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**College Goal Washington at 60 sites, helping Washingtonians apply for financial aid**

**Olympia**—Between January and February 2015, financial aid experts and trained volunteers will be available at 60 sites throughout the state, helping people apply for financial aid to continue their education. These events are made possible through College Goal Washington, which is part of the Washington Student Achievement Council’s 12th Year Campaign. For an up-to-date list of event dates and locations, click [here](#).

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. These community events are open to anyone who is considering continuing education beyond high school.

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 students on a case-by-case basis.

Submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a requirement to access financial aid programs that include Federal Student Loans and Pell Grants as well as both federal and state work study programs. Students who are not eligible to file the FAFSA due to citizenship status may be eligible for state financial aid. To be considered for state financial aid, non-citizens need to submit a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA). Trained volunteers will also be available to assist in this process.

The College Goal Washington Campaign is an important strategy to increase educational attainment in Washington State by making financial aid programs more accessible to students who are low-income, first-generation, and/or underrepresented in postsecondary education. The campaign is a part of the nationwide College Goal Sunday Initiative, which is supported by USA Funds in 34 states.

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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).