

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

November 2004

Nebraska Connects: Countdown to College to air December 9

EducationQuest Foundation and the Nebraska ETV Network will present *Nebraska Connects: Countdown to College Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. CT* on Nebraska Educational Television. This annual call-in show will feature a panel of experts who will answer college planning and financial aid questions on the air.

If you have questions for the panel, submit them to countdown@educationquest.org and they may be featured on the program. If not, you'll receive answers via e-mail.

Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will hit as early as December. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top colleges NOW and ask:

- about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
- if you need a separate application for scholarships.
- if you should apply online or submit a hardcopy application.
- about application fees.

Apply to your top 3-5 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

Contact your admissions representative periodically to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Juniors...start researching colleges

Narrowing your college choices now will make your senior year less stressful. Attend college fairs, meet with college reps who will visit your school, and use college resources at your guidance office or at EducationQuest. See *College Profiles* at www.educationquest.org for information about Midwest schools.

Answer these questions to help you determine the type of college that will best meet your needs.

What do you want to study? Take assessment tests that will help you match your interests, strengths and personality with future career choices.

What kind of college culture do you prefer? Are you interested in a small or large campus? Private or public? Academic or vocational? See EducationQuest's *College Prep Handbook* for a comparison of Nebraska schools. Interested in going out-of-state? Check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at www.mhec.org/student_exchange/studentex_participants.html.

What's the overall cost? It's more than just tuition and room and board. Consider the cost of books, fees, transportation, recreation, clothing and miscellaneous items. The *College Prep Handbook* includes costs for all Nebraska schools. Don't limit your search to colleges you think you can afford until you complete the financial aid process.