

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

September 2006

It's College Fair season!

During September and October, EducationQuest will sponsor six College Fairs featuring representatives from as many as 200 colleges. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Norfolk Area College Fair, Sunday, September 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Northeast Community College

Grand Island Area College Fair, Sunday, September 17, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Conestoga Mall

Columbus Area College Fair, Sunday, September 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Central Community College

Tri-State College Fair, Sunday, October 8, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Marina Inn, South Sioux City

Lincoln Area College Fair, Sunday, October 22, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Southeast Community College

Omaha Area College Fair, Sunday, October 29, 12:30-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska-Omaha

Follow these tips to make the most of the College Fairs:

See the College Fair article at www.educationquest.org for a list of schools slated to attend. You'll find a list of questions to ask in the College Selection section. Arrive at the College Fair early so you have time to visit your top colleges.

Prepare pre-printed labels with your name and address to stick on information cards at college booths where you want additional information.

Attend the financial aid session at the College Fair to learn about types of aid and how to apply.

Educational Planning Programs feature “mini college fairs”

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an Educational Planning Program at a school in your area (see Upcoming Events at www.educationquest.org for schedule and locations). These “mini college fairs” feature representatives from state and regional colleges and universities along with college planning and financial aid information.

Check out our new website!

We recently revamped our website at www.educationquest.org. It's now easier to navigate and provides quick access to free college planning tools including:

High School Guided Tour with college planning steps for students and parents

College Profiles™ with information about Nebraska and Midwestern schools

ScholarshipQuest™ with over 1,500 local and state scholarships

College Funding Estimator™ that estimates your FAFSA results

Calculators that help with college planning and future student loan repayment

Homepage articles that are regularly updated to provide current college planning information

Our website is also available in Spanish at www.educationquest.org/espanol

The importance of getting involved!

Start the school year by joining extracurricular activities. In addition to having fun and making new friends, you'll increase your chances for scholarships and admission to your top colleges. Use the **Activities Resume** at www.educationquest.org to track your involvement throughout high school – then the information is readily available when it's time to apply.

Senior students and parents...start preparing for college admission

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

- 1. Contact your top colleges NOW** and ask about the application process including deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
 - 2. Visit with college representatives** at College Fairs, Educational Planning Programs, during campus visits, and when they visit your high school.
 - 3. Apply to your top 3-4 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.
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September “To Do” List

Juniors and Seniors... complete these college-planning tasks during September:

- Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.
 - Visit www.educationquest.org to:
 - estimate your FAFSA results using the *College Funding Estimator*
 - sign up for the *Countdown to College* e-mail service
 - Seniors, register by September 12 for the October 14 SAT.
 - Seniors, register by September 22 for October 28 ACT.
 - Seniors, register by September 29 for November 4 SAT.
 - Seniors, ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches and counselors.
 - Juniors, ask your guidance counselor about PSAT registration deadlines and test dates.
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For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney

308-234-6310
800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222
800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033
888-357-6300

www.educationquest.org