



Newsletter

www.sfbridgetosuccess.org

February 2013



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

"Because of Bridge to Success, all of our high schools are able to use the Early Warning System to identify incoming 9th graders who are most at risk for dropping out of school.

This is creating invaluable opportunities for us to support students as soon as they arrive at high school, instead of waiting until they are in crisis. It's helping our schools direct scarce resources more intentionally, and it's pushing us to think creatively about how we work with students and families."

VIDA SANFORD

Project Arrive/Mentoring for Success
SFUSD Student, Family, & Community
Support Department

COMING UP NEXT

Steering Committee
March 7, 1-3pm
City Hall Room 201

SFUSD MAKES STRONG EFFORTS TO SUPPORT ALL SENIORS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Since January, SFUSD has been working hard to assist all students to complete the applications for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act. Research shows that 90 percent of students who complete financial aid applications go on to a two- or four-year college directly after their senior year in high school. In prior years, about 60 percent of SFUSD students completed FAFSA applications.



Cash for College Night at Mission High School
(Source: sfgate.com)

Funding for college is one of the main concerns and potential barriers for students to attend a post-secondary institution. Students and families are also weary to apply because applications are overly complex, asking questions that may be challenging to answer including income, savings, the receipt of government benefits, parental education attainment, driver's license number, previous drug convictions, and intended college plans.

Cash for College Nights have been held at each high school in partnership with community organizations such as Japanese Community Youth Council, the California Student Aid Commission, and the SF Education Fund.

The deadline to apply for state financial aid is March 4, 2013. Learn more about the FAFSA and Dream Act at www.sfusd.edu/financialaid.

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT MAKES STATE FINANCIAL AID POSSIBILITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

For the first time, undocumented California high school students who have graduated from high school and lived in-state for at least three years, will be able to apply for state financial aid. Increased access to financial aid has made college a possibility for many students who would otherwise have been blocked by prohibitive costs. According to the California Student Aid Commission, qualifying undocumented students can get up to \$12,192 a year with a Cal Grant to pay for college expenses at any qualifying state college, university, or career or technical school.



Cash for College Night at Mission High School
(Source: sfgate.com)

THIRD ANNUAL FRISCO DAY PLANNING IN FULL SWING

The third annual FRISCO Day will take place on Friday, April 19th. The day-long event for all SFUSD seniors will give students a taste of college life and prepare them for their transition into college. The primary goals of the day are to increase college knowledge, stress the importance of persistence, increase awareness of post-secondary options, and to teach self advocacy skills.



2012 FRISCO Day at City College

Simultaneous events will take place at City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and the University of California San Francisco. Each will host students bound for their respective systems and provide a series of workshops on financial aid and college student life, as well as allow for students to meet other students who will attend their same college. Students bound for private and out-of-state schools will also attend a similar event.



Students without a post-secondary plan will be advised to attend the City College event which anticipates 1200-1400 students. The City College event will enable all participants to learn about City College and Bay Area Community Colleges, complete part of the City College matriculation process, as well as introduce them to various campus resources including current student organizations.

Volunteers are a vital part in making FRISCO Day a success. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Hanna Doerr at hdoerr@sfedfund.org.

Action Team Updates

Workforce and Career Pathways

The Workforce Action Team is determining how to better share information among SFUSD and existing programs and to align and adopt a common language, around the definition of "valuable work experience."

Post-Secondary CBO Partnerships

The primary focus of the Post-Secondary CBO Partnership Action Team is information sharing, including a presentation by SFUSD's GEAR UP program at the February meeting to share the GEAR UP Binder of tools to support post-secondary planning. Additionally, the Directory of Community Partners and other materials have been added to the Bridge to Success website, where it will be more easily accessed by more people. The team plans to work with the Counseling Action Team to plan a Counselor Breakfast where CBO staff will meet with SFUSD and City College counselors and show how their work complements the work of the counselors.

Counseling

The Counseling Action Team has been taking time this year to reflect on past accomplishments and using them to inform their goals for the remainder of the year. The team is working to establish a City College lead counselor for each high school, to foster strong alliances between SFUSD and City College, and to hold joint professional development workshops for SFUSD and City College staff and a Counselor Breakfast.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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