

Senior News

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A Note From Your Counselor—Mrs. Correll

Your March Checklist

- Is your FAFSA completed?
- Keep your eyes and ears open for scholarship opportunities. Apply! Apply! Apply!
- Confirm with prospective colleges if they've sent out acceptance letters yet. Watch the mail, both U. S. mail and email.
- Compare the offers you have received from your prospective colleges. Determine which college is going to be the best choice for you.
- Contact all the colleges that sent you acceptance letters, notifying them of your decision to either attend or not attend.
- If you are not going to college, start preparing a resume and inquiring about job possibilities.
- If your grades are borderline and the class is necessary for graduation, see your teacher and work harder. You can't afford to wait any longer.
- Colleges will request and judge your final grades; don't give them a reason to pull your acceptance. Stay focused.
- Please let me know when you have made your final decision.



Still Deciding??

Factors to consider when choosing a college: class size, faculty/student ratio, financial aid packages, sleep and study accommodations, food, places of worship, parking, technology, location, public transportation, meeting special needs, convenience, class interest, extracurricular activities, athletics, internships, career track, faculty and staff. Make sure you also look at the school's reputation. A college evaluation chart is available on the guidance website. Good luck!

Open House

Penn College is hosting an Open House on Saturday, March 28th. Check out various majors and meet professors. Register at www.pct.edu/openhouse.

Check It Out

Penn College's website has multiple listings for scholarships. Simply log on to www.pct.edu/finaid and click on scholarships. If you're attending Penn College, check out the external and internal scholarships and apply before April 15. If you're not attending PCT, go to the "external" scholarship listing.

Spring is on its way.....

Be Ready

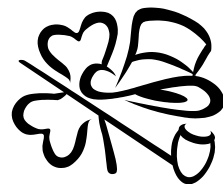
The April newsletter will list several local scholarships. Be ready – update your resume with a list of your activities, volunteer work, awards, etc. Free up your schedule to write essays; it'll really pay off!

Scholarship Deadlines

If your scholarship requires a transcript to be sent, bring the completed scholarship to the guidance office at least one week prior to the deadline. If you are requesting letters of recommendation or additional forms to be completed, please allow two weeks. I can not guarantee deadlines unless these guidelines are followed. Do not procrastinate!!

Your New BFF

Once you have chosen your college, make their financial aid office at the college your new BFF. They have information on scholarships that may be available to you through their institution as well as other valuable information about financing your education!!



Last FAFSA Workshops

...will be held at Penn College on Saturday, March 21st and Tuesday, April 7th. See the February newsletter for more information.

Save the Date!

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

May 27, 2015
6:30 pm



March 13—The Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association

(PenSPRA) scholarships will be awarded to six worthy high school students who plan to pursue a career in a communications field (i.e. journalism, English, public relations, advertising, graphic arts, etc.). Each scholarship is worth \$500. Entry forms are available at www.penspra.org/ScholarshipInfo.aspx

March 15—Hugh Carcella Scholarships If you are a son or daughter of the United Steelworkers of America, District 10 Union, apply for the Hugh Carcella Scholarships. Six, four-year scholarships, each \$4,000 will be awarded. Contact your local union for an application.

March 15—PA Masonic Youth Foundation Scholarships are available to members or have a relative who is a member of the PA Masons, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and have financial need. Go to www.pmyf.org/scholar/app.

March 20—Gladys Tozier Memorial Scholarship Award is awarded on the basis of need, scholarship and character. Application are available in the guidance office.

March 20 – AmeriHealth Northeast is offering a scholarship to students who are a current AmeriHealth Northeast member and enrolled in a college. See Mrs. Correll for an application.

March 20—The Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers This \$1000 scholarship is available to students who have been academically successful while overcoming physical challenges with the help of home medical equipment. Applications are available in the guidance office.

March 23—Edward W. Claudius Memorial Scholarship This \$500 scholarship is for seniors enrolled in any branch of Penn State for the fall (not Penn College). Complete the brief application and write an essay “What does going to Penn State mean to me?” Submit both to Mrs. Correll.

March 31—Fairfield Auto Group/Lycoming County Republican Committee Scholarships, \$1000 each, will be awarded to two seniors. Register online via the “Scholarship” link on the website www.lycominggop.org

March 31—Horizon Federal Credit Union Scholarship This \$500 Scholarship is available to students who are members of Horizon Federal Credit Union and have at least an 80% GPA. www.horizonfcu.org.

April 1—Lycoming County Chapter of PA Association of School Retirees Scholarship is for seniors in Lycoming County, majoring in education. Applications must be picked up from and returned to Mrs. Correll.

April 1—Joseph R. Calder, Jr., MD Scholarship is awarded to a senior who has been accepted into a medical-related program. Applications are available at http://www.wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Joseph_R_Calder_Jr_MD_Fund_Award_2015.pdf

April 3—Taber Museum Scholarship is for any senior in Lycoming County who makes a trip to the museum and writes an essay. See Mrs. Correll for information.

April 10—Mary Ann Fox Scholarship This scholarship is for students wishing to attend the following universities or colleges (including their branch campuses): Lock Haven University, Bucknell University, Lycoming College, Penn State University, and Penn College of Technology. Students must have good academic standing and character and demonstrate financial need. Applications are available in the guidance office.

April 15 – HotelsCheap Scholarship Program is offering a \$1500 scholarship www.hotelscheap.org/scholarship/apply

April 15—The Morton Harrison Scholarship Fund is for students who as juveniles “have come to the attention of the Lycoming County Probation Department” and demonstrate a strong willingness to make positive changes in their lives and further their education. To apply, go to http://www.wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Morton_&BeatriceHarrisonFundAward2015.pdf

April 15—The Timothy Lichter Memorial Scholarship This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who has been accepted into an accredited motorcycle mechanic school. Applications available at http://wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/South_Williamsport_Area_School_District_Awards_2015.pdf

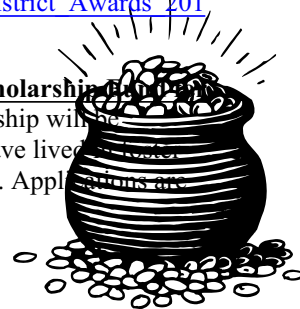
April 15—The Albert and Alice Nacinovich Music Scholarship This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior pursuing a degree in music education or a music-related field of study. Priority will be given to students who exemplify an exceptional passion and aptitude for music, demonstrate the potential for success and share their musical talents with their school, church, and/or the community. To apply, go to http://wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/South_Williamsport_Area_School_District_Awards_2015.pdf

April 15—ISCALC International Scholarship Fund This scholarship is for a graduating senior who has demonstrated interest in international studies. Two scholarships will be awarded. For complete criteria and an application, http://wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/South_Williamsport_Area_School_District_Awards_2015.pdf

April 15—Kenneth and Marcia Johnson Scholarship Fund is awarded to a college-bound student preferably in aviation (or if no one, any major). To apply, go to http://wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/South_Williamsport_Area_School_District_Awards_2015.pdf

April 15—B-Brave McMahon/Stratton Scholarship Fund This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has been in the foster care system or has legal adopted status. The student must have shown remarkable achievement in spite of the obstacles in his/her life. Applications are available at http://wlfoundation.org/sites/default/files/South_Williamsport_Area_School_District_Awards_2015.pdf

April 15—Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship Fund **Foster Children** This scholarship will be provided to individuals who have lived in foster care at some time of their lives. Applications are



application, different essays and other requirements:

Nolan W. Feeser Scholarship Award This \$2500 renewable award is preferably given to one male and one female with the highest ranking student and unmet financial need. *Preference* may be given to those attending Lycoming College, Penn College or Gettysburg College.

John Savoy Scholarship This \$500 renewable award is given to a senior who displays good citizenship, community involvement, and unmet financial need and is not the recipient of another major scholarship. Preference is given to those attending college in Pennsylvania. Other than a strong potential for success, such factors as class rank and grade point average will not be criteria in making a selection unless in the judgment of the selection committee such factors are needed to distinguish between multiple potential candidates.

Jane Salansky-Onzik Scholarship This \$500 non-renewable award is for a senior who has been accepted into a full-time undergraduate program at an institution of higher education (preferable in PA) to study secondary education (preferable to teach Spanish) or to study Spanish in preparation for a career that would utilize the Spanish language. The applicant will exhibit good citizenship and community involvement, will have unmet financial need, and will not be the recipient of other major scholarship awards. Other than a strong potential for success, such factors as class rank and grade point average will not be criteria in making a selection unless in the judgment of the

selection committee such factors are needed to distinguish between multiple potential candidates.

April 30—PALCO Federal Credit Union sponsors a \$500 “Members Helping Members” scholarship. To apply, you must be a PALCO member, write an essay, complete an application, and submit a recommendation letter. See www.palcofcu.org for an application.

June 1—Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship for students pursuing a fashion degree. Go to www.fashion-schools.org

June 1—Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship for students pursuing an animation career path. Go to www.animationcareerreview.com

Don't wait for a pot of money at the end of some rainbow; apply for scholarships today!

Don't Choose a College for These Reasons

Wrong Reason for Choosing College #1: Based on Making Someone Else Happy

Do NOT choose a college because your boy/girlfriend is planning to attend, or because some of your best friends are attending, or because your family wants you to go to a certain college/university.

Instead, choose a college or university that has programs, faculty, location, reputation, and the like that YOU desire -- that inspires you to want to attend it.

Wrong Reason for Choosing College #2: Based on Recommendations from Others

It's perfectly acceptable -- and fairly normal -- for people from your family to your teachers to suggest some colleges that might be right for you. Just don't choose a college solely on someone else's opinions.

Instead, when people offer you a college suggestion, ask them about why they are suggesting it to you -- and why they think it's such a great school. Then do your research and draw your own conclusions.

Wrong Reason for Choosing College #3: Based on Ranking/Reputation Alone

Numerous books, magazines, organizations, and Websites provide rankings of colleges and universities, but choosing solely on the rank of a school eliminates out many other important criteria.

Instead, after investigating the ranking systems -- and/or the rationale for the reputation -- use this reason as just one of several criteria for judging the best college/university for you.

Wrong Reason for Choosing College #4: Based on Costs Alone

There is no doubt that college costs are through the roof, rising much higher than inflation the last few decades. And the cost of some colleges are astronomical -- and seem beyond the finances of most.

Instead of looking just at costs, dig deeper into what typical students pay -- after scholarships, work-study, grants, and other financial aid. While not all colleges are affordable, if you can get past the sticker shock, don't use cost as a sole criteria for choosing a college.

Wrong Reason for Choosing College #5: Based on Location Alone

There's no question location is an important criteria for some students -- near to home, far from home, warmer climate, and the like -- just don't make location the sole criteria for choosing college.

Instead, start with a geographic region that best suits your interests, and then research schools within that region that best fit your other criteria -- all while keeping an open mind to other colleges and universities that may attract your interest that lie outside that area.

Final Thoughts on Choosing a College Best for You

Make no mistake about it -- college choice is a serious and important matter. Don't go choosing where to attend college using the wrong reasons/criteria.

But also do remember this: if you do make the wrong choice in the college to attend, you always have the option of re-investigating, reapplying... and transferring to the college/university that best fits you.

This article was written exclusively for MyCareerBlast.com by Dr. Randall S. Hansen.