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College Goal Sunday Locations for 2007

College Goal Sunday will be held on Sunday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the following areas:

Augusta	Ellsworth	Machias	Portland
Belfast	Farmington	Millinocket	Presque Isle
Bath	Fort Kent	Nobleboro	Saco
Calais	Houlton	Orono	Skowhegan
Dover-Foxcroft	Lewiston	Oxford Hills	Wells

Locations and directions will be listed on FAME's Web site as they are confirmed. If you would like to volunteer at a CGS site, please e-mail jviolette@famemaine.com.

One \$250 NextGen® Scholarship will be awarded at each site.

Visit our Web site for more information: www.collegegoalsundaymaine.com.

THE Maine EDUCATOR

For Counselors & Advisors



Dear Counselors,

I am happy to bring you the first issue of *The Educator* designed especially for those who are working with students who will be or may be going on to college. This newsletter is intended to keep you informed of the current issues regarding financial aid and updates at FAME.

The Educator is currently scheduled to be sent in the fall, winter and spring. Please feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

Angela Dostie, Education Outreach Officer

FAME Publications Available

The Financial Aid Tool Kit: The new version of the *Tool Kit* is scheduled to be distributed to students and high schools during the week of October 9. The *Tool Kit* has been redesigned and updated according to feedback received from students, families, counselors and financial aid administrators. We hope this new format will help students and their families as they navigate through the financial aid process.

Life 101—A Magazine for Maine High School Students: *Life 101* is scheduled to be delivered to high schools at the beginning of November. This publication is designed for underclassmen to help them as they prepare to pay for and attend college.

Scholarship Search: This oversized bookmark provides links to free scholarship searches and warns students against scams. The *Scholarship Search* bookmark will be available in late October.

Visit www.famemaine.com for a full list of FAME's publications.

2007-2008 Paper FAFSAs Will Not Be Mailed

As in prior years, the Federal Department of Education is encouraging online submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to help speed up processing time and reduce errors.

According to the Federal Department of Education, paper FAFSAs will not be automatically mailed this year. If you would like to receive paper FAFSAs at your school, you will need to order them online at www.fsapubs.org or by calling 1-800-394-7084.

FAFSAs will be available to order on November 1st. Shipping will begin in mid-November.

Special Points of Interest:

- FAME is Updating its Web Site
- Two New Federal Grants for Your Students
- Promoting Your High School's Financial Aid Night
- Financial Aid Workshop Winners
- GEAR UP Students
- College Goal Sunday Locations for 2007

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FAME's Web Site is Being Updated

The FAME Web site is being updated with a new design and will be available to view on October 17. While the look is not significantly different, the navigation has changed quite a bit. The new site will be easier for students, parents and counselors to use and find information.

We plan to continue adding elements and information to the site. If there is information you feel is missing or would like to see on the Web site, please let us know.

ACG & SMART Grants

As part of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act (HERA), the Department of Education announced the creation of two new federal grants: the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant).

Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, Pell Grant recipients may qualify to receive one of these grants. Current regulations have approved these grants to continue through the 2010-2011 school year.

An ACG will provide up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of undergraduate study to full-time students who meet the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen
- Eligible to receive a Pell Grant
- Will enroll as full-time first or second year student in a two-year or four-year degree program
- Successfully completed a rigorous high school program, as determined by the state or local education agency and recognized by the Secretary of Education
- Must have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in coursework required for the major
- Second year students must have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

A SMART Grant will provide up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth years of undergraduate study to full-time students who meet the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen
- Eligible to receive a Pell Grant
- Major in: physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, engineering or in a foreign language determined critical to national security.

Financial aid administrators at the college will make the final determination as to whether or not a student is eligible for either an ACG or a SMART Grant.

For more information on these two new programs, go to: www.ifap.ed.gov/FSACounselors.

How Do I Get Parents to Attend a Financial Aid Night?

After hearing this commonly asked question, FAME staff kept notes on some of the things they heard that worked at various high schools.

- An English teacher offered 10 extra credit points on a quiz for students who attended. If both the student and parent attended, the teacher gave an extra 20 points.
- One school offered pizza. Since financial aid nights are often right after work and can interfere with dinner time, offering an alternative can help.
- The Senior class at one high school sold coffee, donuts, cookies and other goodies before and after the financial aid presentation. Not only did this help raise money for the Senior class, it encouraged student and parent attendance.

If you have not planned for your financial aid night yet, call your local college financial aid office or FAME to schedule a date and time.

College Goal Sunday - Financial Aid Workshop

In June, FAME/College Goal Sunday offered the first annual financial aid training workshop at Colby College. Over 80 counselors and advisors attended the one-day event to learn about topics such as federal loans, financial aid nights and financing options.

Attendees left the workshop with a binder of resources and an L.L. Bean Tote Bag as a thank you gift for attending and completing an evaluation. In addition, five attendees won scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$500. Thirty attendees won gift cards to Staples to purchase supplies for their offices and students.

Because the first event was so successful, FAME is planning to offer another workshop. The majority of the attendees indicated that June was a good time of year for this event. If you have suggestions or recommendations on when to offer this workshop, e-mail adostie@famemaine.com with your comments.

GEAR UP Students: Where Are They Going to College?

Students receiving GEAR UP scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year have indicated they are attending the following Maine Colleges or Universities:

College	# of Students	College	# of Students
Beal College	4	Spa Tech Institute	1
Bowdoin College	2	Thomas College	10
Central Maine Community College	5	Unity College	3
Eastern Maine Community College	23	University of Maine	35
Husson College	14	University of Maine at Augusta	5
Kennebec Valley Community College	7	University of Maine at Farmington	10
Maine Maritime Academy	6	University of Maine at Fort Kent	5
New England School of Communications	2	University of Maine at Machias	11
Northern Maine Community College	6	University of Maine at Presque Isle	5
Pierre's School of Cosmetology	2	University of New England	1
Saint Joseph's College	8	University of Southern Maine	15
Southern Maine Community College	10	Washington County Community College	11