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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Apply early for financial aid, get help at 120 College Goal Washington statewide events**

**Olympia**—Now is the time for students—including DREAMers—to apply for financial aid. People who are U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens can file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)). People unable to file the FAFSA due to immigration status, can file the Washington Application for State Financial Aid ([WASFA](#)). Both applications are open. The priority deadline for state financial aid programs, which include the State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship, is February 1.

Between January and February 2016, experts and trained volunteers will help people with financial aid and college applications at over 120 events throughout the state. These community events are open to anyone interested in continuing education beyond high school, and are made possible through College Goal Washington.

Trained volunteers will help attendees fill out financial aid applications. Financial aid experts from public and private universities will be onsite to answer questions about how to pay for college and get financial aid. They will also meet individually with participants on a case-by-case basis. View an up-to-date list of College Goal Washington event dates and locations on [ReadySetGrad.org](#).

College Goal Washington is an initiative to increase educational attainment in Washington State. The support provided at these events makes financial aid programs more accessible to students who are low-income, first-generation, or underrepresented in postsecondary education. Filing an application for financial aid is an important step in the college application process, and there is a strong correlation between applying for financial aid and enrolling in college.

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers College Goal Washington through the [12th Year Campaign](#). College Goal Washington is also part of the nationwide College Goal Sunday Initiative, supported by the [National College Access Network](#) (NCAN).

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**About the Washington Student Achievement Council:** Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us online at [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov), on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WSACouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WSACouncil).