NORTH CAROLINA
STATE EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

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Select Colleges Waiving Application Fees Oct. 19-25

With the FAFSA easier than ever and NC experiencing record FAFSA completion growth, it's never been a better time to apply to college

College Application Week (CAW) starts October 19th, offering students interested in college an opportunity to apply to select colleges and universities without costly application fees.

CAW is being held this year only weeks after the early opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which most students can now complete in less than 15 minutes — granting access to financial aid that can make paying for college more manageable.

"October is when Countdown to College kicks off for students interested in college, "said Dan Harrision, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA), the primary sponsor of College for North Carolina (CFNC). "The ability to submit college applications for free, coupled with an improved and easy-to-complete FAFSA makes this the perfect time for students to apply."

During College Application Week last year, more than 25,000 applicants submitted over 66,000 college applications through CFNC. Almost 51,000 additional applications were submitted via Common App.

A full list of colleges waiving application fees for most students can be found at www.CFNC.org/apply. In addition, this year, CFNC also has a list of colleges waiving application fees for adult learners at www.CFNC.org/adults.

FAFSA Improvements Bring College Within Reach

The FAFSA features many improvements this year that will contribute to the ease with which students can access financial aid at the federal, state and college level. Students can

now set up a FAFSA.gov account, complete the FAFSA, correct errors, and get real-time results all in one sitting. The FAFSA lets students know if they qualify for Federal aid including the Pell Grant immediately after submitting their FAFSA. Previously, students had to wait up to three days for that information.

The FAFSA is the application for the state's need-based scholarship for public universities and community colleges, the Next NC Scholarship. It provides a guaranteed award for most students from households making $80,000 or less who want to attend a University of North Carolina institution or a North Carolina Community College. The FAFSA is also the only application required for the Need-Based Scholarship for Private College and University Students.

"The State makes it a priority to ensure that students are ready for the jobs that are coming through education beyond high school," Harrison said. "Students sometimes count themselves out when it comes to college because they think they can't afford it, but in North Carolina we're dedicated to making sure students know help is available."

Countdown to College Encourages College-Going

CAW is part of CFNC's Countdown to College, a year-long initiative that kicks off in October where CFNC encourages students to complete the following three steps in college enrollment: **residency, financial aid, and college applications.**

All throughout the year, schools around the state will be holding Countdown to College events, encouraging students to complete the necessary steps to achieve their higher education dreams.

CFNC assists C2C host sites in preparation for these events and has also prepared a Countdown to College landing page with resources for education professionals.

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The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) is the State agency that has been helping North Carolinians pay for education since 1965. NCSEAA administers financial aid and savings programs, helps students and families understand how to make paying for college more manageable, and provides resources for education professionals about financial aid.