

SAY YES TO EDUCATION

SENIOR NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

This past September, the first class of Syracuse City High School graduates eligible for the financial aid program provided through Say Yes to Education entered college. Currently over 500 of the graduates are attending college, the majority are enrolled in one of the SUNY colleges; though over 100 students enrolled in one of our partner private colleges. These students are all receiving a combination of grants from federal, state, private sources, and Say Yes to cover the tuition portion of their college expenses.

This newsletter contains information to assist our second class (students graduating from one of the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) High Schools in June or August 2010) in understanding the benefits of Say Yes, and also outlines the process for determining award eligibility and responsibilities of the students.

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS

The Say Yes Higher Education Compact program communicates with seniors through e-mail. Therefore it is important that we have the e-mail address for graduating seniors on file. If you received a copy of this newsletter electronically, that means that we have your e-mail address. If you did not, you must let us know your e-mail address. The best way of doing this is to send us an e-mail at college@sayyessyracuse.org. In the subject line type "E-mail Update" and in the body of the e-mail include your full name, high school, and a phone number where you may be reached.

SAY YES ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Syracuse Say Yes to Education tuition guarantee you must have been enrolled at Corcoran, Fowler, Henninger, Nottingham, or Institute of Technology Syracuse Central (ITC) for the consecutive grades of 10th, 11th and 12th, and must have completed graduation requirements by the end of the summer. Eligibility is certified by the SCSD. If you are a senior and do not meet the Syracuse Say Yes eligibility criteria, you will receive a separate mailing that will provide ineligible students the opportunity to appeal for eligibility.

ADMISSIONS/FINANCIAL AID

All students must apply for admissions and financial aid at the colleges they are considering. It is important that Say Yes students meet all the deadlines of the colleges to which they are applying. If you are applying to one of the Say Yes private compact colleges, it is important to inform the admissions office that you are part of Syracuse Say Yes to Education. A list of the eligible compact colleges is included in this newsletter.

To be eligible for the Say Yes tuition guarantee grant, students must apply for financial aid by using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Certain private colleges may also require the CSS College Financial Aid Profile. Say Yes students must complete all the financial aid applications that other students must complete and also follow up on any requests for additional information from the colleges. Students will be expected to meet all deadlines.

SUNY/CUNY COLLEGES

Students applying to a SUNY or CUNY colleges should receive financial aid awards from each SUNY/CUNY college at which they are admitted. When you receive a financial aid award, please review it carefully.

Many students will be awarded a NYS Tuition Assistance Program (NYS TAP) award and a federal Pell grant.

If the total NYS TAP, federal Pell grant, and other scholarships do not equal or exceed the cost of tuition, then you will be eligible for a Say Yes grant to cover the difference.

* Note in this case, the amount received from the NYS TAP Program and the Federal Pell Grant exceeds the cost of tuition therefore there is no separate Say Yes Grant award.

The Say Yes program will work with your college to determine the amount of funding you are eligible to receive from Say Yes. If you receive a Say Yes grant, we will send the grant directly to the college. Students will receive an award notice from Say Yes once your eligibility has been confirmed over the summer.

Examples:

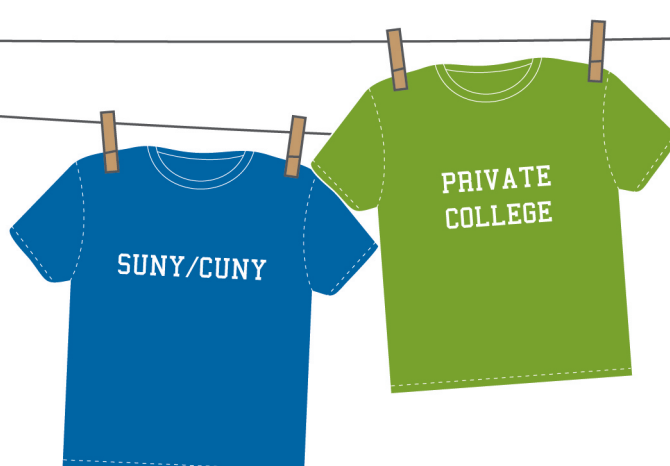
| | Example A: | Example B: | Example C: |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Tuition (Cost per year) | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$4,000 |
| NYS TAP Award | -1,000 | 0 | -3,000 |
| Federal Pell Grant | -3,000 | 0 | -3,500 |
| Other Scholarships | -0 | 0 | -500 |
| Sub Total awards | \$4,000 | \$0 | \$7,000 |
| Say Yes Grant | \$1,000 | \$5,000 | * 0 |
| Total Award final awards | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$7,000 |

PRIVATE COMPACT COLLEGES

The financial aid process will be slightly different for students applying to the private compact institutions. The funding to meet the Say Yes tuition guarantee will be coming from the private institution and therefore Say Yes awards should be part of your initial financial aid award. However, just as in the SUNY schools, the cost of tuition may be made up of different sources of funds.

Please note that most private colleges only guarantee full tuition to students from families with incomes less than \$75,000. It is important that students work directly with the financial aid offices at the private schools where they are admitted to determine the total amount of financial assistance that the student is eligible to receive. If you have any questions on your award, you may contact the Say Yes office.

IS YOUR FUTURE ON THE LINE?



Find your fit.

Learn more at sayessyracuse.org

STUDENT CERTIFICATION FORM

All Say Yes eligible students will receive a Student Certification Form in May 2010. On this form you will be asked to identify the college you are planning to attend and sign a release so the college can provide the Say Yes program with your financial aid award information.

WHERE CAN I GET ANSWERS TO MY SYRACUSE SAY YES QUESTIONS?

The SayYesSyracuse.org web site is updated on a regular basis to provide information about the Say Yes program and the Say Yes tuition guarantee. You may also visit your high school guidance office. Your guidance counselor should be able to help you with questions regarding your Say Yes eligibility, applying to colleges, and financial aid. If you have additional questions you may e-mail them to college@sayyessyracuse.org.

WHERE CAN I RECEIVE HELP IN COMPLETING THE FAFSA FORM?

At these events financial aid professionals from local colleges will assist you in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online.

College Goal Day

Saturday, February 6th from 1-4 pm

Two locations:

Nottingham High School and Fowler High School

For more information and registration:

www.collegegoalsundayny.com

SUNY Statewide Student Financial Aid Day

Saturday, February 27

Syracuse locations:

SUNY ESF at 8:30 am

OCC at 10 am

For more information and registration:

www.suny.edu/student/event_listing/index.cfm

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Over the next couple of months we will be sending you regular updates on what to expect from the Syracuse Say Yes program. To facilitate communication, we will be in contact with seniors via e-mail. Again, if you are a senior and you have not received a copy of this newsletter electronically, that means we do not have your e-mail address. Please send us your e-mail address at college@sayyessyracuse.org. In the subject line type "E-mail Update" and in the body of the e-mail include your full name, high school, and a phone number where you may be reached.

SAY YES PARTNER COLLEGES

Public Colleges

State University of New York (SUNY)

City University of New York (CUNY)

Private Colleges

Clarkson University

Columbia University

Cooper Union

Fordham University

Goodwin College

Hartwick College

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Houghton College

Le Moyne College

Manhattanville College

Marist College

Medaille College

Molloy College

New York Institute of Technology

New York University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rochester Institute of Technology

Sarah Lawrence College

Syracuse University

Tufts University

University of Pennsylvania

University of Rochester

