

PRESS RELEASE



From the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 20 is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. – Louisiana's fourth annual College Goal Sunday will be held on February 20, 2011, from 2-4 p.m. at fourteen locations around the state. The purpose of College Goal Sunday is to provide students and their families with free professional assistance in completing the primary student financial aid form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Completing the FAFSA is the first step to take in order to receive most forms of federal student aid including Pell grants, low-interest federal student loans and to participate in the federal Work Study program. In addition, several state student financial aid programs, including the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship program and the Louisiana Go Grant need-based aid program, require completion of the FAFSA in order to qualify and access funds.

College Goal Sunday is a national program designed to help students navigate the paperwork barriers that stand between them and the money they need to attend college. Completing the form correctly with detailed income, tax and other information can be a difficult task. On College Goal Sunday, financial aid professionals from Louisiana colleges and universities will be on hand to provide free line-by-line assistance.

As an added bonus for participants, education scholarship funds have been donated to further aid in the funding of a student's education. Louisiana College Goal Sunday participants can submit their names for a drawing that will award one such scholarship per location.

Anyone, from soon-to-be high school graduates to returning non-traditional students, who is planning to attend a two or four-year college or university or community or technical college during the 2011-2012 academic year can benefit from attendance.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged to ensure that each site has the resources needed to assist all participants. To pre-register, log on to www.osfa.la.gov and "click" on the Louisiana College Goal Sunday link. The website will also provide detailed information including specific records and documentation that participants will need to bring to the event.

College Goal Sunday Louisiana is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) with assistance from the Louisiana Gear-Up and Trio programs and the Louisiana Department of Education. Funding for Louisiana College Goal Sunday is provided by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education.

The fourteen College Goal Sunday site locations in Louisiana are:

Alexandria

Louisiana State University-Alexandria

Brumfield Caffey Annex located in the Student Center Alexandria, LA 71302

Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Community College

Bienvenue Student Center Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Southern University

Baton Rouge, LA 70813 P.B.S. Pinchback Engineering Building, High Tech Room (#123) Robert E. Smith Drive

Bossier City

Bossier Parish Community College

Building D, Room 215 Bossier City, LA 71111

Grambling

Grambling State University

Jacob T. Stewart Building Grambling, LA 71245

Hammond

Southeastern Louisiana University

Fayard Hall - Main Lobby Hammond, LA 70402

Houma

Fletcher Technical Community College

Main Campus (310 St. Charles) Rooms 104 and 105 Houma, LA 70360

Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Moody Hall, Room 103 Parking will be available in the Martin Hall Parking Lot Lafayette, LA 70504

Lake Charles

SOWELA Technical Community College

Administration Building (located on Sen J. Bennett Johnston Ave) First floor Culinary Arts Training Center Lake Charles, LA 70616

<u>Lutcher</u>

Lutcher High School

Auditorium Lutcher, LA 70071

Monroe

Louisiana Delta Community College

Louisiana Purchase Building-Third Floor-Room 310 Monroe, LA 71201

New Orleans

Delgado Community College - West Bank Campus

Building #1, room 130 New Orleans, LA 70114

Dillard University

DUICEF Hall, Room 106 New Orleans, LA 70122

Ruston

Louisiana Technical College

Main Building Room A101 Ruston, LA 71270

For more information, visit www.osfa.la.gov or contact the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at (225) 219-1012 or (800) 259-5626, Ext. 1012 or by e-mail at custserv@osfa.state.la.us.

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