It’s Time to Be Involved. Here’s Your Opportunity!  
Help Develop and Advance NCAN’s Policy Agenda.

It is an exciting time in Washington, D.C. with the new Administration and the new Congress. Both entities have stressed the importance of college access through improving college affordability, creating a simplified financial aid process, focusing on academic preparation for our students and teacher quality.

As NCAN members, these issues are at the center of what we do. It is critical that our membership be active in the policy arena as these discussions are taking place. We are the voice for thousands of students and their families, and as such, we must maintain and expand our efforts to be effective policy advocates at the local, state, regional and national levels. NCAN is sponsoring four regional meetings to define our common policy agenda and to develop implementation strategies. Now is the time to be involved and to let our voices be heard!

Free to NCAN Members!
Non-members can register to attend for a registration fee of $50.00. If your organization joins within the same month of the regional meeting you attended, then the $50.00 fee will be credited toward the membership dues.

Funded by Lumina Foundation for Education • www.luminafoundation.org

Make Plans to Attend One of Our Regional Meetings

University of Southern California, Los Angeles – March 19, 2009
University of Massachusetts, Boston – March 24, 2009
Columbus State Community College, Ohio – March 31, 2009
Austin Community College, Texas – April 20, 2009

For more information and registration to participate in these informative and timely meetings, please visit our web site at www.CollegeAccess.org
In a recent speech, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman focused on scaling innovation. Referring to the need for advances in alternative energy, he commented, “The innovative capacity in this country that’s exploding from below is enormous. We just need to get ideas from head to pen to lab to market.”

Although the National College Access Network is not in the energy sector, this concept of “scaling innovation” struck me as the core of NCAN’s work—to support you, our members, so that you can support the aspirations and achievements of our students—the future innovators. This is why I am both comforted and encouraged by the new fiscal stimulus package, allocating more than $100 billion toward education, and by the recent appointments to the Department of Education.

At NCAN, we seek to promote innovations in this relatively new field of college access, to support your efforts to develop new approaches to opening the doors of postsecondary education, and, most importantly, to share successes and replicate those across the country for the benefit of more students.

As we all face economic uncertainty, many of you will be asked to serve more students and to do more with fewer resources. Innovation will be critical to the success of your work, the success of the students and families you serve and to sustaining your mission. We must be mindful to share both our successes and our lessons learned. Furthermore, there is no better time to plan, than during that of an economic downturn. This is a chance for all of us to prepare and position ourselves to take hold of abundant opportunities the road to recovery will offer.

I hope that NCAN provides a forum for this thinking, experimenting and bringing innovation to scale. To that end, NCAN itself is undergoing a capacity-building effort with the support of Lumina Foundation for Education. Over the next three years, we as a board, in partnership with the NCAN staff and members as well as our partners in access, will engage in a vigorous review of our strategic plan and our environment, with a focus on sustainability. We will be expanding our Board of Directors to provide for more participation from members, increasing membership and providing increased learning and networking opportunities.

We are very pleased to launch some new services this spring, including NCAN’s first series of regional meetings (see our website for details) and the return of our Executive Directors’ Roundtable meeting. These meetings will provide the opportunity for professional development, networking with colleagues, and contributing to the development of NCAN’s policy and advocacy agenda. I look forward to your participation.

As always, our priority is our commitment to the NCAN membership—supporting your success and the success of the students you serve. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions. And, thank you for fighting the good fight.
NCAN to Host Executive Director Roundtable in Washington, DC

Advocacy Training and Congressional Visits

The National College Access Network is pleased to host an Executive Director Roundtable in Washington, DC on May 18-19, 2009. The Roundtable will provide an opportunity for Executive Directors to network with colleagues, learn the latest trends in college access and participate in advocacy training. The capstone of the meeting will be visits with members of Congress to discuss policy issues related to college access. All Executive Directors of membership organizations are invited to attend. The first 20 organizations to register for the training will receive a $100 travel stipend.

This is a challenging time for our students and their families as they prepare for postsecondary education. As direct service providers, we need to bring their reality to the policymakers who can alleviate some of those hardships. We need your level of expertise and commitment to influence change. Your students need you to be their advocate!

A block of rooms and meeting space at a Washington, DC area hotel have been secured for the roundtable. For more information and to register for this training, please visit our web site at www.CollegeAccess.org. This is a Members-Only event.

We look forward to seeing you in DC this spring!

NCAN Executive Director Roundtable
May 18-19, 2009

Funded by Lumina Foundation for Education
www.luminafoundation.org
If you like change, you should love the many new questions, eligibility criteria and program guidelines for the 2009-2010 academic year. Several pieces of legislation passed over the last two years have led to an abundance of new things to learn for the current application process and upcoming academic year. Many of these changes are targeted at the primary clients served by college access programs. New options for emancipated minors, students in legal guardianships, foster care and adopted children as well as homeless or those at risk of homelessness are among the latest guidelines.

The 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) had a major overhaul in format as well as old questions deleted and new questions added. Students and parents are no longer required to report sources of untaxed income such as earned income credits, welfare benefits or untaxed Social Security benefits. For those familiar with the form, Worksheet A has basically been eliminated. Information previously collected on Worksheets B & C are now blended into the student and parent income sections of the form. Also, several questions were added and/or reworded in the dependency section of the form. These questions attempt to identify students in foster care after age 13, emancipated minors, students in legal guardianships and homeless students. For a comprehensive review of all changes in the application process, visit the following link:


Effective July 1, 2009, several federal aid programs will have expanded eligibility criteria that should increase the number of students able to benefit from programs such as the Academic Competitiveness Grants and the SMART Grants. In July, eligible non-citizens will become eligible for these grants. These programs will also be pro-rated for students enrolling on a less than fulltime basis. Rank progression will be aligned with the criteria currently used for increases in annual student loan borrowing limits. In the case of SMART Grants, students enrolled in programs that require a 5th year will now have expanded eligibility. Interest rates for subsidized Stafford/Direct Loans will drop to 5.6 percent in July. Unsubsidized rates will remain at 6.8 percent. Origination fees will continue to decrease as well.

As part of the American Recovery and Relief Act, also known as the stimulus package, Pell Grants will receive $17.1 billion in funding to increase the maximum grant and eliminate a previous budget shortfall. An additional $200 million will be awarded for the College Work Study program. No changes were made to Stafford and Perkins Loans or loan limits. The HOPE tax credit will be temporarily replaced with a $2,500 credit available for four years of college, and computers will now count as qualified expenses for 529 savings plans.

Several options are currently being explored that should result in FAFSA simplification for students. While the changes are many, this set should yield positive financial results for many students in the most difficult of situations. A comprehensive summary of changes as a result of the Higher Education Opportunity Act passed in August 2008 is available at the following link:

http://www.nasfaa.org/heacode.html

NCAN will continue to keep our membership informed regarding these policy changes and new program guidelines through information provided on our Discuss and Advisor List-Serves as well as our monthly member calls.
NCAN Welcomes Ten New Members

The National College Access Network (NCAN) is pleased to announce the addition of 10 new members to the organization. These members and friends increase NCAN’s roster to 260 members in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

Governed by a Board of Directors that votes to admit new members quarterly, NCAN is excited to add the following organizations and individuals to its roster:

- **California Cash for College**
  
  The California Cash for College mission is to help low income and first-generation college-goers successfully complete the financial aid application process. Hundreds of California Cash for College workshops are conducted throughout the state from January 1 until March 2 to help students and families successfully complete the financial aid application process.
  
  [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

- **Clark County School District – Guidance and Counseling Services**
  
  The Clark County School District – Guidance and Counseling Services employs 604 counselors; 236 at 44 high schools, 30 in the education services division schools, 157 at the 59 middle schools, and 181 at the 206 elementary schools. The office believes that all students have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to achieve academically, prosper economically, and participate in democracy.
  
  [www.ccsd.net/cpd/guidance/guidance.html](http://www.ccsd.net/cpd/guidance/guidance.html)

- **CollegeWeekLive**
  
  CollegeWeekLive is the world’s biggest virtual college fair, with more than 200 colleges and universities from around the world exhibiting and more than 25,000 attendees. The event revolutionizes college admissions, making the process easier and more cost-effective by bringing together students, parents, counselors and colleges online to interact, transcending time and distance. CollegeWeekLive occurs yearly in November and March and is completely free to attendees.
  
  [www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com)

- **Education Is Freedom**
  
  Education Is Freedom is a non-profit organization that focuses national attention and resources on students who have shown academic promise and leadership, but need financial assistance and guidance to go to college. Founded on the principle that every young person deserves the opportunity to pursue a higher education, the program promotes responsibility, academic excellence, and discipline. EIF strives to have a positive impact on the success of urban youth and their pursuit of a higher education through a two-tiered program targeted at both the national and local levels. At the national level, EIF scholarships have served students in all 50 states through a nationally competitive scholarship program. Well over 50,000 students have applied for funding and more than $3 million has been awarded.
  
  [www.educationisfreedom.org](http://www.educationisfreedom.org)
The **Office of Pre-College Services at Bowling Green State University** assists targeted low income and potential first generation college students by providing educational services and activities designed to increase secondary achievement and motivate postsecondary matriculation and graduation. The Office of Pre-College Services at Bowling Green State University is a federally funded TRIO program, which includes the Educational Talent Search Program and the Upward Bound Program.

www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/precollege

**Oklahoma State University** is coeducational and has an enrollment of approximately 26,000 students on its four campuses. It offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in a large number of fields, as well as the professional Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees. Specialist in Education degrees are also offered in selected fields. Although OSU is a large, comprehensive university, its size does not minimize the personal attention given to each student. The individual is more than just a number at this university. OSU encourages all students, when they first enroll, to identify the college in which they wish to major. Once the student has identified his or her major department, he or she becomes a very important individual to the faculty and advisers of that department. Because the average number of students majoring in any one department is less than 150, the student can count on personal attention in a friendly environment.

www.okstate.edu

**Operation Jump Start** assists students to become tomorrow’s leaders with a mission to provide structure and resources for disadvantaged Long Beach youth, ages 12-18, to realize their full potential through a college education. Founded in 1994, Operation Jump Start is a Long Beach community based non-profit program dedicated to assisting disadvantaged youth who show strong academic promise to succeed academically and in life. The primary goal of this program is to change the lives of disadvantaged youth through education.

www.operationjumpstart.org

**Project GRAD Akron**’s mission is to ensure a quality public school education for all at risk children in economically disadvantaged communities so that high school graduation rates increase and graduates are prepared to enter and be successful in college. Project GRAD believes that every student, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background, not only deserves to, but should graduate from high school and have access to college. Because of this fundamental belief in the equality of expectations for every at risk child, Project GRAD sets what might be considered by some to be lofty goals. Yet, Project GRAD’s goals are the standard for the average student that attends a school in a higher socio-economic neighborhood. The goal of Project GRAD is to see at least 80 percent of students graduate from high school and 50 percent of these graduates enter and graduate from college. Project GRAD makes a long-term commitment to each public school district and works across all grades from K through 16 to achieve sustainable and systemic change.

www.projectgradakron.org

www.CollegeAccess.org
Reach for College! was founded in 2005 by two experienced urban educators to help high school students reach their dreams of pursuing postsecondary education. Working in public high schools and public charter schools, Reach for College! provides a free curriculum specially developed for students who will often be the first in their families to pursue higher education, and trains teachers to use it. This research-based, structured curriculum has been proven to significantly increase the number of students going to college from high schools where the college-going rate is often low. 

www.reachforcollege.org

Village Concepts, Inc. is a social enterprise that serves as a community resource agency providing inbound/outbound services as well as community-based activities to assist youth and young adults in planning and achieving their goals. The mission of Village Concepts, Inc. is to equip and empower underrepresented youth and young adults, by providing the necessary skills and motivation that lead to good success, exposing them to information and resources that will develop productive citizens and leaders in the community. Some programs include Project DREAM College Access Program with Early College Access Resource Center, the V.A.L.U.E. – Village Afterschool Leadership Urban Experience and M.Y.T.E. – Mentoring Youth to Excellence. 

www.villageconceptsinc.org

Are You A Member? Join Us Today!

BASED ON MEMBERSHIP TYPE,
NCAN MEMBERS RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OR COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

For more information contact Carrie Warick toll-free at 1-866-941-6122 x203 or warickc@collegeaccess.org
NCAN honors the life and work of Senator Claiborne Pell, a six-term Rhode Island Democrat, most known in our community for his role in creating Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, renamed Pell Grants in his honor in 1980.

His legacy lives on in the over 54 million low- and moderate-income students who attended college with the support of a Pell Grant.
NCAN Welcomes Two New Interns

NCAN is pleased to welcome Emma Snoyer and Alexandra Byrd as our Spring 2009 interns. Both Emma and Alex bring an enthusiasm for college access and are eager to contribute to the success of NCAN and our programs.

As the Public Affairs Intern, Emma Snoyer’s responsibilities will include updating the Legislative Handbook, editing website content, and drafting and distributing press releases. Emma is originally from Dallas, Texas and graduated from Georgetown University in December 2008 with a B.A. in English. While at Georgetown, she served as a Peer Writing Tutor and as a third grade teacher’s aide at Center City Public Charter School-Shaw Campus.

These experiences inspired in her a passion for both education and community outreach. Prior to joining NCAN, she interned at the Pro Bono Institute at the Georgetown Law Center and at Fidelity Investments in Dallas. During the Summer of 2008, she taught a college preparatory writing class and also took literature and creative writing courses in Florence, Italy.

Her interests include visiting museums, traveling, spending time with her family, playing piano, and reading. Emma is excited to be a part of the NCAN team and looks forward to working with the membership.

As the Program Directory/Event Planning Intern, Alexandra Byrd’s responsibilities will include updating and maintaining the National College Access Program Directory, assisting with the administrative tasks associated with the upcoming conferences, and ensuring accuracy of the membership profiles in NCAN’s internal database system.

Alex is a senior at The George Washington University with a double major in psychology and sociology. She is originally from Mansfield, Connecticut but her family currently resides in London, England. At The George Washington University, she worked in the Undergraduate Admissions Office as a Senior Interviewer and in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences as a Student Advisor. Alex was also a member of the GW Women’s Rowing Team, the GW Mock Trial Team, National Panhellenic Executive Board, the Zeta Chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority, and the Alpha Delta Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Alex enjoys spending her free time volunteering with high school students through a community service organization, DC Today/DC Tomorrow. Like Emma, Alex is thrilled to be a part of the NCAN team and is eager to advance college access efforts for students.

Please join us in welcoming both Emma and Alex to our staff!
The economy is on everyone’s minds these days. Bob Oberg, Director of Development for The College Crusade of Rhode Island, is no exception. “These are extraordinarily difficult times,” says Oberg. “The College Crusade, like many programs around the country, is working hard to sustain the critical services it is providing to the state’s disadvantaged students.” The College Crusade provides services to sixth through twelfth graders from thirty-three middle and high schools from across the state of Rhode Island. These students are mostly from low income families, racial or ethnic minority groups, and single parent homes.

The mission of College Crusade is to increase educational and career success for youth in the state’s low-income communities, and for students to experience the steady, nurturing presence of caring adults and participate in activities that focus on academic enrichment, social and personal development, career awareness and exploration, and readiness for college.

The main components to the College Crusade program include caring adult advisors, innovative college-readiness programming, and a scholarship incentive for those admitted to postsecondary degree programs, apprenticeships, and other certified higher education programs. The college-readiness programming includes college-prep coursework, preparing for standardized college-entrance tests, exploring career and college choices, and developing their leadership skills. This program continues for seven straight years including summers.

The College Crusade has both requirements for entrance and continuation in the program including event attendance, afterschool and Saturday program participation, and amount of time per year spent with advisor.

Mr. Oberg says, “Within this crisis, there is an opportunity. Now, more than ever, people in the public and private sector are seeking to invest in programs that work. Now more than ever, programs cannot attempt to go at it alone.” Practicing this philosophy, College Crusade partners with many other organizations. First, they partner closely with four urban school districts in the state: Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket. The advisors are located directly within the schools. College Crusade also partners with local colleges to host programs and 64 colleges and universities nationwide as members of their Scholarship Collaborative. These institutions donate scholarships to financially eligible Crusaders who gain acceptance. Community organizations are important partners as well.

The College Crusade also participated in the new FAFSA on the Phone program by sharing this resource with its students. College Crusade offers in-person FAFSA help to students and distributed this additional resource it received as an NCAN member. The National College Access Network partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to disseminate information about the FAFSA on the Phone program in the Department’s three focus states, one of which is Rhode Island.

One positive of the field of college access is the ability to look ahead. Bob Oberg and The College Crusade of Rhode Island have this vision. Mr. Oberg states that, “what is required of leadership in these times is to not only demonstrate their value in the difficult day-to-day advocacy work that is needed to get through the current budget cycle, to but to be strategic, inventive and persistent in reaching out to those who have a common interest and developing a framework for new partnerships that will position them to grow to new heights once the economy recovers.”
College Crusade continues to move forward, developing new programs and working with their students in a holistic manner. This year is the 20th anniversary of the College Crusade program. Since 2001, The College Crusade has awarded over $18 million in college scholarships to more than 2,500 graduates from Rhode Island high schools. They follow the college progress of the Crusaders who are recipients of their scholarship awards, but they are working to develop a broader system of college retention tracking and plan to launch it this year. In May 2008, the high school graduation and college-going rates for Crusaders were much higher than their peers in the state’s urban school districts. In addition, 2008 added financial literacy workshops for high school students, afterschool science workshops for middle school students, and an expanded schedule for their Saturday programs.

College Crusade uses an in-depth advisory system and a comprehensive network of out-of-school programs to support the academic, personal, career development, and college readiness needs of disadvantaged students. This puts College Crusade ahead of the Rhode Island reform agenda that includes personalized advisory services for every student and shows that they are an example that this agenda works. Because of the success of their work, College Crusade is currently working with the RI Department of Education and school district leaders to identify ways to expand and deepen their partnerships so that more students are able to benefit. 

http://www.thecollegecrusade.org/main/

High school Crusaders (left) participate in the week long Crusade Summer Experience Program. Here students put finishing touches on leadership presentations that they developed on youth-related topics such as teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, and school attendance.

Two Crusaders at the Wheeler Summer Camp (right) in Providence learn how to collect clues and analyze a simulated crime scene. Here they are examining hairs to determine if they are human or animal.
Recent NCAN Member Activities:

Admission Possible, of St. Paul, Minnesota, released its annual report in January 2009. In the 2007-2008 academic year, Admission Possible achieved a significant expansion of services and unprecedented results. In 2007-08, Admission Possible grew significantly to serve 1200 students in 15 metro high schools, which is an increase from 900 students in 13 high schools the year before. In the same year, 99% of the seniors were admitted to college. Juniors in the Admission Possible program saw an average ACT score increase of more than 22% - the highest in Admission Possible history. Admission Possible students were awarded more than $2.35 million in private-sector scholarships, which is an average of more than $4,150 per student. Finally, 80% of students who enrolled in college are still enrolled and working toward their college degree, or have already graduated. [www.admissionpossible.org](http://www.admissionpossible.org)

Admission Possible coach and student in session.

Photo by Laura Golubeva
On Saturday, January 17, 2009, over 400 disadvantaged Austin students participated in an environmental clean-up project as part of their participation in College Forward, a free after-school college preparatory program. The project honored Martin Luther King Day of Service. College Forward received a $1,000 grant from the HandsOn Network to fund the project. Students planted trees and shrubs, collected litter, installed signs, and improved walking trails at Shoal Creek Greenbelt in Central Austin, Roy G. Guerrero-Colorado River Park in East Austin, Copperfield Nature Trails in North Austin, Hays County Area Food Bank/Dunbar Park far south of Austin. College Forward provides college preparatory and college retention services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. College Forward believes that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan. [www.collegeforward.org](http://www.collegeforward.org)

The College Horizons board of directors announces that Carmen Lopez has been named the national college access program’s new executive director. Lopez, a citizen of the Navajo Nation and former director of the Harvard University Native American Program, will begin her appointment on May 1. At its annual meeting, the board unanimously appointed Lopez to take over leadership of the program. “Carmen’s lifelong commitment to Indian Education and her experience in K-12 education and higher education make her the ideal fit to lead our program forward,” said Curtis Esquibel, president of the College Horizons board. “She personifies everything a College Horizons student and the program are about: achievement, passion, and leadership.” College Horizons, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1998 to provide college counseling to Native American students from across the country, with a particular emphasis on those from rural communities who may not have access to expert advising. [www.collegehorizons.org](http://www.collegehorizons.org)

Carmen Lopez will become the Executive Director of College Horizons on May 1, 2009.

The DC College Access Program (DC-CAP), a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and enabling District public and charter high schools students to enroll and graduate from college, invites the city and region to help select DC’s most talented public and charter high school youth. Each week, beginning in mid-February, finalists from auditions held in January will be posted on dccap.org for the public to view and choose their favorites in vocal, instrumental or dance category.

From the online tallies, 10 finalists will be selected to showcase their artistic abilities at a special performance on Monday, April 6 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. A panel of celebrity judges, along with help from the audience, will help select the winners who will receive DC-CAP college scholarships that will be applied toward their first year of college. And the grand prize winner’s high school will receive a donation to their performing arts department. The event is part of the 10th Anniversary Gala celebration which will honor outstanding academic achievement and excellence in artistic abilities of college-bound students from the District of Columbia. [www.dccap.org](http://www.dccap.org).

Crosby Scholars new logo.
EducationQuest Foundation has produced College Access Nebraska – a publication that highlights successful college access activities developed by Nebraska high schools with funding they received from an EducationQuest College Access Grant. While the activities are based on grant criteria, the publication features the innovative and practical ways the schools implemented the activities for the purpose of increasing their college-going rate. EducationQuest distributed College Access Nebraska to all Nebraska high schools and encouraged them to adopt some of the “best practices” to help make college a reality for more Nebraska students. To request a copy contact Eric Drumheller, Director of Grants & Scholarships, at 800.303.3745, extension 6622 or ericd@educationquest.org.

EducationQuest is helping Nebraska families hear what they need to do to prepare for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by developing podcasts. The first podcast explains the FAFSA and the second one tells families how to prepare. EducationQuest plans to add a new podcast every month on various college planning topics. Check them out at EducationQuest.org.
Iowa College Goal Sunday occurs in six locations during February, as Iowa joins 36 other states to bring volunteer assistance with the FAFSA to students and families.

The Iowa College Access Network® (ICAN) is one of several groups responsible for bringing the national College Goal Sunday program to Iowa. The following organizations are partnering with ICAN on 2009 Iowa College Goal Sunday:

- Des Moines Schools GEAR UP program
- Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- Iowa College Student Aid Commission
- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Dollars for Scholars
- Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates
- Iowa TRIO programs
- Scholarship America

As state coordinator for 2009 Iowa College Goal Sunday, ICAN Manager Juan Garcia spent a lot of time developing the program and coordinating resources. In addition, ICAN staff created the 2009 Iowa College Goal Sunday web site, promotional campaign and program materials.

www.icansucceed.org

The New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC), New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) and the New Hampshire Forum on the Future (NHFOF) are partnered to administer the New Hampshire Scholars Program. The State Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum in New Hampshire. New Hampshire Scholars encourages students to take more rigorous courses in high school to better prepare them for college and careers. Local business partners provide reinforcement activities. What started as six pilot school districts in 2007 grew to 13, by adding seven new districts in 2008. The immediate impact was seen in higher enrollments in more challenging classes. These increases were significant within a year’s time.

In November, New Hampshire Scholars hosted a Business/Education Conference in which over 200 guests attended from K-12, Higher Ed and the business community. This created quite a buzz amongst the three stakeholders prompting additional school districts to join and business partnerships to develop. (NHCUC photos on the next page)

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE NCAN MEMBER INFORMATION ON OUR WEB SITE

There’s quick-read and full information listings, contact information and hot links to web sites and e-mail.

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CURRENT

Contact Carrie Warick if there are any changes.

warickc@collegeaccess.org

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New Hampshire Scholar 2008 graduates from Stevens High School, Claremont, NH.

New Hampshire Scholar 2008 graduates from Winnisquam Regional High School, Tilton, NH.
On October 13, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education’s (NOCHE) Fall 2008 College Caravan hit the ground running with aggressive plans to visit 27 high schools in six school districts throughout the Northeast Ohio region in ten days. Now in its 15th year, NOCHE College Caravans reach out to underserved students in grades 9 through 12 in urban and first-ring suburban school districts. Coordinating with the school district administrators, high school counselors, and college admissions counselors, NOCHE program manager Brenda Davis Smith prepares the high school visit schedule and college travel itinerary. Targeting juniors and seniors at three schools per day throughout the two-week period, NOCHE staff and admissions counselors organize the event in a college fair format. Participants speak to students about preparing for college and the college application process. They also distribute related handouts, including material from the KnowHow2Go program and publications provided by the U.S. Department of Education. Successfully visiting the planned 27 high schools, this Fall College Caravan was able to reach a record 4,766 students! Preparations and further expansion plans are currently underway for Spring and Fall 2009 College Caravans.

www.nochef.org

NOCHE’s Caravan visits an Ohio high school.
In November 2008, the Northwest Education Loan Association had its grand opening of the NELA Center for Student Success at its new location in Central Seattle. Staff members were on hand to teach more about NELA resources and support services that help students prepare for college. Mayor Greg Nickels served as the special guest speaker. The NELA Center for Student Success is a community facility open to the public that offers free resources, information and counseling to students and their families so they can successfully plan and pay for higher education. The Center for Student Success services are modeled after programs across the nation that have been successful in helping college students and their families navigate complex college administration and financial aid systems and meet their higher education goals. Visitors can use classes, one-on-one counseling, materials and publications, and online tutorials that will help them explore and understand their options for college programs, application processes, financial aid, and how to manage student loan debt. [www.centerforstudentsuccess.net](http://www.centerforstudentsuccess.net)

The Sallie Mae Fund announced that its scholarship application season is now open and invited students attending college in the fall to apply for scholarships it will award for the 2009-2010 school year. According to the U.S. Department of Education, by 2016, colleges are expected to see a 45 percent growth in the number of Hispanic students enrolling and a 29 percent growth in the number of African-American students, many of whom will have greater financial need. To help meet this challenge, The Sallie Mae Fund provides scholarships through a number of its own programs that address a common barrier to higher education access: financial need. To learn about these scholarships, applications, eligibility, and deadlines (ranging from April 15 to May 31) or to read Sallie Mae’s financial tips for college, visit [www.salliemaefund.org/scholarships](http://www.salliemaefund.org/scholarships).

The Sallie Mae Fund completed 133 “Paying for College” workshops in 2008, providing nearly 32,000 people with college-going information. The free workshops are designed to educate families, particularly Latino, African-American, and low-income students and parents, about their options for attending, saving and paying for higher education. More than $61,500 in scholarships was awarded to attendees of Paying for College events in 2008.

Dr. Adrienne O’Neill, president of the Stark Education Partnership, has been named as one of the 2008 Purpose Prize Fellows by Civic Ventures[www.civicventures.com](http://www.civicventures.com). The Purpose Prize is a $9 million program for people over 60 who are taking on society’s biggest challenges. The Purpose Prize supports Fellows by helping develop their capacity, linking them with funders and venture philanthropists and connecting them to other social innovators over 60. The Prize, now in its third year, is the nation’s only large-scale investment in social innovators in the second half of life. Dr. O’Neill is the fourth Ohioan to be recognized with this prestigious honor.

O’Neill was named a fellow for her innovation in recognizing that the education gap could not be closed by one single institution or leader but required collaborative leadership networks. In 2002, she led the process to institute Ohio’s first “P-16 Compact,” a seamless preschool-college education system. School districts, colleges, businesses, foundations and human service organizations have joined together to work toward graduating all high school students and for 80 percent of those graduates to enroll in post-secondary education.
Montana educators experienced the KnowHow2GO campaign firsthand at a reception hosted by nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) in Helena. Attendees at the informational event had the opportunity to check out the Montana KnowHow2GO Web site, collect campaign materials to take back to their schools, view the “Take the Tough Classes” viral videos and even meet the Algebra II character face to face.

In order to maximize educators’ exposure to the KnowHow2GO concept, SAF coordinated the KnowHow2GO campaign kick-off event in conjunction with Montana GEAR UP’s 2008 Annual Fall Conference.

As conference participants converged in Helena to hear from keynote speakers and attend a wide variety of workshops, SAF ensured they also had an opportunity to stop by a booth dedicated to KnowHow2GO to acquaint themselves with the four steps to get to college and ask questions about how to incorporate the campaign into their curriculum.

Marti Johnson, SAF Grants Manager and Rhonda Safford, SAF Programs Manager, pose for a picture with Mr. Algebra II (played by Nick Mazanec).
USA Funds®, the nation’s leading education loan guarantor, announced that it will offer a new college awareness video to encourage middle school students and their parents to prepare academically and financially for higher education. The video, 16 Summers, featured actor/entertainer Nick Cannon in a story about a 15-year-old girl who learns the importance of planning for the future by dealing with several issues commonly faced by teens. The new video is available beginning February 2009 as a component of the USA Funds early awareness program USA Funds Unlock the Future®. A trailer of the new video is available from the USA Funds web site at www.usafunds.org/16summers.

USA Funds Unlock the Future provides middle school students and their families the basic information they need to plan for education after high school, as well as resources to help them prepare for higher education. In addition to the video, the program features a meeting planning guide, workbooks and other take-home items to encourage students and their families to explore and plan for their futures. USA Funds provides the program without charge to schools, community agencies and faith-based organizations, with priority consideration given to those located in the eight states where USA Funds serves as the designated guarantor of federal education loans.

The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) has launched an online version of its popular Paying for College presentation, which is held at high schools throughout the state every fall. The online presentation, available at www.vsaccollegepays.org, is designed for those who are unable to attend a high school presentation or who want a refresher after attending the live presentation. The online presentation takes about a half-hour, but can easily be viewed in smaller segments.

“VSAC strives to provide comprehensive college and career planning information to all Vermonters, regardless of where they live or their stage of life,” said Don Vickers, VSAC’s president and CEO. “This online presentation provides another resource for Vermonters who are juggling multiple responsibilities and increasingly relying on the Internet to gather information and make decisions.”

The www.vsaccollegepays.org site also provides a schedule of live presentations remaining in this year’s series, as well as downloads of VSAC publications that are helpful to the college financing process. VSAC is a public nonprofit established in 1965 to help Vermonters plan and pay for education or training beyond high school. For more information, visit www.vsac.org.
Each month NCAN hosts Monthly Member Calls. These calls are a member benefit and include presentations on current issues in college access and participation in conversations following the presentations. From October to February, almost 100 individuals participated.

The most recent call was a presentation from the **Institute for Higher Education Policy** on their report titled *Why College-Qualified Students Don’t Enroll in College*. This call had the highest attendance to date of NCAN member calls. The first call in 2009 centered on College Goal Sunday. **Marcia Weston**, Director of Operations, shared with NCAN members the mission of College Goal Sunday and how they can get involved in their states. College Goal Sunday is a program in 36 states to provide a one-day, free event to help students complete their FAFSA forms.

The December call focused more specifically on foster care youth with a presentation from the Casey Family Foundation. **John Emerson**, the postsecondary education advisory at Casey Family, shared the struggles that are specific to foster care youth and the services that the Casey Family Foundation provides to address these concerns.

The October call introduced the Education Finance Council’s College Center. It is a new web resource for learning about going to college. In November, NCAN Director of Technical Assistance, **MorraLee Holzapfel** presented on the updates to the FAFSA form. This was a well-attended call where many members learned about the new questions on the FAFSA form, particularly those addressing foster and homeless youth.

*Welcome To NCAN’s New Headquarters!*

In January, the NCAN hosted an open house in its new offices located on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC. Members of the college access community, including a number of NCAN members, met to mingle, network, and visit NCAN’s new office. The event was very successful despite a winter storm happening at the same time.

The opening of the Washington, DC, office completes the transition of NCAN’s headquarters from Cleveland, OH, to the nation’s capital. The new location will allow NCAN to be more involved in the advocacy of college access issues as well as networking with other education organizations.

The offices are located at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 632, Washington, DC 20036, only a short walk from the White House and a short subway ride to Capitol Hill. If you’re going to be in Washington, DC, please give us a call to schedule a visit!
Web-Enabled Student Tracking (WEST)  
New Users, Monthly Demos and New Contacts

The Web-Enabled Student Tracking (WEST) system is an online database that enables college access programs to collect and report information about the progress of their students that is most important to their organizations. The WEST system is built on a secure and reliable infrastructure, and the user-requirements are minimal. The WEST System can be accessed from any computer that has a web browser and is available 24 hours a day /7 days a week. NCAN has committed to building the capacity of college access programs by providing full access to the WEST System at a reasonable cost.

NCAN would like to introduce the following school districts as new WEST users:

• Spring Branch Independent School District — Houston, Texas
• Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District — Baytown, Texas

NCAN is pleased to offer regularly scheduled monthly demos for potential users. Demo dates are posted on the WEST page of our web site at www.CollegeAccess.org.

Current demo date:  
March 20, 2009 (11:00 – 12:00 p.m. EST)

NCAN is pleased to welcome Dan Valerian of Valerian Consulting as our WEST consultant. Dan is an expert in information technology and very familiar with the WEST database. For technical assistance, please contact Dan at dan@valerianconsulting.com.

WEST Demonstrations Are Available On An As-Requested Basis.  
Schedule Yours Today!

Please contact Dr. Tia Brown McNair, Assistant Director of NCAN, to schedule a demonstration or to get more information. 1-866-941-6122 x202 (toll-free) or mcnairt@collegeaccess.org.
In Houston, NCAN continues to manage the “Preparing to Dream” project that is designed to enhance the college-going culture for five Houston-area school districts. Project teams were given the opportunity in December to explore a vast array of educational and college access resources with the intent of identifying those that could be implemented into their project plans.

The PTD Winter Institute showcased student academic achievement options, parental engagement opportunities, college access programming, student tracking methods, current data trends in Texas, and motivational programs that can lead to an improved college-going culture in the schools. Presenters such as Tom Mortensen, Senior Scholar at the Pell Institute, provided insight to education trends in Texas with a comparison to those at the national level. Scott Gillie, Executive Director of Encouragement Services, Inc. demonstrated an online guidance survey and tool to monitor progress of students. Brooke Bradford from Education: Catch the Dream, provided information on motivational programs for Latino students. This workshop allowed project teams to learn about options that could be incorporated into this current initiative to further augment resources available for parents and students.

Preparing to Dream is currently in its first year of implementation. Aldine, Cy-Fair, Goose Creek, Houston and Spring Branch Independent School Districts are leading the way in this project with guidance from NCAN and Houston A+ Challenge and funding from the Houston Endowment. The districts are gathering, reviewing and analyzing data along each and every step to ensure the best chance for successes as a result of their programming and policy initiatives. Stay tuned for continued reports on the progress of this school district-based project.

www.preparingtodream.org

Looking For Ideas?
Order Your Set Today!
Visit www.CollegeAccess.org

These publications are a must-have resource for anyone involved with college access.

- NCAN staff can also provide technical assistance in developing effective strategies for statewide networks and college access program evaluation.

www.CollegeAccess.org
(click Publications on the menu)
This valuable, no cost tool provides solid data about “who’s doing what” in college access for students, parents, counselors, researchers and college access program staff. Use it to promote your program, find information about college access programs all over the country and generate reports. Give it a try.

If you have questions or need help adding your program data, please contact Carrie Warick, NCAN’s Director of Member Services, at 1-866-941-6122 x203 (toll-free) or warickc@collegeaccess.org.
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Access biographical information on NCAN board and advisory members at www.ColleageAccess.org

SAVE THE DATES!

NCAN 2009 Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA
September 15-17, 2009

NCAN 2010 Annual Conference
Washington, DC
October 11-13, 2010

AccessUpdate is published by the National College Access Network (NCAN), a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve access to and success in postsecondary education for disadvantaged, underrepresented, and first-generation students. NCAN does this by supporting a network of state and local college access programs that provide counseling, advice, and financial assistance; sharing best practices among the network; providing leadership and technical assistance; and helping establish new college access programs.