



SSG Priority Deadline

The 2014-15 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) became available January 1, 2014. The priority deadline to complete the FAFSA for consideration of Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) program funds is March 1, 2014. For the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS) and the Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG), the first choice institution needs to be listed first on the FAFSA under college choices because SSG awards the first institution. If a student decides to attend an institution that is not listed first, it is their responsibility to contact SSG at 1-888-4-GRANTS to inform us of the change.

Staff Changes

With the promotion of previous SSG Director, Anne Wohlfert, to Student Financial Services Bureau Acting Director there have been staff changes within SSG. Deputy Director Carla Foltyn was promoted to Acting SSG Director. Carla has been with SSG for 21 years and brings to the division a strong background in State of Michigan programs. Jon Versluis, previously Deputy Director within the Michigan Guaranty Agency (MGA), now serves as Deputy Director of SSG. Jon's background in customer service and financial education is beneficial to SSG. His experiences with MGA for eight years led to several customer service initiatives and quality improvement of MGA's Collections Unit. Susie Gibson, Audit/Program Review Manager and Dan Tryon, Audit/Program Review Auditor have

SSG e-newsletter: Affording College in Michigan | February 2014

Davenport University - Moolah Madness

SSG commends Davenport University for their financial education program, Moolah Madness. Seven Davenport University campuses held Moolah Madness events that included topics such as FAFSA completion, searching for scholarships, loan repayment, and financial awareness. We'd like to thank Carna Brown and David DeBoer for giving SSG the opportunity to partner with Davenport University to provide financial education presentations and resources.

GI Bill® Comparison Tool

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs launched an online GI Bill® Comparison Tool to make it easier for Veterans, Service members, and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities, and other education and training programs across the country. The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at: <http://benefits.va.gov/qibill/comparison>. SSG has a grant called Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG). To learn more about this grant, visit our Web site at: www.michigan.gov/ssg and click on Programs.

Help Current and Former Foster Care Youth Find Financial Aid

It's important to let current and former foster care youth know the following:

- They should fill out a FAFSA in preparation for each year of college. A student who was in foster care at any time since turning 13 is considered an independent student by the FAFSA and does not have to provide parent

moved from MGA to SSG. They will be working with Michigan institutions on reviews of SSG programs.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship - Social Security Numbers

While MCS has a financial need component, there is also a merit component of a qualifying ACT score (23 composite/90 scaled). A Social Security Number (SSN) is no longer required on the ACT. In order for SSG to match qualifying scores from the ACT with FAFSA results (financial need component); students who did not provide an SSN on their ACT should contact our Information Center at 1-888-4-GRANTS. (Please do not send SSNs via e-mail.) If we are unable to match ACT qualifying scores with FAFSA results, eligible students will miss out on the MCS award.

Tuition Incentive Program

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) video and TIP flyer are now available on our Web site at: www.michigan.gov/ssg. The video is an overview of TIP eligibilities and program facts. If you are an institution or organization interested in promoting TIP, feel free to add this page as a link on your Web site. If you are a high school counselor interested in receiving a listing of TIP-eligible students at your school, please contact us at: ssg@michigan.gov or 1-888-4-GRANTS, and ask for your high school listing.

We recently mailed TIP Applications to qualifying students. If a student did not receive an application and believes they are eligible, contact our Information Center at: ssg@michigan.gov or 1-888-4-GRANTS.

information on the application. Students can learn about the FAFSA at: www.studentaid.gov/fafsa, and fill it out at: www.fafsa.gov.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers educational and training vouchers to certain current or former foster youth. General information about the vouchers and eligibility can be found in a fact sheet at: www.studentaid.gov/foster. Additional information can be found on the Michigan Department of Human Services sites at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs> and www.michigan.gov/fyit, as well as the Fostering Success in Michigan site at: www.fosteringuccessmichigan.com.

Outreach Activities

Upcoming Presentations

- March 6: Davenport University - Holland Campus (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)
- March 11: Schoolcraft College, Livonia (4:30 - 7:30 p.m.)
- March 11: St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph (6:00 - 8:30 p.m.)

For more information on upcoming outreach events, please contact Shannon Price at 517-335-4884 or prices4@michigan.gov.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming College Fairs

- March 12: [Concordia University-Frankenmuth Center, Birch Run Expo Center \(6:00 - 9:00 p.m.\)](#)
- March 19: [Gaylord High School, Gaylord \(6:30 - 8:00 p.m.\)](#)
- March 20: [Charlevoix High School, Charlevoix \(6:30 - 8:00 p.m.\)](#)
- March 25: Holt High School, Holt (9:45a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- March 27: [Anchor Bay High School, Fair Haven \(6:30 - 8:00 p.m.\)](#)
- March 31: [Metro Detroit National College Fair, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi \(6:00 - 8:00 p.m.\)](#)
- April 2: [West Michigan National College Fair, Grand Rapids \(8:30 - 11:30a.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.\)](#)

Upcoming Conferences

- March 27 & 28: [MACAC Conference, Novi](#)
- March 30 and April 1: [Equity Within the Classroom Conference, Ann Arbor](#)