



SENIOR SCOTS BULLETIN

Counselor's Corner

It's **financial aid season** Seniors! Be sure to attend the next **Cash for College on Thursday, February 16th** from 3:30-5:30 in the Career Center (Room 2A) or 5:30-7:30 pm in the Library. Bring your parents and their tax or income info for 2015. If you've already completed the FAFSA, or Dream Act then stop by this **FREE event** and complete the Exit Survey to get into a drawing for special prizes! The **FAFSA/DREAM and CalGrant deadline is March 2** yearly. Now is the time to **apply for local scholarships**—watch for Kern High School District, Grimmway Farms, Bakersfield College, CSUB and many more available NOW in the Career Center. Remember, a few hours of work completing scholarships could be worth hundreds of dollars per hour \$\$\$ to spend on books, supplies, etc for college! **Keep us informed!** If you are accepted to any **4-year university** or receive **scholarships**—inform Ms. Courtis by bringing or emailing a copy of acceptance letter (ONE SCHOOL ONLY) to denise_courtis@kernhigh.org so that you will be included in these end-of-Senior-year activities **Academic Signing Ceremony (May 1st)** and/or the **Senior Awards Ceremony (May 15th)**. **Keep your eyes on the finish line**—stay on track for graduation with classes and college application deadlines. REMEMBER—Highland Counseling Staff (Counselors & Career Center) and College Advisors (Cal-SOAP) are here to help you reach out for assistance ANYTIME for help financial aid apps, creating college portals, scholarships and oh so much more!!!
Ms. Barrick, Counselor, Class of 2017

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				FAFSA Completion Follow-Up Workshops		Y2L FAFSA SUPER SATURDAY Rathbun Branch Library 8-10 am 200 W China Grade Loop ACT Test (Not @ HHS)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SuperBowl Sunday	60 Min Early Out 2:16pm		BC STEPS Workshops 2nd/3rd 6th/7th CareerCenter 2A	FAFSA Completion Follow-Up Workshops TALENT SHOW	<i>Deadline to Reg</i> 03/11/16 SAT	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	LINCOLN's BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY (Observed) NO SCHOOL	Happy Valentine's Day 		CASH FOR COLLEGE Workshop #2 3:30-5:30 2A or 5:30-7:30 Library		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	WASHINGTON's BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY (Observed) NO SCHOOL	SCHOLAR/ATHLETE AWARDS		FAFSA Completion Follow-Up Workshops	BLOOD DRIVE	
25	27	28				<i>March 3, 2017</i> <i>Deadline to Reg</i> <i>04/08/17 Test</i> <i>ACT @ Highland</i>
	BC WORKSHOP Counseling Workshop & ED Plan Session I am Session II pm (Library)					

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

Cash for College Workshop #2 Thurs, **February 16, 2017** **Session I** 3:30-5:30 pm (CC-2A) **Session II** 5:30-7:30 pm (Library).
BC STEPS Workshop— Wed, February 8, 2016 7 Career Center—Room 2A **2nd & 3rd** and **6th & 7th** periods
Bakersfield College Step 4 Mon February 27, 2017 Counseling/Ed Plan Workshop—Library

Session I Periods 1-3; **Session II** Periods 5-7 ******BY INVITATION ONLY******

BC Deadline for Priority Reg March 31, 2017—Complete all steps 1-5 and get priority registration in Early April—yeah!!

COLLEGE PORTALS: If you have received a confirmation from colleges you have applied to that contain your college student ID, you need to create your username/password on each college portal (myCSUB, myUCLA, insideBC etc.) and check your "to do list" for the status of your application and any additional documents that may be requested/required to complete so your app can be reviewed for acceptance.

FINANCIAL AID INFO

STEP ONE—FSA-ID# - You will need to obtain an "FSA-ID" (username/password) for both you and one parent to use as your "electronic signatures" on the FAFSA application itself. Visit www.fsa-id.ed.gov to apply. Please note-you will need a valid, non KHSD, email!

STEP TWO—FAFSA or DREAM ACT Application—priority deadline is March 2nd for both. You can submit the FAFSA or Dream Act using parents 2015 taxes or income info and **then go back and make corrections after March 2nd** as necessary. **DID YOU KNOW??** That any FAFSA/Dream Act grant money awarded to you **will be sent to your college or university of choice** and distributed for payments toward tuition and fees from that college. Any **left-over money (after tuition/fees)** will be yours to spend on living expenses (food, transportation, books, clothing, etc.) or save for future college expenses.

CAL-GRANTS & MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP \$—Create an account (username & password) at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/login.asp> to view CalGrant awards. Must complete a FAFSA application **first** and have your GPA verified (this happens when the KHSD uploaded your info to the CalGrant website—you can check w/Ms. Courtis to see if yours was uploaded. Webgrant4students "how to" handouts in Career Center. **SSN REMINDER**—It is **IMPERATIVE** to have your Social Security Number on record in Highland's database for the "GPA Upload" to the CalGrant websites. Bring your **original** social security card to our Registrar, Mrs. Milazzo as soon as possible and then inform Ms. Courtis so she can "UPLOAD" your info to get qualified for CalGrant or Middle Class Scholarship by March 2nd!!!(THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE-DON'T MISS IT !!!)

CAL-SOAP PEER ADVISOR, ALEJANDRA PADILLA

is available M-F (Hours Vary-for sure all day Thursdays!) in the Career Center and she is here to follow-up with SENIORS on College & Financial Aid apps, Webgrants accounts, Scholarship apps, College Portals, BC Steps and somuch more!

Why not stop by and sign-up for help TODAY?! Cal-SOAP Rocks!!!

What is a Cal Grant?

- 1) Cal Grants A, B & C (and Dream Act or Middle Class Scholarships) are the State of California grant \$\$\$ for 4-year 2-year colleges or tech schools.
- 2) First, you must complete a FAFSA application!
- 3) Next, your SSN is uploaded to the CalGrant website by the KHSD. This takes the place of the "GPA Verification." Be sure your SSN is on file with Highland's Registrar to be included in the upload!
- 4) March 2 is the **ABSOLUTE** deadline for CalGrants!!!

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH TO...

ATTEND THE NEXT CASH FOR COLLEGE (FAFSA)

NIGHT at HHS on Thursday 02/16/17. Students who have already completed and submitted their FAFSA applications should attend the 3:30-5:30 session in Room 2A to complete the "Exit Survey" and enter a drawing for prizes! Cal-SOAP Advisors available for one-on-one financial aid application assistance in English and Spanish on C4C night.

Parents gather documents 2017-18 app requires 2015 taxes or income info. Did you know you can submit the FAFSA by the March 2 deadline with AND THEN go back and "Update" your application after the March 2 deadline? It's true so don't wait—submit your FAFSA asap!

Consider sending a letter of "Special Circumstance" to financial aid office at each of your colleges—if your parents income has changed. Financial aid officers have the ability to \$\$INCREASE\$\$ financial awards based on "unusual" family situations.

Continue your quest for Scholarships! Local scholarships are here! Request letters of recommendation early (give 2 weeks notice to recommenders). Also, listen up in the daily bulletin for newest scholarships available.

Apply for Campus-Specific scholarships at colleges and universities. UC and CSU campuses have funding available for first-time freshmen. Many have a single online application to complete which searches scholarship money. This is one of the **BEST** sources of scholarship funds—don't overlook this "easy money!!!" for college. Ms. Courtis has flyers for CSU and UC and even BC scholarships with deadline info—I'll show you the \$\$\$

Cal Grants/Dream Act/Middle Class Scholarships are the state of California grant money for college that **DOES NOT** have to be repaid. Did you know that your GPA determines how much Cal Grant or MCS money you qualify for-3.0 gets you the most dough \$\$\$

How to apply for Cal Grants ??? Students in the Kern High School District have their GPA "uploaded" automatically by the district office to the Calgrants website automatically? It's true, this is considered the "GPA Verification". A FAFSA application must be filed as well to be considered for Cal Grant or Middle Class Scholarship \$\$\$.

Students can visit <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/login.asp> and create aWebgrants4Students account to view their Cal Grant awards. "How to" handouts available in the Career Center.

Notify Ms. Courtis when you receive 4-year college acceptance(s) to be included in the Academic Signing Ceremony May 1st. College acceptance letter must be provided to Ms. Courtis on or before April 28th and you only get to be honored for ONE college at this event!!!

ALSO Notify Ms. Courtis if you receive ANY scholarship or merit awards to be included in Senior Awards Night May 15th.

Keep your grades up! Did you know that failing to maintain a grade of "C" or better on A-G courses can revoke your acceptance to 4-year colleges? Don't get Senioritis-stay focused !!!

Have ??? Email Ms. Courtis: denise_courtis@kernhigh.org

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS are highlighted below—check it out

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Association of California School Administrators. Dependents of ASCA Region XI members. Paper application available in the Career Center. Or contact Gerrie Kincaid, PBVUSD.	Feb 10
Bakersfield College Scholarship (Incoming Freshmen). 500 word essay and 3 letters of recommendation required. Apply online at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu (Flyers available in Career Center)	Feb 10
AFA Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness. Have you been affected by someone in your family with Alzheimer's disease? Write an autobiography and thoughtful essay and you could win \$500-\$5,000. www.afateens.org	Feb 15
Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship. Minority students showing leadership potential and financial need. Up to \$24,000. www.jackierobinson.org/apply/general-applicants.php	Feb 15
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Book Scholarship. Open to African-American students to attend university, community college, vocational or military program. Paper application available in the Career Center or www.akabakersfield.com/scholarships .	Feb 15
California Strawberry Commission Scholarship. 2.0 GPA. Must have a parent who is a fieldworker. http://www.californiastrawberries.com/scholarships	Feb 15
PG&E Great Minds in STEM. AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY More info available by visiting Up to \$20,000 https://pge.scholarshipamerica.org/reminder/	Feb TBA
Create-a-greeting Card Scholarship. Submit an original greeting card for \$1,000 scholarship for you and \$1,000 for your school! www.wg.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm	Feb 18
U. C. Cosmos STEM Summer program. Study STEM subjects at a U.C. Campus over summer 2015. Apply at www.ucop.edu/cosmos . Presentation 02/03/17 3rd period LMB	Feb 19
Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship. Must have led a campaign at your high school promoting vegetarianism. http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm	Feb 20
Toyota Teen Drive Scholarship. Create a 30-60 second video on safe teen driving and win \$1,000-\$15,000 http://www.teendrive365inschool.com/teens/video-challenge	Feb. 23
Asian Pacific Fund Scholarships. 12 scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$20,000. www.asianpacificfund.org/scholarships	Feb 24
CORE's Que Llueva Café Scholarship. Available to U.S. Citizens or Undocumented Students graduating from high school based on (3) criteria: Personal essay, Extra-curricular activities, Academic Promise. www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program	Feb 25
UCLA Alumni Scholarship. \$4,000-\$20,000. www.a.alumni.ucla.edu/scholarships/apply/common	Feb 26
Young Woman Defining Philanthropy Award. Demonstrated philanthropic spirit through personal giving and/or leadership inspiring others to support charitable organization. NOT A MONETARY AWARD. Paper applications in Career Center or contact Agnes 661.203.7179 or email adejong001@gmail.com	Feb 27
Buick Achievers Scholarship Program. Majoring in Engineering/Technology or select Design and Business related programs of study. Must demonstrate interest in automotive or related industries. www.buickachievers.scholarshipamerica.org	Mar 1
Fresno State Campus Scholarships. Open to students attending Fresno State fall 2015. Online application at www.csufresno.edu/scholarships/scholarshipapplication	Mar. 2
Theresa Ann Corti Ag Scholarship. Students pursuing ag or ag-related major (forestry does NOT count). www.sms.scholarshipamerica.org/wellsfargotrust	Mar 1
RIT DHH technology, Digital Arts, Film and Animation competition. Competition for 9-12 grade students creating work in web design, graphic media, 3-D animation, interactive media and photo illustration. \$250 www.rit.edu/NTID/DAFAC	Mar 1
CSUB Academic Works. Campus scholarships for incoming Freshmen Fall 2015. Single online application searches for \$\$\$ Apply at http://www.csub.edu/finaid/types/schol/	Mar 2
Kern High School District—various scholarships (Music (2), Women studying Finance of Political Science, Grimway Farms (up to \$10,000), essay contest, etc.) Paper applications available in the Career Center. Due to Ms. Courtis Wednesday March 4th.	Mar 10
Kern Community Foundation. \$500-\$5,500 various donors looking for various types of students. Apply online at www.kernfoundation.org .	Mar 10
Italian Catholic Federation. 3.2+ GPA and Roman Catholic and of Italian Descent. Paper applications available in Career Center or visit www.icf.org .	Mar 15
Grimway Farms Scholarship. Dependents of Grimmway employees (1 year). Up to \$10,000 over 4 years. Paper application available in Career Center.	Mar 15