



SSG e-Newsletter | December 2014

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## New Webinar Series

We are excited to announce a new avenue to promote information on post-secondary educational funding and college access to Michigan students/families, high school counselors, and college access professionals. Each month we will have a new webinar in partnership with a college funding professional organization/resource.

Our first webinar will be in partnership with Sallie Mae®. The Student Financial Services Bureau, within the Michigan Department of Treasury, and Sallie Mae are working together to help Michigan families plan and pay for college by offering free college planning resources. These tools, calculators, and guidance will help you navigate your way through every phase of saving, planning and paying for college. [Learn More](#)

Our first joint event will be a Planning for College webinar on January 21 at 2:00 pm. Look for an email with registration details in early January.

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## Students/Families: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 2015-2016 FAFSA will be available on January 1, 2015. Priority consideration for State programs is given to those students who applied and whose application is received at the federal processor on or before March 1. List your top choice school first on your FAFSA under the school choices section.

The FAFSA asks for information about you (your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and about your financial situation. Depending on your circumstances (for instance, when you filed taxes and what tax form you used), you might need to reference the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA:

- Your Social Security number (it's important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA!)
- Your parents' Social Security numbers if you are a [dependent student](#)
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns including IRS W-2 information for you (and your spouse, if you are married), and for your parents if you are a dependent student
- Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits for you and for your parents if you are dependent student

- Information on cash, savings and checking account balances, investments, including stocks and bonds and real estate, but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student

If you have not filed your taxes at the time you complete the FAFSA, use estimated information. Once your taxes are completed, make a correction to your FAFSA to update it.

***You do not need to pay money to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is FREE, so if a website asks you to pay to fill it out, you're not dealing with the official FAFSA site.***

If you need help filling out the FAFSA, please visit the [The MI College Goal Website](#) for locations around Michigan. Financial aid professionals are there to assist you.

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## **Fostering Futures Scholarship**

The enrollment period has been extended through January 31, 2015. Also, effective immediately, students will no longer have to complete the cost information on the application or provide supporting documentation. A revised application is posted at [www.fosteringfutures-mi.com](http://www.fosteringfutures-mi.com)

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## **Information for Financial Aid Professionals: Michigan Nursing Scholarship and Tuition Incentive Program Information**

**Michigan Nursing Scholarship:** This comes as a reminder that if your institution has a nursing program, you have \$24,000 for a maximum of six (6) full-time scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year to award to students in your nursing program. If any of the students you select don't have need for the full \$4,000, then your college will have more than six scholarships available. The key is to award the full \$24,000 allotted to you. Since SSG will be making one payment in February, we would like to have the Enrollment Roster and Promissory Notes mailed to SSG no later than January 15, 2015.

As a reminder, you determine how the funds will be disbursed (\$4,000 full-time, \$3,000 three quarter-time, or \$2,000 half-time). If the student is full-time, the college will award \$2,000 a semester/term. If the student is three quarter-time, the college will award \$1,500 a semester/term. If the student is half-time, the college will award \$1,000 a semester/term.

**Tuition Incentive Program:** Mandatory fees are defined as fees charged to all students, at all campus locations.

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## **Student Financial Services Bureau Honors the Service of Patty Hill**



We are both delighted and saddened to announce the retirement of Patty Hill, effective December 30. Patty has worked for the State of Michigan for 35 years and has been instrumental in several different projects and initiatives including, but not limited to: The Michigan Postsecondary Handbook, High School Counselor Webcast, Michigan College Access Program (MichiganCAP), and College Goal Lansing. Patty also serves as the co-chair of the Communications Committee for the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association (MSFAA). Patty's incredible personality and hard work ethic allowed her to excel in her career and garnered the respect of supervisors, colleagues, parents/students, and partners alike.

Patty began her career with the State of Michigan working with the Michigan Guaranty Agency (MGA) in 1980. In 2010 she left MGA to work for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). In 2012, she came back to the Student Financial Services Bureau to work with Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG). Patty has reported many fond memories; however, she stated that her best memories are from being involved with MSFAA and going on the road to talk with students and parents to encourage postsecondary education and funding options.

In her retirement Patty will focus on her artistic talents for pottery and glass work, yard work, and time with family. Patty is married (Mark) and has three adult children - Arika (Matt), Allie (Nate), and Jason. She is also the proud grandmother of Lucas (8 months).

Patty is a loyal, conscientious, friendly, and self-motivated person. We wish you the best of luck in your retirement, Patty. We appreciate your years of service and will miss you.

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## SSG Office Closings

Our offices will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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## Upcoming Events

Outreach staff will be at these upcoming events. If you have questions about these events (including times, specific locations, topics covered, etc.) please contact Shannon Price at [PriceS4@michigan.gov](mailto:PriceS4@michigan.gov). For an up-to-date calendar listing, please visit the [MI Student Aid Webpage](#) and click on the Outreach Services tab.

- December 17: Detroit International Academy for Young Women
- January 22: Cousino High School
- January 25-27: Michigan Student Financial Aid Association Training
- February 7: Ingham County ISD Career Center-Launch Your Dream

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