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Financial aid workshops to be offered throughout Lake County

GRAYSLAKE - College students and their parents can get help applying for college financial aid by attending a free FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Workshop, to be held at locations throughout Lake County from Jan. 14 to March 20.

All college-bound high school students and their parents, along with current college students, are invited to attend, no matter where they plan to go to college. The FAFSA must be filled out for students to be considered for state and all federal financial aid.

Assistance is also being offered to Spanish speakers, and many of the workshop volunteers are bilingual in English and Spanish. CLC is a College Zone outreach center for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and staff and volunteers will be available to help students and parents complete the FAFSA online at the following Lake County Financial Aid Workshops:

- Saturday, Jan. 14 at Waukegan Public Library from 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 21 at Waukegan High School Brookside Campus from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 26 at College of Lake County in Grayslake from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 28 at Saint Martin de Porres High School from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4 at Highland Park High School from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 11 College of Lake County Grayslake campus from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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- Monday, Feb. 13 at Mundelein High School from 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb.16 at University Center of Lake County in Grayslake from 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb.18 at Round Lake High School from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb.25 at College of Lake County Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8 at College of Lake County in Grayslake from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 14 at College of Lake County Southlake Campus in Vernon Hills from 6-9 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 20 at University Center of Lake County in Grayslake from 6-8 p.m.

For more details or to preregister online, visit www.ucenter.org. Or contact C. Myra Gaytan-Morales, University Center of Lake County assistant dean for academic programs and services, at (847) 665-4108 or mgaytan@ucenter.org. A complete list of FAFSA workshops is online at www.ucenter.org.

Students should bring the following documents with them: a copy of 2011 Federal Tax information (parent and student 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040 and all W2 forms), recent bank statements, the student's drivers license and Social Security card or Student Alien Registration card if the student is not a U.S. citizen. If tax forms have not been completed yet, please bring W-2 forms and final paycheck stubs for 2011. Financial aid information is also available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or at www.collegezone.com.

The Lake County FAFSA workshops are being sponsored by the College of Lake County, the University Center of Lake County, Coalition Latinos Unidos de Lake County, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Highland Park High School, Mundelein High School, Round Lake High School, Saint Martin de Porres High School, Waukegan High School and Waukegan Public Library. Support is also provided by Illinois College Advising Corps, North Shore Gas, Lake County State's Attorney Michael J. Waller and TRiO Educational Talent Search.

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