

National college financial aid event comes to Edison on Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m.

By February 12, people should register online at www.OhioCollegeGoalSunday.org

Students and parents to receive individual help in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

"College Goal Sunday" (CGS), an event that spans the nation on Sunday, February 14, takes place in this part of Ohio on the Edison Community College main campus in Piqua starting at 2 p.m. in the Mathematics Lab, Room 313.

The free program is presented by the Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA) to individually assist prospective college students and parents with completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly referred to as the FAFSA.

Because of potentially great demand for help in completing the FAFSA at this activity, families are asked to sign up for the Edison event at www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org by Friday, February 12.

Participants are also encouraged to obtain pin numbers from www.pin.ed.gov if they plan to submit FAFSA's online on February 14. Each student and one parent will need one pin number to electronically sign the online application.

Walk-ins, who were not able to register on time, are still welcome at the Edison program.

Edison is serving as the College Goal regional site for individuals in several west central Ohio counties including Auglaize, Darke, Miami, Shelby, Champaign, and Logan counties, plus southern Mercer County and northern Montgomery County.

According to Brandi Olberding, coordinator of loan and grant management at Edison, the Edison financial aid staff will be supplemented on February 14 by a few administrators who are members of OASFAA, the statewide student financial aid organization.

"We will make sure we have enough coverage with volunteer financial aid advisors to offer the needed assistance for families and to answer their questions," Olberding explained.

She said that registered participants at Edison will be given FAFSA assistance by the financial aid administrators who will go "directly online" to help individuals complete the forms.

A parent of each student should bring the following items to "College Goal Sunday" at Edison:

- Student's IRS 1040 Tax Returns and W-2's for 2009
- Parent's IRS 1040 Tax Returns and W-2's for 2009
- Social security card and driver's license
- Any other benefit and income information

The Edison program can be vitally important to many families who are planning a college education for their son or daughter.

"The FAFSA is the key to funding a higher education experience," Olberding said, "and to helping families overcome financial barriers that might prevent students from attending their institutions of first choice."

Studies show that a student is "50 percent more likely" to attend college when the FAFSA is completed and submitted, she added.

Several organizations sponsor "College Goal Sunday." They are OASFAA, the Ohio College Access Network, Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, and the University System of Ohio. OASFAA strives to offer resources to students, families, and high school counselors to promote post-secondary education and increase awareness of financial aid opportunities.

At Edison, more than 50 percent of the students receive some form of financial assistance.

To reach the site of the event, people can first enter through West Hall. Room 313 is located at the far east end of West Hall just beyond the West Hall-North Hall interconnect.

For information, phone Edison at 1-800-922-3722 and ask for the Office of Student Financial Aid.