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High schools host workshops for FAFSA help

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 7 hrs ago

When it comes to applying for college aid, the biggest misconception students have is that they are not eligible.

“You never know until you’ve actually done the Free Application for Federal Student Aid,” said John Bergman, an outreach counselor for the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Many students could be eligible for college grants and not even know it, Bergman said. The free form, which is available at fafsa.ed.gov, will be available for the 2019-20 school year Oct. 1.

For Bergman, the biggest piece of advice students should follow is to apply immediately. That’s because some types of college aid are administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

“So what that means is that students need to fill out the FAFSA as fast as possible,” he said.

Bergman recommends students fill out the FAFSA in October or November to get the best chance at maximizing the amount of college aid they can receive.

There are other reasons for filling out the form, such as if a student wants to get a job on campus, Bergman said.

“It does take some time, but again it will be worth it in the long run,” he said.

Although the application process can be daunting, this year it’s been streamlined with a redesigned mobile-friendly website and a new app. The mobile-phone app, called my StudentAid, allows applicants to get customized help based on who they are, whether they’re a parent or student.

Students can also get help applying for financial aid at Western Kentucky University’s Educational Opportunity Centers program.

The EOC program provides counseling and information on college admissions to low-income and first-generation students age 19 or older, according to its website. The Bowling Green office is available at 270-745-4441.

Bergman is also leading several workshops throughout October.





The workshops target high school seniors, current college students and adults interested in attending college for the 2019-20 school year.

Students and families can get more information by emailing Bergman at jbergman@kheaa.com.

Nearby workshops and their dates include:

- Warren County Public Library main branch, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct 2.
- Warren County Public Library Bob Kirby Branch, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 5.
- GEO International High School, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 8.
- South Warren High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 9.
- Warren East High School, 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 9.
- Warren East High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 10.
- Warren Central High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 11.
- Western Kentucky University, 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 13 in Jody Richards Hall Room 166.
- Greenwood High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 16.
- Bowling Green High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 29.

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