

## COUNSELING CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 23, 2010

**The Howard County Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 2000** is pleased to announce they will provide a **\$500 scholarship** for a graduating senior from each of the Howard County public high schools. This scholarship is geared to help the "average" student who displays exceptional qualities and effort rather than being an award for the highest grades or sports aptitude. Any student who has attained a 2.5 grade average in their senior year and a minimum SAT score of 1350 is welcome to submit an application. Applications are available in the counseling center and must be postmarked no later than April 30.

**The Software Applications I Credit by Exam** is scheduled on Saturday, June 19, 2010, at Long Reach High School.

Only current juniors and seniors have the option of establishing a tech-ed credit by taking and passing the Software Applications I Credit by Exam. A student may take the exam as long as the student meets all of the following criteria: is not currently enrolled in Software Applications I, has not previously enrolled in the course, has not taken the Credit by Exam in the past 12 months and has not already earned the tech ed credit required for graduation.

Registration is online at [www2.hcpss.org/bcms](http://www2.hcpss.org/bcms). The online registration is now open and will close when all of the seats have been allocated. No registrations will be taken after Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Questions should be directed to Sharon Kramer either through email at [skramer@hcpss.org](mailto:skramer@hcpss.org) or by phone at 410-313-6797.

A **representative from the U.S. Navy** will be in the counseling center on Wednesday, April 28 at 10:00 to speak to any students who would like to find out more about the Navy. Students must fill out a pass to meet with him at least one day in advance of his visit. Stop by the counseling center to get a pass.

### **Attention Seniors!!!**

**A stamped, addressed envelope for the school where your final transcript needs to be sent must be brought to Ms. Thorne in the counseling center before graduation.** Bring them in as soon as your final decision has been made about where you will attend school next year – but at least by Friday, May 21.

### **JUNIORS AND SENIORS-FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE - ENROLL IN AN ARL CAREER ACADEMY!**

Have you been thinking about your career goals? Be one of the students involved in an academy and get a head start on your future.

There are still spaces available for enrolling in the following Career Academy courses at the ARL:

Academy of Finance (National Academy of Finance curriculum)

Biotechnology (genomics, cloning, agriculture & medical applications)

Computer Networking (CISCO certification)

Construction Management (National certification opportunities)

Energy, Power, and Transportation (project-based engineering)  
Hotel and Restaurant Management (Prostart and Lodging Management certifications)  
PC Systems (CISCO computer repair certification)

**See your school counselor and sign up today!!**

### **TEST-TAKING SECRETS**

Are you doing well in class but not on tests? Learn new strategies for success on standardized and classroom tests. Presented by Betty Caldwell, author of *What's My Style? Test and Study Secrets for Procrastinating Teens* and Director of Stressless Tests®.

**EAST COLUMBIA** (6600 Cradelrock Way, Columbia) Apr 29 Thu 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/TestTakingSecrets>~or call 410-313-7700.

### **FINDING THE MONEY**

Discover how to afford college as a financial aid counselor from Howard Community College discusses the FAFSA and additional financial resources. Ages 14-17.

**MILLER (9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City)** May 6 Thu 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/FindingTheMoney>~or call 410-313-1950.

**Writing The College Essay** (Excerpted from “Admission essay do’s and don’ts” by Ross Blankenship.

The admission essay is an important part of any college application. Some schools give more weight to the essay than others, but if an essay is required, you can bet it’s going to be used in the admissions decision to some degree.

Even if you have a high GPA, the essay provides an easy way for you to distinguish yourself from the other thousand applicants who have similar grades and activities as you. Writing an admissions essay that works will increase your chances of being accepted. To help you out, we have put together this easy list of do’s and don’ts for writing your admission essay.

#### **Do:**

Brainstorm ideas before you write. Choose the idea that best fits you, and a topic that you feel will be unique to the other thousands of essays that the admissions officers will read.

Choose a topic that is specific. Doing so will allow you to go in-depth into one idea rather than trying to cover a broad topic with a short essay. The more in-depth you go, the more unique your essay will be.

Write multiple drafts of your essay and get feedback on each one from a parent or friend. This will help ensure you cover the topic well, and give you the chance to choose the best of your work.

Write as well as you can, edit the document and get help if needed. Use a mixture of sharp adjectives and smart wit without sounding too terse, verbose or ostentatious (SAT words!).

#### **Don’t:**

Don’t choose offensive topics. Topics that may be offensive are those that surround religion, racism and even personal opinions on world issues. You won’t be doing

yourself any favors if your essay leaves the admissions officer feeling offended or angry.

Don't let anyone else dictate the topic of your essay. You can get help brainstorming if you want, but don't write about someone else's chosen topic.

Don't write a negative essay. The more positive you are with the topic, the more enjoyable the essay will be to read. Avoid negative topics and negative ideas with the body of the essay.

Don't be arrogant or pedantic with your writing. The admissions officers will see it, and arrogance will work against you in the admissions process.

**University of North Carolina Greensboro** is bringing their campus to a local community this spring. FIRST LOOK is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to learn more about the academic programs and upcoming recruitment events on the UNCG campus. You will also have the opportunity to meet the university community, including current students and discuss the enrollment process with admission staff.

FIRST LOOK programs scheduled this spring in the area are:

Monday, May 17	Hilton Rockville	Rockville, MD
Tuesday, May 18	Tysons Corner Marriott	Vienna, VA

For more information or to register, visit [www.uncg.edu/adm](http://www.uncg.edu/adm)