

Financial Aid Newsletter



August 2016

Inside This Issue

- 1 FAFSA Changes
- 1 Regulatory Update
- 2 Employee Profile
- 2 Upcoming Events

FAFSA Changes

On September 13, 2015, the Office of the Press Secretary released a statement outlining plans to change the way the federal financial aid applications are processed. The primary intent behind this change is to allow students and families to make informed decisions about college choice. This will inevitably make recognizing affordability more efficient. With the changes, students and families will be able to complete their FAFSA three months earlier than in previous years. This year the application will be made available at www.fafsa.gov on October 1st instead of January 1st AND will allow students and their families to electronically retrieve the current (2015) year's IRS data to complete their application. In an effort to comply with and support the Department of Education's plan we are calling on all staff members to share this information and encourage their students, friends, and family to complete their FAFSAs in October.

Regulatory Updates

Never Attended

Students receiving financial aid are expected to attend their classes. As a result it is prohibited for financial aid to pay for classes that students never attend. In order for our office to remain compliant, it is incumbent upon professors to report students who never attend during the appropriated timeframe established by the Registrar.

Enrollment

For advisors and coaches, as you work diligently to assist students with the development of the perfect schedule, please note that students who receive federal funding **may only receive federal aid for coursework required for their program.** According to the 2016-17 Federal Student Aid handbook, "If a student is enrolled in courses that do not count toward his degree, certificate, or other recognized credential, they cannot be used to determine enrollment status unless they are eligible remedial courses, This means you cannot award the student aid for classes that do not count toward his degree or certificate."

"Courses that do not count toward a student's degree, certificate, or other recognized credential cannot be used to determine enrollment status unless they are eligible remedial courses."



Employee Profile: Rashaun Jones

MCCC Alum Rashaun Jones '09 joined the Financial Aid Office in 2015 as the office manager. Before joining our office he was a mentor and academic counselor for S.M.I.L.E./GEAR UP, a youth program he previously participated in as a high school student. After earning a Liberal Arts degree from Mercer, Jones transferred to New Jersey City University, earning a bachelor's degree in History.

Jones takes pride in his ability to motivate students to better themselves. He enjoys traveling, experiencing different cultures and meeting new people.

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”

~Robert Collier

Events

Did you know members of the Financial Aid Office regularly conduct workshops for various reasons? Over the past six months we have provided FAFSA completion workshops and financial literacy workshops. Most recently we also conducted various Back-on-Track Workshops in support of Professor Leroy Wilkerson for students on academic warning, probation, or dismissal status. In our effort to support the college's commitment to student success, we will continue to provide similar services to our students. Please make your students aware of these opportunities.

Fall 2016

2017-18 FAFSA Completion Workshops

Saturday, October 1st 10 am to 2 pm WWC

Saturday, October 15th 10 am to 2 pm JKC

Saturday, November 5th 10 am to 2 pm JKC

Saturday, November 19th 10 am to 2 pm WWC

Saturday, December 3rd 10 am to 2 pm WWC

Financial Literacy

November 8th and 9th 12 pm – 1 pm

For additional information about workshops or to schedule a workshop contact:

M. Nichole Pollard at pollardm@mccc.edu