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Press Release

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FAFSA Workshops Connect Students With Financial Aid

Anchorage, AK – Alaska's 8th annual College Goal Sunday (CGS) event kicks off at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 12th, 2012. A national initiative, College Goal SundaySM activities help students, particularly low-income and first-generation college goers, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—an essential step to receiving student financial aid.

This year, at twenty-four sites across Alaska, financial aid professionals from Alaska's postsecondary institutions and other volunteers will help students complete the FAFSA.

"The FAFSA is the single avenue for students to access federal and most state financial support, including grants, scholarships, the lowest-cost student loans and work-study opportunities. And, because it is also the Alaska Performance Scholarship application, it is now more important than ever for Alaska's students to complete the FAFSA." said Diane Barrans, Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, which coordinates the Alaska CGS event.

FAFSA submission deadlines vary for the many aid programs that use the FAFSA. Students should aim to complete the FAFSA by mid-February, if possible, to be considered for the most available financial aid. Parents and students are encouraged not to wait to file the FAFSA until after they complete their 2011 income tax return because they may miss some opportunities by doing so.

2012 Alaska College Goal Sunday sites are in: Anchorage - Bartlett and Service High Schools, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Galena, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nenana, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Shishmaref (Feb 25), Sitka, Tok, Unalaska, Unalakleet (Feb 15), Valdez, and Wasilla.

Students living in a community without a CGS event can get assistance online via live webinars scheduled in mid-February; or by viewing the College Goal Sunday FAFSA video.

For more information about Alaska's College Goal Sunday events, including how to prepare and what to bring, as well as online options, visit www.alaskacollegegoalsunday.com or call 877-577-3367 (269-7980 in Anchorage).

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