

NEXT STEP NEWSLETTER – JANUARY

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT Rock Valley College's Financial Aid Night presentation has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 6:30 PM, at Durand High School. High school seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. Filing the 2010 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) will be explained and handouts will be available. Early filing is encouraged as monies are allotted on a first-come first-serve basis. Colleges require the FAFSA to be filed each year for awarding financial aid and on-campus employment. Juniors and their parents are welcome to attend. The Financial Aid Office personnel will answer questions. If you cannot attend, handouts will be available in the Guidance Counselor's office after the session. Rock Valley College Financial Aid Office also provides personal help and computer usage for individuals, even if they are not planning to attend RVC.

FAFSA Students should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete the online FAFSA. The key word is FREE. If a website requests credit card information or some other form of payment to complete the FAFSA, then that site is not the official government website. You can download a PDF version of the FAFSA from this site. You can also request a paper FAFSA by calling 1.800.433.3243. **FAFSA4CASTER** is an online tool that helps students and parents determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Check out the website at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

WWW.STUDENTAID.ED.GOV offers an online account called MyFSA that provides students with access to college and scholarship searches, career and self-assessment tools, and other valuable resources regarding college and financial aid.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER Colleges and Universities use a social security number to match applications and incoming documents to the correct student. There may be multiple students with your name applying to the same institution. Omitting it could hinder the application process. It **MUST** be provided on financial aid documents.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY is a free program that brings together financial aid professionals and other volunteers to help families complete the FAFSA. To find a College Goal Sunday site near you and the date, visit www.collegegoalsundayusa.org.

CLEP EXAMS (College Level Examination Program) are accepted at 2,900 colleges and universities that grant credit and/or advanced standing for high scores. Check your college pick's CLEP policy online at its website. All information about the CLEP exams is at www.collegeboard.com; a handout is available in the Guidance Office.

WWW.WHATSNEXTILLINOIS.ORG is sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) providing students with tools needed to improve college opportunity, career planning, college applications, electronic transcript processing and test preparation.

WWW.KNOWHOW2GOILLINOIS.ORG provides free access to financial aid and college planning info through ISAC.

WWW.MYMAJORS.COM helps students find out what major course of study would be best suited for them to pursue in college. Take a brief quiz using the free pass code of COF2K9 you can get a free advisement report.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS administers a host of scholarships for seniors in Winnebago County including the Chapin scholarship for a local Durand or Pecatonica senior. All information and applications are online at: www.cfnil.org. *This is an important opportunity as all scholarships are locally distributed in Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle counties. Deadline is March 1st.*

ZETA CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA is offering several scholarships for female seniors planning on majoring in education. Applications for all of them are available only on the www.cfnil.org website. Deadline is March 1.

ILLINOIS AMVETS SCHOLARSHIP Website at www.ilamvets.org or call 800.638.8387 for scholarship applications and information. Scholarships offered, eligibility requirements, and all other pertinent information for each scholarship are on the website. All applications should be postmarked by the following address no later than March 1. Address: Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation 2200 S. 6th St. Springfield, IL 62703

ILLINOIS AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY The Illinois AMVETS Lady Auxiliary Memorial Worchid Scholarship application should be mailed to the following address no later than March 1: Illinois AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary P.O. Box 372 Groveland, IL 61535 (for more information see the website at www.ilamvets.org)

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS OF ILLINOIS Applicants must be a resident of Illinois and a citizen of the United States. The application may be found at <http://www.ioof-il.org>. Applications must be fully completed and received by March 1st.

SCHOLARSHIP QUEST HELPER <http://www.scholarshipquesthelper.com> is a website that is designed to offer tips and suggestions on how to approach the process of acquiring scholarships. The main purpose of their website is to assist students in their efforts to continue their education. They charge nothing for this service. To learn how to apply for the B. Davis Scholarship for \$1,000 see the website. The deadline for the scholarship is May 28

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Affiliate IAA Foundation is offering a number of scholarships from \$750 to \$1200 with varying qualifications. Applications are available online at www.iaafoundation.org or at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau office. Deadline for applications is February 1. Supporting documents can be sent later.

1ST FARM CREDIT SERVICES offers the “At the Heart a Growing America” scholarship program, which provides up to 24 individual \$1000 scholarships. Graduating seniors who have been accepted into an Ag or ag-related curriculum are eligible. Applications are at: www.1stfarmcredit.com or at the local FCS office. Due: Feb. 16.

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHOLARSHIP applications for both Jim Sacia (deadline March 24) and Tim Bivins (Deadline April 1) are now available in the Guidance Office.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES are available by signing up with AmeriCorps at www.americorps.org.

NUTS, BOLTS & THINGAMAJIGS SCHOLARSHIP information can be found at www.nutsandboltsfoundation.org/scholarships. The Foundation of the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International is the sponsor. Deadline April 1.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONS is offering scholarships totaling \$5,000,000.00 to students enrolling in Co-op programs at certain universities. Info is available at www.co-op.edu.

GREAT RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS.COM website has a host of links with information for colleges, financial aid, career assessment, and testing.

ILLINOIS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER TUITION WAIVER application is available at www.collegezone.com. Deadline: March 1

THE FASHION INSTITUTE OF DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING offers a scholarship competition for students interested in Fashion Design, Visual Communications, Interior Design, Digital Media, Fashion Merchandising, or Graphic Design. One student in each area will win a one-year scholarship to attend FIDM in Los Angeles, CA. Applications are on their website: www.FIDM.edu. Deadline: April 30

THE AMERICAN LEGION offers an online college scholarship handbook at www.needalift.org. This resource contains a host of valuable information and scholarship opportunities. If you are a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a current paid up member of the American Legion or a deceased member of the American Legion, Department of Illinois, you can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship for a bachelor's degree or a trade/technical school degree. Applications are in the Guidance Office. Deadline 3-15.

KFC COLONEL'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM application is online at www.kfcscholars.org for students with a 2.75 GPA or higher, showing financial need, and proof of enrolling in a 4-year public, instate college or university. You can enroll in a 2-year college as long as your intent is to complete a 4-year degree. Due: Feb. 10

BEST BUY @ 15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM is available to 9-12th graders with good grades and who are involved in volunteer community service or work experience. Apply online at: www.bestbuy.com/scholarships or www.at15.com. Deadline: Feb. 15

SCHOLAR ATHLETE MILK MUSTACHE OF THE YEAR (SAMMY) invites all high school seniors to apply for the SAMMY award if you demonstrate excellence in academics, athletics, community service, and leadership and include milk as part of your healthy lifestyle. Applications are online at sammy.bodybymilk.com until March 5.

AXA ACHIEVEMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP is for driven, determined, respectable, and successful high school seniors. Apply before Feb. 15 at www.axa-achievement.com for a \$2,000 college scholarship.

KATHRYN G. HANSEN SCHOLARSHIP is available to students planning to pursue higher education in the office professional, secretarial, or business-related fields. The application is in the Guidance Office. Deadline is February 12.

ROCKFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP for Nursing, Respiratory care, Child care development, Medical Transcriptionist, Certification and Coding Certification. Apps are in Ms. Stinnett's Office. BY April 1.

THE ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF ART – CHICAGO offers scholarships for Design, Fashion, Photography, Culinary and General Scholarships. Visit their website: www.artinstitutes.edu/chicago

WWW.IMAGINE-AMERICA.ORG offers scholarship opportunities for designated career colleges and universities.

ROCK RIVER TRAIL AND HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP award is available to anyone seeking a degree in Equine, Vet, or Ag-related field. Members can apply for scholarship pursuing any major. Info in Guidance Office. Deadline: April 1.

ILLINOIS LUMBER AND MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION for students pursuing lumber and building material industry-related course work at colleges and universities. Info in Guidance Office. Deadline: April 1.

ILLINOIS DIV. OF SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS offers \$1,000 scholarship to a male or female who is a descendant of a Confederate soldier. Application and info in Guidance Office. Deadline: March 15.

U.S. BANK INTERNET SCHOLARSHIP will award forty \$1,000 scholarships to students taking out U.S. Bank No Fee Education Loans. Application is at: www.usbank.com/studentloans, Deadline is March 30.

MEDIACOM WORLD CLASS SCHOLARSHIP is for \$1,000. Applications are in Guidance Office and at: www.mediacomworldclass.com. Deadline is February 10.

PEARL CITY ELEVATOR VONDRA COMMUNITY SERVICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP applications are in the Guidance Office. Two scholarships for \$500 each are awarded based on academic achievement, service and leadership in the community. Deadline: March 12.

PATTERSON & SCHARDT ORTHODONTICS SCHOLARSHIP is available to patients who have completed a full course of orthodontic treatment at their practice. Contact Ms. Stinnett for an application. Deadline: March 31.

ROCKFORD CHAPTER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION offers students several major specific scholarships to all students. Apps and info are at www.rockford-dar.org or in Guidance Office. Deadline: February 15.

CHARTER ONE BANK provides resources to assist students including a scholarship search at: www.charterone.com/edu/scholarshipsearch and financial aid tips at: www.charterone.com/tipsforstudents. Private Loan info is at: www.charterone.com

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING is also offered by Medina at 5147 American Road, Rockford. Info available by calling 815.847.4225 or website at: www.cnafirst.com.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUMMER CAMP is being held at Marian University campus in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, from June 21-23. Info is at www.marianuniversity.edu/cjcamp. Deadline is May 1. This is a camp to promote not only Criminal Justice but the program specifically at Marian.

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AND AMERICAN LEGION TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD is available to children and grandchildren of American Legion members and dependent children of Veterans. Info is in the Guidance Office. Deadline is March 15.