

## Guidance News Letter - January 2020

### Big News:

Have you heard about the Debt-Free College legislation? The program was officially announced over the holidays and is now referred to as PACT "Pledge to Advance Connecticut".

As of the fall 2020 semester, **the State of Connecticut will pay the tuition and fees for students who:**

- Are CT residents
- Graduate from a CT high school
- START their college career (directly after HS graduation) at a CT community college
- Complete the FAFSA (regardless of income)
- Attend as a full-time student
- Register for classes by July 15th

### Big Opportunity for girls grades 10-12:

UConn Orthopedics & Sports Medicine is excited to announce the next **IWEM (Inspiring Women in Engineering & Medicine)** workshop. It will take place on **Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020** at the Musculoskeletal Institute at UConn Health in Farmington Connecticut. We invite females in high school (grades 10-12) in Connecticut to apply. This will be a FREE, four-hour hands-on workshop and participants will get to perform 3 different mock orthopedic surgeries and hear from prominent women surgeons and interact with other successful women in the medical field, such as engineers, physical therapists, and advanced registered nurses. The deadline to apply is **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. Apply now at this link: [www.drcoyner.com/iwem.html](http://www.drcoyner.com/iwem.html)

### Class of 2020 (Seniors)

- **Feb 14th:** The priority deadline to submit the FAFSA is fast approaching. Students attending a 2 or 4-year college must complete the FAFSA with their parent/guardian asap.
- Do you need help completing the FAFSA?
  - FAFSA Fridays! Every Friday at NCCC, financial aid personnel will be available to provide one-on-one assistance with completing the FAFSA. Register on their website at <https://www.nwcc.edu/financial-aid/>
- Looking for \$cholarships? Access available scholarships from your [Naviance account](#). Sign in and go to the "Colleges" tab, then "Scholarships and Money" then "Scholarship List" from the dropdown menu. Visit the Guidance office for more information.
  - **Available now! Locascio Scholarship & The Gilbert Trust Scholarship applications are now on Naviance and in Guidance! All seniors should apply. (Locascio Deadline: 3/5/20, Gilbert Trust Deadline: 4/3/20).**
  - Still thinking about attending a four-year college, but haven't applied yet? Many colleges use "Rolling Admission" with flexible deadlines - there's still time!

### **Class of 2021 (Juniors)**

- **February 13th:** There will be a Junior Family Planning Night from 6:30-8:00 pm, in The Gilbert School library. We will be talking about graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, the Junior year timeline and checklist for the college application process.
- We met with all juniors on January 3rd and accomplished the following:
  - Accessing their 11th-grade PSAT scores from the College Board website.
  - Signing up for College Board's "[Opportunity Scholarship](#)", which awards \$5 million of scholarships each year, beginning with the class of 2020.
  - Exploring colleges that matched their interests and their academic levels and added at least six onto "[Big Future](#)", the College Board's college search.
  - Students who finished their lists then completed their "Strengths Explorer" on Naviance, an assessment powered by Gallup, which helps uncover students' talents and reveal potential strengths for achieving future goals and making action plans.
- Remember, [NCCC](#), and all two-year CT community colleges will be **free** to attend after graduation. Counselors will talk more about this and the [transfer programs](#) to 4-year CT universities at Junior Planning Night on Feb. 4th.

### **Class of 2022 (Sophomores)**

- **February 3rd:** Counselors will be meeting with all sophomore English classes to talk about PSAT scores, link to the official SAT practice site, Khan Academy, and show students how they can use the website to improve their test scores.
- We will also be meeting with students for the "Do What You Are" assessment through Naviance. The "Do What You Are" assessment is a tool that will reveal students' true personality type, their strengths & 'blind spots' and how these qualities can work for them.

### **Class of 2023 (Freshmen)**

- Counselors will be meeting with the freshmen English classes on February 6th to talk to students about their PSAT scores, link them to Khan Academy and show them how they can use the Khan Academy to improve their test scores.

**Bonus!** We'd like to share with you some resources we find potentially useful for parents and their students:

- Check out this video from the Aerospace Components Association about the growing number of career opportunities in the Aerospace manufacturing field for our students.  
<http://www.aerospacecomponents.org/careers.html>
- Check out the "Borrowed Future" podcast by Dave Ramsey about managing college debt.
- Check out the "Distraction" podcast by Dr. Ned Hallowell about ADHD and the unique strengths of those with this special attribute.
- Check out this blog about summer opportunities for high school students:  
<https://www.teenlife.com/blogs/summer-programs-high-school-students>

**We sincerely enjoy the privilege of working with your students and look forward to continued collaboration with you. As always, feel free to contact us anytime. Casey Pescitelli & Kim Fiducia**