

## CFNC Educator Update

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VOLUME II / NOVEMBER 2008

### *Welcome back!*

Dear Educator,

We hope each of you are enjoying the semester so far! In this issue of Educator Update we will focus on changes to state aid programs that were approved by the General Assembly this summer. We will also highlight the new federal TEACH Scholarship program, several upcoming programs for North Carolina school counselors offered by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC), and we will provide some early details on the 2009 FAFSA Day program (please note that the date was changed due to a date conflict). FAFSA Day will take place on Feb. 21, 2009. Any references to an earlier date in February should be ignored, for more information about the FAFSA Day date change [click here](#).

We hope you enjoy the information contained in this newsletter and find it useful. As always, please let us know if you have any questions, feedback, or ideas for future editions.

Sincerely,

[Robbie Schultz](#), [Mark Wiles](#), [Ben Kittner](#), [Nicole Roach](#)

CFNC newsletter editors

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### *Summary of Important 2008 Legislative Changes to SEAA-Administered State Aid Programs*

The following changes to two SEAA-Administered programs were made in the summer legislative session:

#### **EARN**

Initially, only students attending community colleges and public universities were eligible for EARN consideration. Students attending private North Carolina colleges and universities, as defined in G.S. Section 116-209(a)(2) can now be considered for EARN awards.

#### **North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant (NCLTG)**

Students at qualifying campuses who take at least six semester hours of coursework per semester can be considered for NCLTG funding (In the past, a minimum of 9 hours of coursework was required for NCLTG consideration.)

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### *New Funding Opportunity for Students Pursuing Teaching Careers*

The federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program will provide up to \$4,000 a year in grant aid to undergraduate and graduate students and students enrolled in post-baccalaureate teacher credential programs, or current or prospective teachers. Candidates must complete the FAFSA and must be US citizens or eligible non-citizens enrolled as undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate students in colleges or universities that have chosen to participate in the TEACH Grant Program. Candidates must be completing coursework to become teachers and must have 3.25 or better grade point averages or score above the 75th percentile on at least one admissions test (this GPA and test score requirement may be waived for some graduate students.) Recipients must sign an agreement to serve as full-time teachers for at least four years within eight years of completing their course of study and must teach math, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, special education, or a subject designated as "high need" by the federal or state government, or local education agency and approved by the Department, or serve as a reading specialist. In addition, recipients must comply with the requirements for being "highly qualified teachers", as defined in section 9101(23) of the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#).

**The Grant will convert to an unsubsidized Direct Loan for recipients who do not fulfill the service commitment.**

For more information, visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>

### *CFNC Electronic Transcript System: 96 Additional North Carolina High Schools Participating*

We are pleased to announce that 96 high schools were recently added to the CFNC Transcript System. A total of 265 public high schools across the state now participate in the program, and plans to make this service available to all public and charter high schools in North Carolina are underway.

Students at participating schools have the ability to request their official high school transcript be sent electronically to any of the 116 North Carolina colleges or universities through the College Foundation of North Carolina's college access web portal.

The CFNC Electronic Transcript System has been operational since Fall 2003 and has delivered over 74,000 official high school transcripts electronically. Participating high schools use the NCWise (North Carolina Window of Information for Student Education) system.

A complete list of the participating high schools can be viewed by visiting [http://www1.cfnc.org/ExternalScripts/My\\_CFNC/transcripts.asp](http://www1.cfnc.org/ExternalScripts/My_CFNC/transcripts.asp) and clicking the "participating public high school" link.

Official electronic high school transcripts (current and final) can be requested in one of two ways on [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org): (1) when applying online for admission to any of the 116 colleges or universities in North Carolina, or (2) directly from [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org)'s Transcript Manager. Students can also track their electronic transcript activity on [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org). Electronic transcript tracking activity includes destination colleges, date sent and status of transcripts.

For more information on how to apply for college and send electronic transcripts, call toll-free 1-866-866-CFNC.

### *Add CFNC to your High School Website*

CFNC has just released a high school "widget" that can be placed on your school website. This widget is simply a window through which CFNC can deliver timely information to your high school students. Once your webmaster has embedded the code on your school site, CFNC can update the content without your ever having to worry about it. For instance, the CFNC widget might feature items on SAT and ACT preparation in the fall and then change to an emphasis on completing the FAFSA in the winter. If your students click inside the widget, they can navigate around without ever leaving your website. Please go to the School Counselor section of [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and choose which size is best for your school.

**Worried about College Entrance Tests?**

CFNC can help!

Click [here](#) for SAT/ACT test dates and preparation tips.  
(You will not leave this website.)

**CFNC.org**

College Foundation of North Carolina

### *FAFSA Day is Saturday, February 21, 2009 (Please note date change!)*

Due to a schedule conflict with a February holiday, FAFSA Day has been rescheduled for February 21. While the original date was not widely distributed, we ask you to get the word out regarding the correct date, and to tell your students to ignore any references to an earlier date they may see in their student planners or elsewhere.

As you are aware, FAFSA Day provides students and their families and opportunity to receive free help in the completion and submission of their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms so that they can be considered for federal and state aid and other programs to help them pay for college. Last February more than 3,600 students and their families received help at 56 locations across North Carolina, enabling many to receive the funding they needed to afford the cost of a college education. More than 650 volunteers – many of them high school counselors and other educators – assist participants each year at local FAFSA Day sites.

We hope many reading this newsletter will volunteer to help at a FAFSA Day site next February 21. Even if you aren't comfortable helping with the completion of the form, we need counselors and other educators to greet students, sign them in and direct them to the financial aid officers who will assist them in completing their forms; so please consider volunteering for this event. If you wish to volunteer, you may e-mail [Nicole Roach](mailto:Nicole.Roach@cfnc.org) or visit [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and click the "Register for CFNC Events" button after October 1.

While we were not thrilled about the necessity to change the date, we are excited about the opportunity to provide the FAFSA Day service in even more locations and to help even more students qualify for financial assistance on February 21! To date, 60 locations have been confirmed.

Students will be able to learn more about the program, view a complete list of 2009 FAFSA Day sites and register by visiting [CFNC.org/fafsaday](http://CFNC.org/fafsaday) or by calling 866-866-CFNC.

If you have questions about FAFSA Day, please contact [Robbie Schultz](mailto:Robbie.Schultz@cfnc.org).



### *College Application Week Goes Statewide*

This year, Gov. Mike Easley again declared College Application Week for the entire state. Every high school in N.C. was invited to participate in this year's College Application Week, Nov. 10- 14, 2008. The event is sponsored by CFNC and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO). The goal is to provide every graduating high school senior the opportunity to apply to college online using [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org), with a particular focus on assisting first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college. In 2006, 15 high schools participated in the event and more than 900 students submitted online college applications. This past year, the event was expanded to include more than 100 high schools, resulting in more than 12,800 N.C. students applying to college online – submitting more than 21,400 applications to community colleges, private colleges and public universities in North Carolina.

### ***CFNC Regional Reps Give Hundreds of Free Programs to Schools, Businesses, and Clubs***

This past fiscal year, CFNC regional representatives shared in organizing and presenting 122 career education workshops using the acclaimed Bridges career tools available free on CFNC.org. They also led 165 financial aid workshops at high schools, libraries and community groups. There were 353 general CFNC information sessions held throughout the state. And CFNC representatives spoke to 279 corporations and 312 civic groups about the NC 529 Plan and other college planning topics. To schedule a presentation for your school or community group, call 1-866-866-CFNC toll free.

### ***Free College Planning Curriculum Available for Middle, High Schools***

Educators can now download 60 activities and lesson plans at CFNC.org/Curriculum on topics such as "Relating Personality to a Career" or "What to Expect During College". There are 10 activities per grade for 7th through 12th graders. Advisory teams from both high school and middle school levels helped CFNC develop the learning outcomes in accordance with the N.C. Comprehensive School Counseling Standard Course of Study and reviews of the latest national research.

### ***Let us know what you think!***

To share your comments or questions with us regarding this newsletter, please contact [Nicole Roach](#), Editor, CFNC - Educator Update.

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