

COLLEGE AWARENESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Read these weekly during school announcements to encourage a college-going culture and increase knowledge about the importance and steps for a college degree.

FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION PERIOD

- The Free College Application period is running statewide October 1st-November 30th. This means seniors can apply to any of South Dakota's public technical colleges and universities without having to spend a dime.

Remember, if you were directly admitted to a university through the Fast Track Admission program, you don't have to apply. You just have to fill out the *Fast Track Activation Form* included with your letter. If you are interested in any colleges and universities not on your Fast Track list, you are encouraged to apply now.

- The Free College Application Period is almost over. If there are any public technical colleges or universities that you'd like to attend not included on your Fast Track Admission list, you are encouraged to apply before November 30 so you can do it for free.

THE BENEFITS OF COLLEGE

- Who wants to be a millionaire? Well, people with a college degree earn almost a million dollars more over their lifetime than those with just a high school diploma. Our Dakota Dreams can help you get ready for college, so check out OurDakotaDreams.com.
- What do you love to do? Imagine if you could get paid to watch sports, read books, or play music. Going to college allows you to study the things you love to do – and get a job in that field. Get help from your school counselor or at OurDakotaDreams.com.
- Research shows that if you go to college, there's a much better chance that in the future you will be healthy and volunteer in your community. Make your future count! Check out OurDakotaDreams.com to get information and tips on preparing for college.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS

- Worried about how to pay for college? Filling out the FAFSA or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the best way to get money for college. Get grants, loans, and scholarships from the federal government and colleges by filling out this one form! Visit OurDakotaDreams.com to learn more.
- There's \$150 billion up for grabs to help pay for college. Want to get your hands on a chunk of that? Just fill out the FAFSA as close to December 1 as possible. See your school counselor for more information or check out OurDakotaDreams.com.

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PAYING FOR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS (continued)

- Seniors - want a great part-time job? Spend a few hours each week applying for scholarships. Visit OurDakotaDreams.com to learn more and make your list of scholarships.
- Free money for college? That's called a scholarship. Search for scholarships on the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board found on OurDakotaDreams.com.

EXPLORING CAREERS, MAJORS, AND COLLEGE PROGRAMS

- College is cool. You can get a certificate in just a few months or spend a few years learning and practicing a subject you love, like playing or recording music, helping people who are sick, or teaching children. Learn about different careers and majors – go to SDmylife.com to get started.
- Visit a college campus across the state or across the country from the comfort of your couch – most colleges offer virtual tours and online info sessions. Learn how to explore colleges at OurDakotaDreams.com.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

- College. It's a plan. What's your plan for after high school? Is it a technical college, a 4-year university or the military? If you're not sure or want some help, come to the counseling office anytime during lunch or after school!
- Do you play sports, play an instrument, have a part-time job, or are part of a school club? Then congratulations, you're preparing to apply for college. These are all opportunities to figure out what your passions are, or aren't – and they're great to put on your college application. Learn more about preparing for college at OurDakotaDreams.com.