



January, 2009

Dear Student and Parents,

This is an exciting time for Say Yes to Education and the Syracuse City School District. Over the past several years many people in the School District, The Say Yes to Education Foundation and many colleges and universities have worked hard to make The Say Yes Post Secondary Scholarship a reality. Now is the time for you to do your part.

All SYTE eligible students must apply to and be admitted to the colleges that they wish to attend. We hope that you have taken time to review the information and programs at the colleges that participate in SYTE and selected colleges that meet your educational goals. By this time you should have completed admissions applications to these colleges and submitted the required supporting materials. **(Please check with your high school guidance counselor as to your SYTE eligibility status.)**

This letter will focus on what **your responsibilities** are regarding the SYTE financial aid program.

All SYTE students are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) regardless of family income. This form should be completed on-line by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

When completing the FAFSA, you must indicate **every** college and university to which you are applying, whether they participate in the Say Yes program or not.

It is very important to complete the FAFSA by the financial aid deadline of the colleges to which you are applying. We strongly recommend that you complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. Remember that colleges have different deadlines and SYTE students are required to meet the deadlines of the schools to which they are applying.

The FAFSA will ask for information from your 2008 federal tax returns. Since most families will not complete their 2008 federal tax return in February, you should estimate the information as best you can - use your 2007 tax return as a guide. The FAFSA was designed to be completed by the family and no additional outside assistance is generally required. However, if you find you need assistance in completing the form, we encourage you to attend one of the following College Goal workshops:

Syracuse University
Physics Building (next to Hendricks Chapel on the Quad)
Saturday, January 31st
Time: 12 noon- 4p.m.
443-4260
sayyes@syr.edu

-OVER-

Fowler High School
Sunday, February 8, 2009
Time: 1 PM - 4 PM.
To register go to www.collegegoalsundayny.com
Or talk to your guidance counselor

Environmental Science and Forestry
Saturday, February 21, 2009
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, New York, 13045
315-470-6670
finaid@esf.edu
To register go to www.suny.edu/studentevents

Onondaga Community College
Saturday, February 21
4585 West Seneca Turnpike
Syracuse, New York
315-498-2291
faoinfo@sunyocc.edu
To register go to www.suny.edu/studentevents

Prior to financial aid days, students must request a Federal pin number at www.pin.ed.gov.

Students and parents should bring the following information to the Financial Aid Day Program:

- Driver's license
- Alien registration card (non-U.S. citizens)
- Bank statements and investment information
- FAFSA PIN number
- Social Security numbers
- Estimated 2008 Federal Income Tax Return
- W-2 forms and other records of income earned for 2008
- 2008 untaxed income information

Families may also get answers to their questions regarding the FAFSA by calling the US Department of Education information line at 1-800-433-3243 or by contacting the financial aid office at the colleges to which you are applying.

In addition to the FAFSA, some colleges and universities require students to complete an additional financial aid application called the **College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile**. This form is only required by the following SYTE partner colleges:

Adelphi University	Columbia University
Cooper Union	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Sarah Lawrence
Syracuse University	Tufts University
Univ. of Pennsylvania	Univ. of Rochester

Only complete this form if one or more of the colleges to which you are applying requires it. This form can only be completed on line at www.collegeboard.com. While this form generally requires that the student pay a filing fee, many SYTE students will qualify for a fee waiver. If you qualify for a fee waiver, it will be indicated to you when you complete the CSS Profile form. If you have a question about the CSS Profile contact the college to which you are applying.

Later in the spring you will receive additional information regarding the Syracuse SYTE program and the process for ensuring that you receive the appropriate financial aid award as a SYTE student. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the SYTE financial aid program you may send them to sayyes@syr.edu.