

October 19, 2007

TO: News Room: ATTN: Schools Section
Peninsula Clarion <safe:morris>

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Tuesday, October 23, 2007)

Scholarship season is here

One of the biggest challenges college students face is financing their educational expenses—and it isn't likely that will change any time soon. Tuition rates, text book expenses, housing costs, energy and other life-sustaining expenditures continue to escalate. Fortunately, students have a number of options.

The federal government, recognizing the huge financial hurdle college expenses pose, offer Federal Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, as well as Stafford Loans and Parent Loan Programs that students can apply for. The state of Alaska also offers Supplemental Education Loans. UAA/KPC offers a large number of scholarships and tuition waivers that students can apply for.

Application for these and most all college financial aid opportunities begins with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.) The FAFSA application can be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov . In order for students to be eligible to apply for the FAFSA, they must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program in college. Once the FAFSA is filed, students receive a Student Aid Report and the information in the report is supplied electronically to all colleges and universities listed on the students' application. It is important that students list the proper school code of the college or university they have enrolled in. At UAA/KPC that code is 011462. Most financial granting institutions use the FAFSA to access students' financial status.

Kenai Peninsula College has a large number of campus-based scholarships that students can apply for using one application. Applicants must be enrolled in a KPC/UAA degree or certificate program and are required to write a two page, double spaced personal essay outlining career and educational goals. Often this essay can be "re-used"

for other scholarship applications. Students must also attach unofficial college transcripts—incoming freshmen attach high school transcripts or GED transcripts—to the application. The deadline for the application packets to be received in the Kenai River Campus Financial Aid office is 5 p.m., Friday, December 14, 2007. Applications are currently available for downloading at kpc.alaska.edu or at the Financial Aid office.

Calling all students and parents: Mark your calendar for Financial Aid Workshop

In years past, KRC financial aid coordinator Carrie Burford traveled to area high schools to provide financial aid workshops providing general financial aid advice to high school students (and their parents) preparing for college admission. This year Burford reports that a new approach will be taken.

“The first annual Financial Aid Workshop will be held at 7 p.m., November 6 at the Soldotna Sports Center. The event is a collaborative effort sponsored by counselors and staff from area high schools, Kenai Peninsula College and the Alaska Commission on Post Secondary Education. This year's speaker will be Mary Ellen Havens from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education,” Burford said.

Topics that will be covered during the workshop include the FAFSA process, academic competitive grants and smart grants, the Alaska Advantage Program, Alaska supplemental loans and other grant and scholarship programs. Tips will be given that focus on planning and timelines.

For more information about this community event, contact the KRC financial aid office at 262-0332.

Planned Parenthood Traveling Health Care Clinic comes to KRC

Kathy Becher, Advanced Nurse Practitioner at KRC, reports that the new Planned Parenthood Traveling Health Care Clinic provided reduced fee and/or free services to students on October 16.

Planned Parenthood Nurse Practitioner, Mary Lee Kreger, provided gynecological exams and PAP tests, STD screening, pregnancy testing and birth control options. Clinical breast exams and mammogram referral was also available.

The next clinic will be held at the KRC Student Health Center on November 13.

Becher adds, “Students should let us know if an evening clinic would better suit their needs.”

Students can make appointments by calling 262-0347 or by stopping in the clinic in room 106 in the Ward building.

More KRC Health Center news

Flu shots will be available to students, staff, faculty and the public from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on November 7 in the KRC commons. Kenai Public Health personnel will be offering the immunizations on a sliding fee scale. The shots will be free to persons meeting low-income requirements.

The KRC Health Center will have flu shots available for \$15 for students, staff and faculty starting October 23.