

Pisgah High School Senior Newsletter

February 2015



Pisgah High School Counseling Center
(828) 646-3440

1 Black Bear Drive, Canton, NC 28716

<http://teacher.haywood.k12.nc.us/phs-counselingcenter/>

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FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) becomes available online **January 1** at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Most colleges require the FAFSA for students to be considered for ANY need-based financial aid, and ALL federal programs depend on FAFSA results to determine eligibility for federal grants or loans.

- There will be a special Financial Aid meeting for Latino students and families at Tuscola High School Media Center, 6 PM, Monday, February 9. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Bramley at (919) 606-1168.
- **FAFSA Day: On Saturday, February 28 financial aid specialists and other representatives will assist students with the completion and the electronic submission of their FAFSA forms.** The program is open to all individuals who plan to attend college in the 2014-15 academic year, and will be held at many sites across the state—including **Haywood Community College!** FAFSA Day takes place before most deadlines for submission of the form, but you should check with the institution you are considering to make sure their deadlines are not earlier. (If the deadlines are earlier, you should not wait to submit your application.) SOME colleges do require additional documents (such as an institutional financial aid form or the CSS Profile). The financial aid representatives on site will try to answer questions about additional requirements, but feel free to call the college/university if you have specific questions. **To register for this year's FAFSA Day, go online to www.CFNC.org/fafsaday.** You may also direct questions to Haywood Community College Financial Aid at 627-2821. They provide assistance to families completing the FAFSA, even if the student is NOT planning to attend HCC!
- CFNC offers a **FAFSA Phone-In** every Tuesday night in February, 5 to 8 PM, where financial aid specialists will be available to answer FAFSA questions. The toll free number is 866-866-CFNC (2362).

LET' S TRY THIS AGAIN---Career and College Smart Lunch sessions in January got "postponed" due to weather related delays. Meet in the Front Lab of the Media Center for more information on the following topics.

- Wed. Feb. 18: "Completing your FAFSA"
- Wed. Feb. 25: "Completing the HCSF Scholarship Application"

PHS COUNSELING CENTER

Dr. Allen: Counselor, last names A-G
Mrs. Lawing: Counselor, last names H-O
Mrs. Heinz: Counselor, last names P-Z
Mrs. Case: Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Ray: Career Development
Mrs. Frazier: School Social Worker

Haywood County Schools
Character Trait for February

HONESTY

"Honesty is the best policy.
If I lose my honor,
I lose myself."

—William Shakespeare

SENIORS, please remember:

- ⇒ Please bring any **college / university "acceptance letters"** to Mrs. Case in the counseling center: We want to make a copy for our college acceptance bulletin board!
- ⇒ Please bring any **letters of scholarship offers** to the counseling center! We will make a copy for our records: All scholarship winners (even if you choose not to attend that specific school) will be recognized at Awards Night and in the Graduation bulletin.
- ⇒ **Would you like MORE information from the PHS Counseling Center?** To receive messages via text, simply text **@phs15grads** to **81010**. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying "unsubscribe @phs15 grads." To receive messages via email, send an email to **phs15grad@mail.remind.com**. (You can leave the subject blank.) To unsubscribe, reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. We are excited to try this NEW mode of communication with students and families who are interested in up-to-date college, career, and scholarship information especially for seniors!
- ⇒ If you have not yet applied to a college and would like to do so, please see your counselor if you need any help!

Haywood Community College Student for a Day Program:

FREE classes (either 8 AM to noon or 1 PM to 4 PM, both with lunch) are available to interested juniors or seniors:

- * Saturday, Feb. 21: **Criminal Justice**
- * Saturday, March 28: **Cosmetology**
- * Saturday, April 18: **High Tech Center**
- * Saturday, April 25: **Horticulture**
- * May 30 OR June 6: **Natural Resources**

See your counselor as soon as possible if you are interested in this opportunity to learn more about programs at HCC!

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

⇒ **HAYWOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS:** Applications for the annual Haywood County Schools Foundation Scholarships are available at <http://www.hcsf.haywood.k12.nc.us/about/>

Students are asked to **FIRST** go online to read the eligibility requirements for each of the over 40 scholarships. **THEN** students should complete and print out the application (also online). Please plan ahead to provide the following documents to the Counseling Center when you are ready to turn in your application:

- (1) **COMPLETE application (Proofread!)**
- (2) **Checklist (available online) indicating WHICH scholarships for which you wish to be considered**
- (3) **3 letters of reference (one must be from a community member who knows you well!)**
- (4) **Copies of ACT / SAT scores (if taken)**
- (5) **Copy of FAFSA page that includes your EFC number (“expected family contribution”)**

All materials are due to the PHS Counseling Center **FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 8 AM**. If you do not have access to a computer, come to the counseling center!

⇒ **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:** Information and application are available online at www.cfwno.org/Scholarships/ProgramsandEligibility.aspx for a number of prestigious scholarships only for students in Western North Carolina! All materials must be submitted online by the deadline.

February 17 deadline:

- **Nathaniel Ellis Cannady, Jr. Scholarship:** \$5000 renewable for 3 more years for students planning to study engineering, construction, project management, or information technology.

March 13 deadline:

- **Asheville Wilbert Vault Service Scholarship:** \$1500 for students interested in a career in funeral service
- **John Francis Amherst Cecil Scholarship:** \$2500 for up to 8 students who are dependents of Biltmore Employees
- **Roger W. Morrison Scholarship:** \$500 for students who are children of employees of Pathologist’s Medical Laboratory and Mission Hospitals Laboratories.

SCHOOL SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **East Tennessee State University:** (1) Haywood County students with a 21 ACT / 900 SAT (Reading and Math) or a 2.75 GPA may apply for in-state tuition. Applications for the Border Counties’ In-State Tuition Rate are available in the counseling center and online. If earned each semester, a student could save over \$60,000. (2) *Pick up information in the counseling center about Fine and Performing Arts scholarships (deadline March 15), Honors in Discipline Scholarships (deadline April 1) and General Scholarships (deadline March 1).* More information can be located online at www.etsu.edu/scholarships.

NON-SCHOOL SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

FEBRUARY

- **Herff Jones Believe in You Scholarship and Principal’s Award:** Information on the application process is available in the counseling center, but the application is completely online at <https://aim/applyists.net/HerffJones>. *Plan to have your application completed no later than Wednesday, February 4 (BEFORE the stated deadline) so that school official(s) can complete their part(s) before the official February 8 deadline.*
- **Florence Kidder Memorial Scholarship:** \$3000 scholarship and \$1000 scholarship for student planning to attend school in North Carolina. Application includes 500-700 essay about the constitution. More information, application, and specific instructions are available at ncdames.org/refresh/templates/scholarships.php?id+49. Deadline **February 5**.
- **Annual Create-a-Greeting Card Contest:** Students (grades 9-12) must submit a unique photo, piece of artwork, or computer graphic for front of a greeting card. Information is available online at www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm about this opportunity to win \$10,000. Deadline for submission is **February 18, 2015**.
- **Gertrude McDaris Ruskin and Sidney H. Ruskin Scholarship:** Applicants must be residents of Buncombe, Haywood, or Madison Counties OR should reside on the Cherokee Indian Reservation; must be Baptist, Methodist, or Presbyterian; must be of Cherokee Indian descent or Anglo-Saxon descent and have ancestors who resided in one of the original 13 colonies at the time of the Revolutionary War; must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Recipients may attend an accredited public or private 2-year or 4-year school, but preference will be given to those wishing to attend Mars Hill College, Warren Wilson College, Berea College, Carson-Newman, or Reinhardt University. Application and information are at www.csascholars.org. Applicants must submit application (online) and accompanying materials by mail with postmark no later than **February 11**.
- **Buick Achievers:** Students planning to enroll full-time at a 4-year college and major in a field of study that focuses on engineering, technology, design, or business, with an interest in the auto industry should learn more about this scholarship opportunity at www.buickachievers.com. Application deadline is **February 27**.

MARCH

- **R. Flake Shaw Scholarship:** Two separate applications (one for \$3750 scholarship PER YEAR to a 4-year school) and one for a \$1000 PER YEAR to a 2-year school) for students planning to pursue a career in agriculture. Pick up information in the counseling center. Deadline is **March 1**.
- **North Carolina Alpha Delta Kappa Student Achievement Scholarship:** \$2000 for female or male with 2.5 to 3.5 weighted GPA, SAT score of 1344—1560 or ACT 20—24, planning to attend a 2-year or 4-year school. THIS scholarship application is available online at www.nccommunityfoundation.org. Deadline is **March 1**.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION continued

- **North Carolina State USBC Association Youth Scholarships:** \$2000 scholarship for a current member of the NCS USBCA and is bowling in a certified USBC North Carolina youth league. Application is in the counseling center. Deadline is **March 1**.
- **Golden Leaf Scholarship :** The Golden Leaf Foundation provides funding for 215 \$3000 renewable scholarships each year for students who demonstrate need, reside in one of 78 rural NC counties (including Haywood!), and enroll in a qualifying 2-year OR 4-year school. Learn more <http://www.cfnc.org/goldenleaf>. Deadline to apply online is **March 1**.
- **North Carolina Retail Merchants Association:** 6 scholarships of \$2500 each. All applicants (or parents of applicants) must be employed by a NCRMA company. Information and application are available at www.retailpaysforcollege.org. Deadline **March 2**.
- **Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarships of Excellence / Carolinas Food Industry Council:** 40 scholarships of \$2500 each. All applicants (or parents of applicants) must be employed by CFIC company. Information and application are available at www.retailpaysforcollege.org. Deadline **March 2**.
- **Catch the Spirit of Appalachia:** Students planning to pursue a major or minor in Appalachian history, music, or culture should pick up more information and an application for this scholarship in the counseling center. Deadline is **March 10**.
- **The Journey:** Applicants with a 3.0 GPA planning to attend a 2-year or 4-year school who also live in Beaverdam, Bethel, Fines Creek, North Hominy, or Pigeon communities are encouraged to pick up information and application in the counseling center. Completed application must be verified by a community club officer and be postmarked by **March 25**.
- **Scotty Cochran Scholarship:** \$500 scholarship for two-year school or \$1000 scholarship for 4-year school for students who can demonstrate a serious commitment to community service. Haywood County Farm Bureau members or their children will be given first consideration. Application and more information is in the counseling center. Deadline is **March 31**.
- **Charles Shuford Memorial Scholarship:** Haywood County residents active in 4-H planning to pursue an undergraduate degree or technical training beyond high school are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Application is available in the counseling center and online at www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/show?id=973&from=33. Completed application must be mailed to Haywood Co. Coop. Ext., Attn: Bill Skelton, 589 Raccoon Road, Waynesville, NC 28786 no later than **March 31**.

APRIL / MAY

- **Forgiveable Education Loans for Service (FELS):** Provides financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in approved education programs and committed to working in critical employment shortage professions in NC. Awards range from \$3000 to \$7000 and serve students attending 2-year, 4-year, or graduate programs. More information (about specific career areas) is available in the counseling center and online at <http://www.cfnc.org/FELS>. Deadline for online application is **April 1**.
- **North Carolina Bar Association for Children of NC Law Enforcement Officers:** Children of officers who were killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty can learn more about scholarships ranging from \$1500 to \$3000. Information and application are at www.ncbar.org/members/divisions/young-lawyers. Deadline is **April 1**.
- **Canton High School Class of 54 Scholarship:** Application in the counseling center for a PHS senior demonstrating successful academic achievement and financial need who is planning to attend a 2-year or 4-year school. Deadline is **April 15**.
- **I. Beverly Lake Scholarship Endowment:** North Carolina high school graduates who are eligible for membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the United Daughters of the Confederacy and pursuing a degree at an institution of higher learning are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Application is available in the counseling center and online at www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/show?id=387&from=33. Mail application to UDC Bennett Place Chapter, Attn: Caroline Odom, PO Box 641, Graham, NC 27253-0641 no later than **April 20**.
- **William Sanders Scholarship:** NC residents who are members of the NC Junior Angus Association and are graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated participation, service, and leadership by achieving levels of the National Junior Angus Association Awards should pick up an application in the counseling center or learn more online at www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/show?id=195&from=33. Application should be mailed to NC Angus Association, 3942 North NC Highway 150, Lexington, NC 27295 no later than **April 15**.
- **SunTrust Off to College Scholarship Sweepstakes:** High school seniors and current undergraduate college students can win a \$1000 scholarship for their education at a college or university. **One winner will be chosen every two weeks from October 31, 2014 through May 15, 2015.** Students can register online at suntruseducation.com/scholarshipssweepstakes.
- **Student View Scholarship Program:** Log on to www.student-view.com and complete a 15-20 minute application survey about colleges in your area. \$11,000 worth of scholarships (ranging from \$500 to \$4000) will be awarded by random drawing in May. Deadline is **April 22, 2015**.

June/ July

- **College Sports Scholarship:** Write about a time you were the leader in an important moment on the field or in your community. Describe what you did and what you learned from that experience. The essay needs to be written in 1,000 words or less. Email your essay along with your name, college or university, year of graduation and contact information (so we can notify the winner) to leadership@collegesportsscholarships.com. Deadline is **July 1**. (Learn more at www.collegesportsscholarships.com/scholarship.htm.)

Other Scholarships:

- Come by the counseling center for a listing of scholarship websites for **Hispanic and Latino Students**. (Deadlines vary!)
- **NC Reach:** Applicant must have been in NC public foster care and be planning to enroll at an NC community college or one of the 16 UNC system universities. Learn more at www.ncreach.org.
- **North Carolina Education and Training Voucher Program (NCETV):** Applicants must have been served by NC foster care, be eligible for NC Links, and be accepted into a college, university, technical, or vocational school. Learn more at www.fc2sprogram.org/north-carolina/.
- **North Carolina Hospitality Education Foundation:** High school seniors who plan to enroll at an accredited 2-year or 4-year school in North Carolina and pursue a course of study in culinary arts, hospitality management, or tourism are eligible for scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$1500. Learn more at www.ncrla.org.

MATERIALS YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

- Your Social Security Number
- Your Driver's License
- Your W-2 forms for the previous year
- Other records of money earned the previous year
- Your most recent Federal Income Tax Return
- Your parent's Federal Income Tax Return for the previous year (if you are a dependent student as defined by federal criteria)
- Your current bank statements
- Your current business and investment information (such as farm records, stocks/bonds, etc.)

Much of the financial information you need to provide is on your tax forms. Completing your taxes early can make the application process easier because you'll have the financial information you need in one place. You can estimate your financial information using the previous year's taxes and correct the amounts on the form later by going on the corrections page on the FAFSA web site. If you are not required to file taxes, you still have to fill out a FAFSA to get financial aid. Filling out the Pre-Application Worksheet (available on the website) may help you collect and proofread the information for your application before you submit it.

Be sure to write down and keep yours and your parent's pin numbers!

Taken from *National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators* and available at www.nasfaa.org/publications

FAFSA Tips (and COSTLY mistakes!)

Making mistakes on your FAFSA could delay your application and possibly make you lose out on some financial aid. Try to avoid the following most common errors:

- **Leaving blank fields** : enter "0" or "not applicable"
- **Using commas or decimal points in numeric fields**: always round to the nearest dollar
- **Listing incorrect social security numbers OR driver's license numbers**
- **Entering the wrong federal income tax paid amount**: look at the tax return form, not the W-2 form
- **Listing "adjusted gross income" as equal to "total income"**: These are NOT the same. Usually the AGI is larger than the total income.
- **Listing incorrect marital status**: Only write "yes" if you are currently married, the day you sign the FAFSA.
- **Listing incorrect parent marital status**: the custodial parent's marital status is needed, and if they've remarried, you will need the step-parent's information.
- **Leaving the question about the drug-related offenses blank**: If you're unsure, find out before submitting instead of leaving it blank.
- **Forgetting to list the college**: Obtain the Federal School Code for the college(s) you hope to attend.
- **Forgetting to sign and date**: If you are filing electronically, be sure to obtain your PIN from www.pin.ed.gov. Your PIN is your electronic signature and will only be assigned to you.
- **Entering the wrong address**: your permanent address (not your summer or campus address)
- **Sending in a copy of your income tax forms**: you will be contacted if your information needs verification.

Taken from *National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators* and available at www.nasfaa.org/publications

Tips for Completing Scholarship Applications

1. Read all instructions carefully . Make sure you meet all eligibility requirements (eg. two-year or four-year school, minimum GPA, college major / career plans, etc.) before you begin.
2. Make a photocopy of the application. Complete a "draft" in pencil on the copy BEFORE you type or write (in black ink!) your final copy .
3. Ask someone to read over your draft to make sure it answers all required questions. Spelling and grammatical errors are NOT impressive.
4. Most applications from this point of the year forward will ask whether you have completed the FAFSA (and may ask for your EFC number from the FAFSA). Please get this document completed as soon as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the financial aid office of a school of interest for assistance.
5. Have a "resume" of work experience, volunteer experience, extracurricular activities, and awards/honors handy. It's best to save a copy on your computer: You'll probably need it several times.
6. Most applications require at least one letter of reference. Don't wait until the last minute to ask someone! Do ask them to save a copy in case you need another later on. Do send them a thank-you note for their assistance.
7. Put all scholarship deadlines on a calendar somewhere you look regularly. **Note if the deadline is for actual receipt of the application or a postmark deadline. Note whether you are expected to return the application to your school's counseling center OR mail it OR submit it online OR deliver it in person!** If you have any questions about the application, see your counselor or contact the scholarship sponsor well before the deadline.
8. Ask Mrs. Case for the required transcript BEFORE the deadline!
9. **Follow all directions to the letter!**