

Tools for Finding College Funding

(Courtesy of Linda Aguilar, JJC Counselor)

The Financial Aid web pages, listed below, provide links to scholarship sources. Included is the application site JJC's Stars Online. The JJC foundation awards thousands of dollars each year to help JJC students. The deadline for most scholarships is April 1st. There are other excellent websites that can help students search for scholarships and other forms of financial aid. Many provide information about the kinds of student aid available and the financial aid process in general.

- www.fastweb.com is a free service that provides students with detailed information about financial aid for college. Students may set up a mailbox and continue to check throughout the semester as fastweb continues to match them with potential financial aid and scholarships.
- www.fafsa.ed.gov takes the student to the free financial aid site where s/he can file an electronic application for the Pell and Map Grants. Filing online is encouraged and preferred. It significantly reduces the turn-around time for processing the student's financial aid. Paper copies of the FAFSA may be obtained in the financial aid office, but supplies are limited. Note: www.fafsa.com is a commercial website that charges students a fee to fill out the same forms that can be filled out on the government site for free.
- www.edonline.com/cq/hbcu has links to financial aid information of all types, including opportunities beyond the usual grants, scholarships, and loans such as work-study, military/government programs, and cooperative agreements. The site is easy to navigate and has all the information readily available. The glossary of terms and full explanations about student loans, etc. make it an invaluable resource for students and parents who may not be familiar with college financial aid jargon and processes.
- www.finaid.org calls its website "the Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid." It provides links to search for scholarships and has links to additional information about loans, savings plans, military aid, and other types of aid. There is a section devoted to "demystifying" financial aid paperwork; a calculator link to "dozens of tools for calculating college costs; and a Beyond Financial Aid link for more information about getting started in college.

- www.collegenet.org has links to scholarship search sites, grants and other college information.
- www.gmsp.org is the website for the Gates Millennium Scholars.
- www.hispanicfund.org The Hispanic College Fund helps high school and college students get college educations and professional careers. It is a non-profit organization that promotes students to explore careers in business, science, technology, engineering, and math.
- www.scholarsite.com/espanol/ provides scholarship searches in Spanish. www.scholarsite.com is in English.
- www.ronbrown.org provides academic scholarships, service opportunities, and leadership experiences for young African Americans of outstanding promise. Students who are accepted into the program receive \$10,000 for 4 years to use at the college or university of their choice. The program has a proven track record of academic success with a 100 percent graduation rate.