS NOW FLORIDA SHINES

The Florida Virtual Campus has changed its name and website address.

The new name is Florida Shines. You can access the new website portal by visiting www.FloridaShines.org.

Anyone accessing the old site will be redirected to the new site automatically for a period of time.



Online Training Available

The Information and Training Unit of the Office of Student Financial Assistance provides free online training to better understand the Bright Futures Scholarship Program and how to navigate the Florida Financial Aid Application.

Barbara Dombrowski, Director of Information and Training, along with Ariel Floyd, Financial Aid/Higher Education Trainer Program Specialist, will be glad to work with you to schedule a webinar for your staff.

For more information, please e-mail

OSFAttraining@fldoe.org.



Financial Literacy Ideas

Does your school offer options to instill the life skills needed to manage money wisely? There are many options available to get students involved in this topic:

Host a workshop on budgeting. Use the 52 Week Money Challenge as an assignment. Follow up as the year progresses.

Have a local bank representative explain the process of opening a savings account/checking account. Statistics show that students with a savings account in their name are six times more likely to attend college than those who do not.

Offer a monthly club meeting to download and read an article related to money and discuss how this impacts their generation.

Host a "Ways To Save Money in College" session for seniors. Talk about free activities on campus and how to stretch a dollar for food purchases and clothing.

Financial Aid Night TOOLKIT

The Financial Aid Toolkit offers a great way to stay on task with planning your event this fall semester. The step-by-step guidance provides suggestions for the venue, marketing materials, announcements, and media coverage.

Materials needed for your event are included under the Publications and Handouts section of the template:

- PowerPoint presentation w/speaker's notes
- Audio presentation to post on your website for those who cannot attend
- Brochures to order
- Additional handouts

Go to www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select the RESOURCES tab to access the TOOLKIT.



Did you know that service hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program now include new service work opportunities?

The 2015 Florida Legislative session expanded service hours to include (but are not limited to):

- Business/government internship
- Nonprofit service organization work
- Service on behalf of a candidate for public office

As always, service hours must be documented in writing and signed by the student, the student's parent/guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the service work. (OSFA-STATE HS: #15-16:01 Memorandum)



COLLEGE

Monthly E-News for Students

The September issue of the monthly E-News for Students is now available!

Print, download or e-mail this financial well-being newsletter monthly as an additional resource for your students.

The E-News provides important information pertaining to preparing for college access:

- Scholarship Searches
- Creating a Budget
- State Scholarships and Grants
- Money Management Tips

Visit

www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select the RESOURCES tab to locate our online publications available for you.

National Training for Counselors and Mentors
(NT4CM)



If you've ever wanted to know more about the financial aid process when advising parents and students, this training is for YOU!

NT4CM is a one day event held in locations across the state in the fall semester to equip counselors and mentors to assist seniors with the financial aid process.

The training covers:

- Overview of Financial Aid
- Applying for Federal and State Financial Aid
- Counseling Undocumented Students
- Student Dependency Issues
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Searching for Scholarships
- Resources and Handouts

Currently, dates are being set around the state and will be featured on OSFA's training website in the weeks ahead. Keep checking for updates to locate a training near you.

We would love to see you there!

NYFF MATERIALS

Order your materials early! Navigating Your Financial Future inventory is fully stocked and ready to go for your fall semester needs. Place an order through the website

www.NavigatingYourFuture.org. Select the **RESOURCES** tab to access the online order form.

This is a listing of the most popular items:

(Financial Aid Night favorites)
Seeking Financial Aid
Searching For Scholarships
Bright Futures
FAFSA poster

(Financial Literacy favorites)
Financial Literacy poster
Managing Your Budget
Managing Your Credit
Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
School and Life Management
Career Planning

(Postsecondary favorites)
Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
Exit Counseling
Stay, Stop, or Drop?



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUS Tours:

Florida International University - Miami
Tuesday, September 8

Florida Atlantic University - Boca Raton
Wednesday, September 9

New College of Florida - Sarasota
Thursday, September 10

University of South Florida - Tampa
Friday, September 11

OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE OSFA PHILOSOPHY



The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, prompt services for participants, and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.

The News to Know for Counselors is now available on the Counselors page of the website www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004

E-mail: OSFA@fldoe.org

Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475

Locally: 850-410-5200

**[Click here](#) to contact
an OSFA Outreach
Representative about
your school's needs.**