



College Connection

BALTIMORE FREEDOM ACADEMY

SUMMER 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT Tests

Test Date 5/1

Test Date 6/5
Register by 4/29

ACT Tests

Test Date 6/12
Register by 5/7

Central Scholarship Bureau Applications Deadline

5/10

CBF Last-Dollar Grant Supporting Materials Due

SAR & Award Letters
7/1

21st Annual CBF Scholars' Luncheon at Baltimore Hilton

7/29
11:00am to 1:00pm

Rising Senior Seminar at Coppin State University

8/3
9:00am to 12:00 noon

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A message from your CAPS

Greetings to all!

Congratulations to all seniors who have been accepted into college. Now, we are at the point of making the decision of what college to attend next fall. May 1st is the deadline to make that decision and many of the colleges you have been accepted to require both housing and enrollment deposits. These deposits can range anywhere from \$25 to \$500, or more, therefore you need to start saving money now to make sure you have this deposit submitted on time.

For the rest of our students

who are not graduating this spring, it's time to fill out applications for summer internships and other opportunities that are open



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and available to you. Each week, I will have applications for summer programs that range from engineering to law. If you know your interest and want to pursue that interest further, I encourage you to stop by the college center on a regular basis to see what is available. Push yourself beyond your limits; we only have a few more months until summer break!

Much Success,

Kamal M. Sanders

Questions to Ask Before Accepting an Offer

The college you're considering offers your major, a variety of extracurricular activities and the ideal social mix. You've done your research and checked out the school's location, class size, teacher/student ratio and dozens of other factors. You're ready to accept their offer to attend. However, before you mail the deposit, make sure you ask some questions that are frequently overlooked in the decision-making process.

1. Is the office of residential life accessible to students? Can students switch if they get a terrible roommate, and how long does that process take?
2. What is the average increase in tuition, and when are tuition increases next expected? By asking this, you can plan your finances appropriately and not be hit by unexpected tuition hikes.

3. What are the hours at the student health clinic? What about 24-hour emergency care? What does the college's health insurance cover, and are pre-existing conditions included in the coverage? Get these answers before your parents take you off their insurance.
4. How does the college handle leaves of absence? If you should need personal time off for a week, month or semester, will you be penalized academically for the time missed? Will you be able to obtain a tuition refund if you're gone for longer than a term?
5. Can you pick your academic advisor? How do current students feel about the advising system? Students often change majors several times. A good advisor can help a student plan their classes, make career-planning decisions and graduate on time.
6. What is the crime rate on

- campus? The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires all colleges and universities to produce an annual report of their safety and security procedures, as well as statistics relating to criminal offenses reported to the police. Request a copy and read it.
7. What is a school's policy on dorm room wear and tear? Are you responsible for compensating the school? A lot of things in a dorm room can break - chairs, desks, dressers, etc. And don't forget about the walls and floor - holes from hanging pictures, coffee stains and scuff marks. If damage occurs - and it will - what expenses are you responsible for?
 8. What kind of food does the cafeteria offer? What are the options when the cafeteria is closed?

FAFSA4Caster

Juniors, begin exploring financial aid. Visit the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA4caster at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. The free tool is a companion piece to the official FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and assists juniors and their families in the following ways:

- Increase your knowledge of the financial aid process;
- Helps you become familiar with various types of federal student aid ;
- Allows you to investigate other sources of aid (grants, scholarships);
- Instantly calculates an estimated EFC;
- Makes applying for federal aid easier- much of the info that you enter into FAFSA4Caster will populate your FAFSA on the Web application.

Rising Senior Seminar

CollegeBound Foundation will host its annual *Rising Senior Seminar* for parents and students August 3, 2010 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at Coppin State University. This free event will feature:

- An overview of college planning checklists;
- A review of federal and Maryland financial aid resources;
- Advance copies of scholarship applications;
- Tips on how parents can ensure their child writes winning essays for college applications and scholarships.

Space to this event is limited!

To reserve a seat, please call CollegeBound Foundation at 410.783.2905 or register online at info@collegeboundfoundation.org.

Seniors: Still Need \$\$ for College?

The Central Scholarship Bureau (CSB) offers interest free loans of up to \$10,000 per year as well as grants and scholarships to attend college. CSB applications are available online at www.centralSB.org.

The application deadline is **May 10, 2010**. All supporting documents must be submitted by May

ATTENTION, LDG Applicants!

You submitted the Last Dollar Grant application in March, but that was just the first step. Don't forget to submit supporting documents to enable CollegeBound Foundation to determine if you are eligible for an award. You must submit a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR), your Financial Aid Award Letter from the college you plan to attend, and a Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Notification Letter (if applicable) to CollegeBound by **JULY 1, 2010**.

If you or your parents have any questions, please call your CollegeBound CAPS, Mr. Kamal Sanders, at 443.677.1727 or Ms. Jamie Martino at 410.783.2905 x 207.

College Acceptances

Arthur Adams—Baltimore International College

Ilesha Adams—University of Bridgeport & Coppin State University

Allante Alexander—Fairmont State University

Chawntel Amos—Delaware State University, Morgan State University & Columbia Union College

Corey Bailey—La Roche College

Chryston Bennett—Fairmont State University

Danielle Coles—Towson University, Trinity College, University of Baltimore, Coppin State University, Virginia State University, University of MD University College, UMES, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, Regent University, Rosemont College, La Roche College & Salisbury University

Jasmine Cooper—Trinity College, Delaware State University & Fairmont State University

Antione Lamont Dorsey—Baltimore International College

Mallory Dorsey—Fairmont State University & Potomac State College of WVU

Nehemiah Hall—Morgan State University & University of Baltimore

Alvin Hancock—Fairmont State University & Baltimore International College

Nathan Ikejiana III—UMES, Fairmont State University & Maryland Institute College of Art

Cameron Jackson—Fairmont State University

William Mathews—Frostburg State University, Delaware State University & Potomac State College of WVU

Tafari Tristran-keit Mills—Coppin State University, Elizabethtown College & Maryland Institute College of Art

Gabrielle Moore—Fairmont State

University

Sharicka Moore—Fairmont State University

Tyrone Moore—Fairmont State University

Shymika Lytanya Orr—University of Baltimore

Jaquan Patterson—Fairmont State University & Johnson and Wales University

DeShanette Ponzon-Brown—Lebanon Valley College, Concord College & Virginia Union University

Shama Ray—Fairmont State University & Potomac State College of WVU

Seandria Somerville—Coppin State University, University of Baltimore, Morgan State University & Lincoln University

Sierra Monet Taylor—Baltimore International College & Capitol College

Ashanta Thomas—Trinity College, University of Baltimore, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Towson University, Coppin State University, UMES & University of North Carolina at Asheville

Jamal Darryl Thomas—Fairmont State University

Brandon Walker—Fairmont State University

Da'Ondra Warren—Coppin State University, Bowie State University & UMES

Stashauna Whitaker—York College of PA, Trinity College of Florida, Norfolk State University, Bucknell University, Towson University & Delaware State University

Erica Whye—Fairmont State Community and Technology College

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

4 Rules of Paying for College in a Recession

Many parents are reeling from big financial losses at the same time they are shocked by college price tags. While every family is unique, there are four principles that apply to everybody:

1. **Grades matter more than ever.** The better the student, the more options the student has and the more likely the student will receive scholarships or win admission to college. Spend extra hours studying, bring your GPA up a point or two, and it could pay off in tens of thousands of dollars.
2. **Early birds will get more scholarship worms.** Next fall's high school seniors need to start applying for scholarships AND admission to low-cost schools in the early fall- before Thanksgiving. Families MUST fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) ASAP each January, because some aid is handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. **Students should apply to at least a few affordable schools.** Anyone who applies to just one "dream" school should prepare for heartbreak.
4. **Students should apply to at least a couple of generous schools.** Some of the most expensive schools by sticker price also give out huge scholarships and can end up being cheaper than public schools. Students from low- and middle-income families should focus on schools that award aid based on the family's income.

