

NJC offers help on financial aid forms

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Students and parents will be offered free professional help as they take an important first step to getting college financial aid Sunday, Feb. 13 at 15 locations across Colorado, including Northeastern Junior College (NJC) in Sterling.

It's all part of the fifth annual College Goal Sunday, a national program that helps families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA must be completed for a student to receive any type of financial aid, including grants, work study, student loans and even many scholarships.

College Goal Sunday will be held in Sterling at NJC Sunday, Feb. 13 from 2-4 p.m. in Phillips Whyman Hall.

Representatives from NJC's financial aid and student services offices and volunteers from Morgan Community College will be on hand to help families complete the FAFSA.

Students do not have to be planning to go to NJC to access this help. The area college volunteers are helping all students who are college-bound to complete the form, regardless where they plan to attend. An interpreter is expected to be at the local site to help any Spanish-speaking families and students.

"Even in the best of times, paying for college can be a daunting challenge," said Dr. Cheryl Lovell, chief academic officer for the Colorado Department of Higher Education. "In these tough economic times, it can be even more difficult for families and students. But financial aid is available and College Goal Sunday can help families access it.

"The event is also a confirmation that college access matters, and anything we can do to support Coloradoans in taking advantage of postsecondary opportunities is a plus for the entire state. We hope College Goal Sunday will motivate Coloradans to pursue further education."

"This is a great resource to get FAFSA help from the experts, and it's free," added Misti

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Ruthven, college access director for the Colorado Department of Higher Education. “Because College Goal Sunday will take place in 15 locations across Colorado, families from every corner of the state can take advantage of the program.”

For more information on College Goal Sunday, visit www.collegegoalcolorado.org .