



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2017

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COLLEGE GOAL SOUTH CAROLINA 2017 EVENTS TO BE HELD DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2017

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is pleased to celebrate **College Goal South Carolina 2017** during the months of February and March.

Throughout February and March, 41 post-secondary institutions and high schools across the state will host events to assist students and their families/guardians with the second step of the college application process, filling out the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA).

The purpose of College Goal South Carolina is to offer a safe and secure opportunity for all college bound students and their families/guardians to receive free one-on-one assistance with completing the FAFSA and guidance on navigating financial aid. Dedicated and knowledgeable financial aid personnel from our local colleges along with community volunteers and business leaders assist in this event statewide. The events are supported through a partnership with the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA), who assist with both hosting College Goal South Carolina sites on campuses across the state and providing staff to support the high school College Goal South Carolina sites.

Tatyana Johnson, a Senior at Edisto High School in Orangeburg County, SC, found College Goal South Carolina to be a helpful element in her college planning process. Ms. Johnson states that "College Goal South Carolina has made the college preparation process easier for me and my family. Due to FAFSA being released in October instead of January, it was important to meet college FAFSA deadlines. College Goal has given me a chance to get more money and help my parents to better prepare financially for my college experience."

Additional excitement surrounding College Goal South Carolina 2017 has been generated by the emergence of Fall events held in response to the early release of the FAFSA by the United States Department of Education. This past October, early FAFSA pilot events were held in designated high schools across South Carolina. The events were held to determine best practices for early FAFSA release. Based on lessons learned, College Goal South Carolina events will be held on a statewide basis beginning in October 2017.

Wendy Nix, Director of Guidance at Edisto High School, has seen the impact of the early FAFSA release in her school, stating that "The early release of the FAFSA has benefitted our students in several ways. First of all, it has allowed parents and students to give their full attention to completing this form before the hectic spring semester. The fact that parents can use their 2015 tax information has been extremely beneficial, since the delay in completing tax returns is often the main reason for FAFSA delays in the spring. Also, by completing the FAFSA at an earlier date, students are able to get a head start in the financial planning for their college expenses. It encourages students to look at their possible college

choices and make comparisons. It also helps to eliminate delays in award letters from colleges, which is usually the determining factor for students and parents when making that final decision on a college.”

A listing of College Goal South Carolina 2017 events is attached. Additional events will be added to this list. For more information regarding each individual event, including information on how to volunteer at a specific location and updates, please visit <http://sccango.org/college-goal-event-info-and-sign-up/>.

College Goal SC 2017 events will be held at the following locations:

For more information regarding each event, including information on how to volunteer at a specific location, and updates, please visit <http://sccango.org/college-goal-event-info-and-sign-up/> or contact the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, 803-737-2260.

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| Whale Branch Early College High School (1/26/17; 4:00pm-7:00pm) Seabrook, SC | Darlington High School (2/23/17; 5:00pm-7:30pm) Darlington, SC |
| Battery Creek & Beaufort High Schools (1/30/17; 4pm-7pm) Beaufort, SC | Horry-Georgetown Technical College(Conway Campus) (2/23/17; 4pm-7pm), Conway, SC |
| Marion High School (2/1/17; 5:30pm-8pm) Marion, SC | Trident Technical College (Berkeley Campus) (2/253/17; 5:30pm-7pm), Moncks Corner, SC |
| Colleton County High School (2/7/17; 8:30am-11:30am) Walterboro, SC | Wilson High School (2/23/17; 8:30am-10am) Florence, SC |
| Woodland High School (2/8/17; 9am-3pm) St. George, SC | Central Carolina Technical College (Main Campus) (2/24/17; 2pm-7pm) Sumter, SC |
| Wade Hampton & Estill High Schools (2/9/17; 8pm-7pm) Varnville, SC | Central Carolina Technical College (Kershaw County Site) (2/24/17; 2pm-7pm) Camden, SC |
| Colleton County High School (2/9/17; 5:30pm-7:30pm) Walterboro, SC | Aiken Technical College (2/25/17; 10am-1pm) Graniteville, SC |
| Hemingway High School (2/12/17; 6pm-8pm) Williamsburg, SC | Clafin University (2/25/17; 9am-1pm) Orangeburg, SC |
| Military Magnet High School (2/14/17; 8am-5pm) Charleston, SC | Piedmont Technical College (2/25/17; 10am-2pm) Greenwood, SC |
| St. John's High School (2/16/17; 9am-4pm) John's Island, SC | St. John's High School (2/25/16; 9am-3pm) |
| Colleton County High School (2/16/17; 5:30pm-7:30pm) Walterboro, SC | Scott's Branch High School (2/16/16; 3pm-7pm) Clarendon, SC |
| Midlands Technical College & USC TRIO – MTC Airport Campus (2/18/17; 10am-1pm), West Columbia, SC | Spartanburg Community College (Cherokee Campus) (2/25/17; 10am-2pm), Gaffney, SC |
| Tri-County Technical College – (2/18/17; 9am-12pm) Pendleton, SC | Trident Technical College (2/25/17; 10am-1pm) North Charleston, SC |
| USC Upstate (2/18/17; 10am-1pm) Spartanburg, SC | USC Lancaster (2/25/2017; 10am-1pm) Lancaster, SC |
| York Technical College (2/18/17; 9am-1pm) York, SC | Kingstree Sr. High School (2/28/17; 10am-5pm) Kingstree, SC |
| Florence-Darlington Technical College (2/18/17; 4pm-7pm) Florence, SC | Greenville Technical College (3/2/17; 10am-2pm) Greenville, SC |
| Horry-Georgetown Technical College(Georgetown Campus) (2/21/17; 4:00pm-7pm), Georgetown, SC | Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (3/18/17; 10am-2pm) Orangeburg, SC |
| Creek Bridge Middle/High School (2/22/17; 4pm-6pm) Marion, SC | |
| Battery Creek High School (2/23/17; 4pm-7pm) Beaufort, SC | |