# COLLEGE FUNDING & SCHOLARSHIP WEBINAR



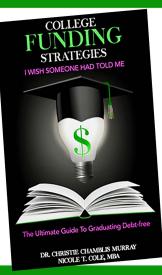
For Stafford County High School Students and Parents

In conjunction with the Office of Equity and Accountability



Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Register at: <u>https://scpscollegefunding2022webinar.eventbrite.com</u>



#### Learn How to Graduate Debt-free By:

- Developing a college funding plan
- Understanding the cost of college
- Paying for college
- Applying for financial aid
- Searching and applying for scholarships



Featuring College Expert & Author Dr. Christie Murray

Give-a-ways provided by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Psi Omega Chapter



Welcome



- Stafford County Public School Students and Families!
- Thank you for joining the College Funding and Scholarship webinar.
- This webinar will be recorded for future use.

# Webinar Objectives



The main objectives of this webinar are to:

- ✤ Equip students with practical college funding strategies.
- Provide useful strategies to search and apply for scholarships.
- Discuss relevant information as a result of COVID-19.

Let's Make this an Interactive Discussion! Use the chat function to post comments or questions.

## **Sponsored By:** Stafford County High School Office of Equity and Accountability



## In conjunction with the

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Psi Psi Omega Chapter Serving Stafford and Fauquier Counties Charted June 7, 2014 President: Greta Thompson **Program Initiatives** 



**Target 1: #CAP** Assist high school juniors and seniors through the College Admissions Process (#CAP<sup>SM</sup>)



**Target 3: Building Economic Legacy** Emphasize financial planning, asset accumulation, and wealth.

#### **Providing student give-a-ways**



### **Speaker** Dr. Christie Murray



Author, Chief Operating Officer Invest N Others LLC <u>www.investNothers.com</u> Psi Psi Omega Chapter Vice President, Program Chair Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA



## Dr. Christie Murray HBCU Graduate



- Bachelors in Electrical Engineering Degree, 1998
  - Masters in Computer Information System, 2003
  - Masters in Business Administration, 2009
  - Doctorate in Business Administration, 2014





#### Scholarships

#### Ten College Funding Strategies To Graduating Debt-free!



#### **These College Strategies Work!!!**



Junior Old Dominion University Mass Communications



Freshman – Div 1 Football Player Norfolk State University Computer Science (Full Scholarship) 9

## **College Funding Roadmap**



# **1.** Assess Your Current Funding Situation



**Template 1: Funding Situation Assessment** 



- 1. What is your (or your child's) GPA?
- 2. What do you (or your child) plan to major in?
- 3. What type of college are you considering (public or private)?
- 4. Do you plan to live on campus or off campus?
- 5. How much does it cost to attend college for one-year?
- 6. What is your parent(s) household income?
- 7. How much have you (or your parents) saved money for college?
- 8. Have you had conversations about how to pay for college?
- 9. How much have you budgeted for senior year expenses?

# Assess Your Current Funding Situation College Funding Stages



College Funding (Introduction) - Page 3

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# 2. Know the Cost of Attendance (COA)

- ✤ Cost of attendance is how much college will cost.
- Consider the cost of attendance when selecting a college.
- Direct costs (paid to college):
  - Tuition and fees (price colleges charge for tuition instruction)
  - Room and board (campus housing and food)
- Indirect costs (incurred during the academic year):
  - Books, course materials, supplies
  - Personal expenses (laundry, clothes, cell phone, medical, etc.)
  - Transportation (commute, travel, etc.)



# Know the Cost of Attendance

#### The cost of attendance:

- ✤ Increases each year (inflation)
- May vary due to COVID-19 impacts and distance learning
- Some colleges are more expensive than others.
- Go where you can afford!!

#### **Average Tuition & Fees**

2019-2020



**US.News** 

WWW.USNEWS.COM/PAYINGFORCOLLEGE

# "TIME" is Money!

#### Percentage of students completing 4-year degree in:

	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years
Public	35%	54%	<b>59</b> %
Private	53%	<b>63</b> %	66%

Source: US Department of Education, Published 2019 \* (Excludes Transfers)

# 3. Customize Your Funding Plan or Approach



#### Develop and Execute a College Funding Plan Simple but Effective

#### Template 11: College Funding Plan

					_ College Funding Funding Approa		_
No.	My Goals	Туре	Cost	Start Date	Due Date	% Complete	Notes
1	Develop a Scholar Profile	Profile	N/A	Summer before 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Summer before 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	100%	Scholar Profile Template
2	Apply for the FAFSA	Financial Aid	N/A	October 1 <sup>st</sup> of Senior year	December of Senior Year	75%	
3	Search & apply for scholarships	High School	N/A	Summer of Senior Year	Throughout College	25%	Scholarship Tracking Sheet Template
4	Order your transcript	High School	N/A	9/20/XX	10/1/XX	50%	
5	Take the SAT/ACT	Test	\$65.00	2/01/XX	4/01/XX	30%	
6	Create a college planning budget	Money	\$2,000	08/01/XX	End of Senior year	10%	

#### Ways to Pay for College Household Sources (parents, guardians, and/or the scholar)



- Out of pocket expenses
- College savings plan
- Permanent life insurance
- Retirement plan (not recommended)

# Ways to Pay for College Outside Sources

(colleges, employers, organizations, or Individuals not related to the scholar)



- Financial aid
- Scholarships
- Grants
- Employer education reimbursements

# Ways to Pay for College Financial Aid

- Financial aid = Money to help pay for college
- Federal government awards over \$120 billion to 13 million students annually
- ✤ Types of financial aid:
  - ✤ Work study
  - Grants
  - ✤ Scholarships
  - Student Loans



## Ways to Pay for College Student Loans

According to the U.S. Department of Education:

- ✤ \$1.6 trillion in U.S Student Loan Debt
- ✤ 45 million borrowers
- ✤ Average student loan debt \$32,731 (in 2020)
- Avoid or minimize student loans, if possible!



Avoid or minimize student loans, if possible!

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## **Top 10 States – Student Loan Debt**

Rank Sta	to	Balance (\$ in billions	Borrowers
1 Ca	lifornia	\$135.0	3.8
2 Tex	xas	\$107.3	3.4
3 Flo	rida	\$90.8	2.5
4 Ne	w York	\$87.3	2.4
5 Ge	orgia	\$62.4	1.6
6 Per	nnsylvania	\$60.2	1.8
7 Oh	io	\$58.9	1.8
8 Illin	nois	\$57.9	1.6
9 Mi	chigan	\$48.4	1.4
10 No	rth Carolina	\$44.4	1.2

## **4.** Apply for Financial Aid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- ✤ FAFSA is required to receive federal financial aid.
- ✤ Used by colleges to determine student financial aid eligibility.
- ✤ Released on October 1<sup>st</sup> each academic year.
- **FREE** no cost to apply.
- Seniors Apply as soon as possible before the college's deadline.
- College students Apply <u>every year</u> you will return to college the following academic year. (Even if you have scholarships!)

### **Apply for Financial Aid** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Apply online <u>https://fafsa.ed.gov</u>
- Reference documents: tax forms, W-2, bank statements, etc.
- ✤ Can sign documents electronically.
- Students and parents must create an account (FSA ID)
- ✤ Add your colleges to your FAFSA!!!
- Receive a report with your calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Login	
<b>Log in to the FAFSA</b> Only students may use their FSA ID to log in. Parents and others can start a FAFSA for a student by entering the student's identifiers. Parents and others can also work on a FAFSA form or correction the student started using the <b>Save Key</b> that the student made. <u>Help for parents.</u>	
I am the student OR I am a parent, prepare Freely Associated State	
	NEXT 🗢
e Last Updated: Sunday, September 27, 2020	Download Adobe Read
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#### **Calculating Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**



- EFC The amount of money a family will have to pay out of pocket per academic year before they can be considered for need-based financial aid.
- Colleges use your EFC to determine institutional need-based aid eligibility.
- ✤ Not the total out-of-pocket costs!

#### Calculating Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Seven EFC Calculation Factors

1. Parent income:

- a. Taxable income from your 1040 IRS tax filing
- b. Untaxable income
- 2. Number of people in the scholar's household
- 3. Number of scholars in college
- 4. Scholar income:
  - a. Taxable income (exclude work-study income)
  - b. Untaxable income
- 5. Parent assets
- 6. Age of oldest parent
- 7. Scholar assets

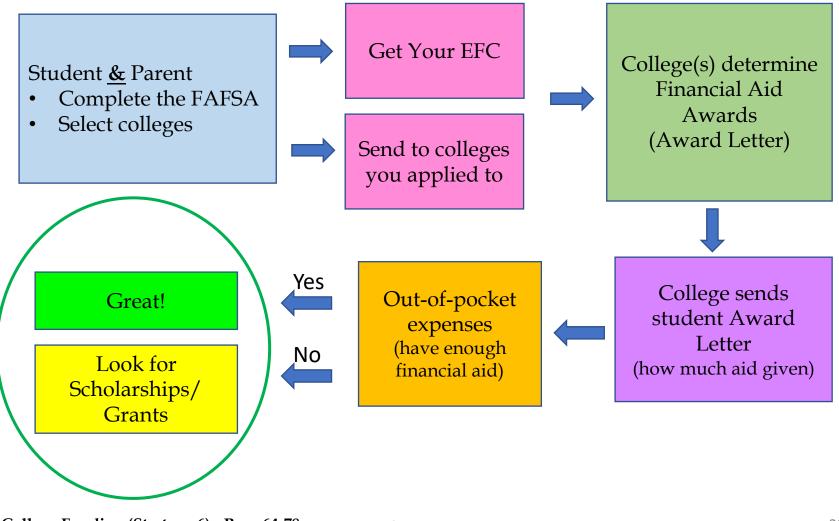


#### Calculating Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Seven EFC Calculation Factors

Use one of these tools to calculate an estimate of your EFC:

- Student Aid: <u>https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate</u>
- College Board: <u>https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-yourshare/expected-family-contribution-calculator#efc\_status</u>

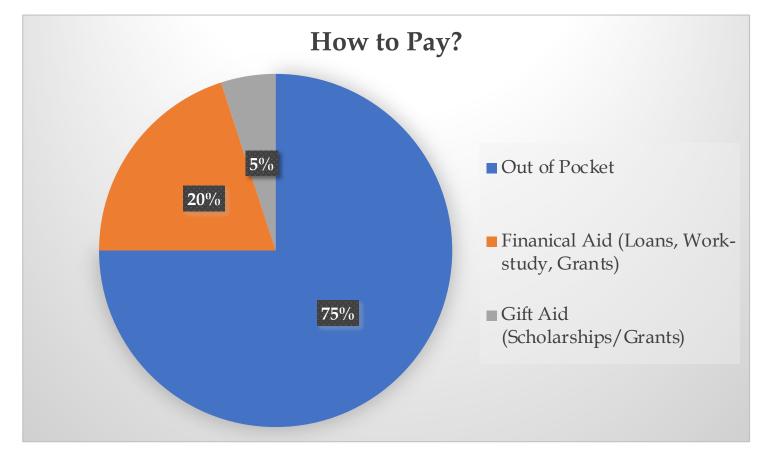
## **Apply for Financial Aid** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



College Funding (Strategy 6) - Page 64-78

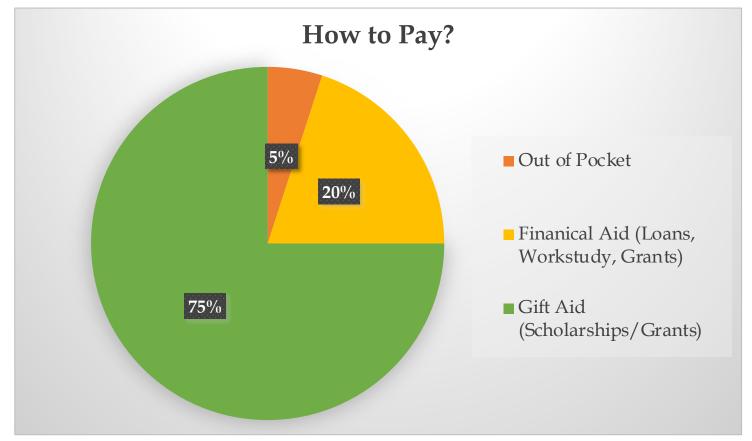
## Navigate the Funding Process Ways to Pay for College

#### Not Ideal – You Pay or Owe the Most



## Navigate the Funding Process Ways to Pay for College

#### Ideal – You Pay or Owe the Least



# 5. Look for Scholarships (Gift Aid)

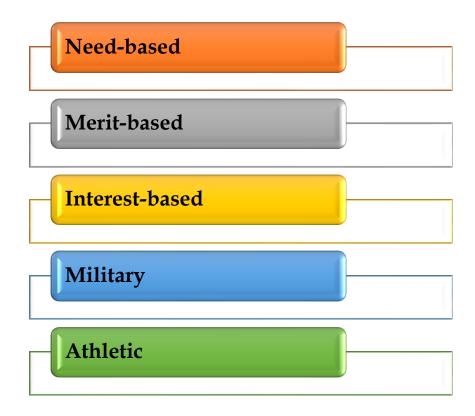
- Develop a plan to search for scholarships
- Target a variety of scholarships (large/small \$\$)
- Don't limit where you apply:
  - ✤ Local and national
  - Organizations/non-profits
  - ✤ Greek organizations
  - ✤ Religious organizations
  - ✤ Employers
- Find a scholarship mentor
- Don't run from essays, get help proofreading and recycle responses
- Provide all requested documentation
- Track your scholarship progress

College Planning (Strategy 9) - Page 95-101

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#### **Search for Scholarships** Types of Scholarships



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# Where to Find Scholarships?

#### **EVERYWHERE!**



# Where to Find Scholarships?

- High School Counseling Offices
- Online
  - Scholarship America Hub: <u>https://scholarshipamerica.org</u>
  - ✤ Cappex: <u>www.cappex.com/</u>
  - College Board: <u>www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org</u>
  - EducationUSA: <u>https://educationusa.state.gov</u>
  - ✤ Fastweb: <u>www.fastweb.com</u>
  - Niche: <u>www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/?niche=niche-scholarships</u>
  - College Scholarships: <u>www.collegescholarships.com</u>
  - Scholarship.com: <u>www.Scholarships.com</u>
  - ✤ Scholly: <u>www.scholly.com</u>
- Organization/company websites

#### https://www.investNothers.com/scholarship-list

College Planning (Strategy 9) - Page 95-101

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Psi Psi Omega Chapter (Stafford & Fauquier Counties) http://www.staffordaka.com/scholarships.html

- Encouraged to apply for our scholarships
- Students who attend school or reside in Stafford or Fauquier Counties

Types of Scholarships:

- Service Leadership
- ThinkHBCU
- Vocational/Community College
- Continuing College Student
- The Arts!



Join My Exclusive Group "Scholarships for Scholars"





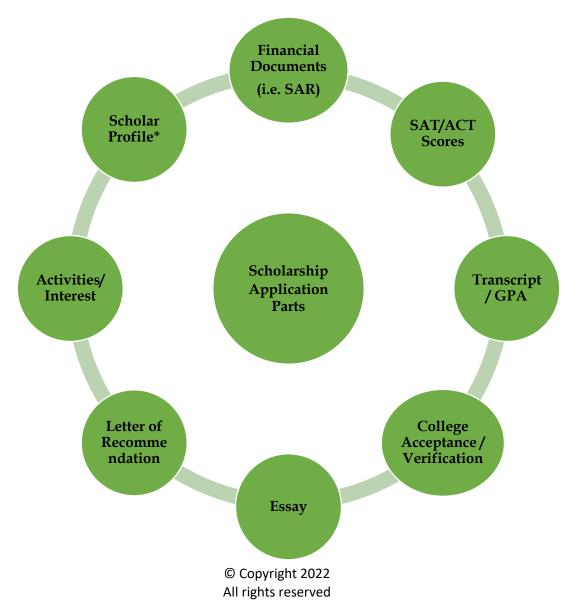


# Track Your Progress & Requirements

Template 9: Funding/Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet

Name:			Date:			EFC: _			Need:			
No	FUNDING/ SCHOLARSHI P NAME	APPLICATION LINK	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD AMOUNT	DEADLINE	ESSAY(S)	LETTER(S) OF RECOMMENDATION (Y/N)	TEST SCORES (Y/N)	DATE APPLICATION SUBMITTED	SELECTION DECISION	AMOUNT AWARDED	NOTES
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												

## Apply for Scholarships Scholarship Application Parts



# **Develop a Scholar Profile** Market and Differentiate Yourself

Template 6: Scholar Profile

- Professional picture
- Name, address, contact no., email
- Objective (college/major)
- Educational summary
- Honors and awards
- Employment experience
- Extra-curricular activities
- Community service activities
- Relevant coursework
- Interests/hobbies



#### **Use it for:**

- ✓ Letters of recommendations
- ✓ College applications
- ✓ Scholarship apps
- Essay writing
- ✓ Jobs

Close the gaps while you still have time

### **Sample Scholar Profile**

#### Template 6: Scholar Profile

	John Doe 12345 College Bound Drive City, State Zip Code Home: (123) 456-789; Mobile: (123) 911-4111 Email: john.doe@yahoo.com						
Objective:	To attend XX university and obtain a degree in XX.						
Education:	High School: XX High School, City, State (Graduation: 06/13/20XX) Current GPA: 3.6; Rank: 29/283 ACT Scores: Composite: 24; English (24); Math (30); Reading (21); Science (20) College Plan: Hampton University (Accepted on 1/20/20XX) Enrollment Date: Fall 2018 Intended Degree/Major: Bachelor of XX in XX						
<ul> <li>Nation</li> </ul>	<b>Awards:</b> • Roll, (20XX - Present) • al Honor Society Induction, 20XX Iternate Current/Direct Current Student, (20XX-20XX)						
Employment Cashie Walm	<b>Experience:</b> er, McDonalds, City, VA (20XX-20XX) art Cashier, City, VA (20XX)						
<ul> <li>Stude</li> <li>Nation</li> </ul>	n <b>izations/Extracurricular Activities:</b> ent Government Association Class Representative, (20XX-Present) onal Honor Society, (20XX-Present) re Business Leaders of America Member, (20XX-20XX)						
<ul><li>Alpha</li><li>Volun</li></ul>	Service Activities: Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Adopt a Highway Project, (20XX) teered at Galleria Mall on Summer Family Nights, (20XX) teered at the XX Community Center, (20XX)						
Interests/Hot	bbies:						
<ul><li>Cooki</li><li>Reading</li></ul>							

#### **Scholarship Application** Transcripts/College Verification

- Some entities require transcripts or proof of college acceptance or verification.
- ✤ Follow their directions on how to send these documents.
- ✤ Know the process to obtain:
  - High school(s) and/or college transcripts (official or unofficial)
  - College acceptance/verification
- Order these documents well in advance of your deadlines!
- Follow-up to make sure your documents are sent on time.

### Scholarship Application SAT/ACT Scores



- Many colleges are making the SAT/ACT "test optional" for admissions.
- Colleges and scholarship entities may use test scores for merit-based scholarships.
- Find out upcoming dates and register!

**Register for the SAT:** <u>https://www.collegeboard.org/</u>

**Register for the ACT:** <u>http://www.act.org/</u>

### **Scholarship Application** Types of Essays and Letters of Recommendations



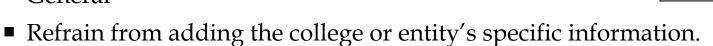
### **Scholarship Application** Essay Tips

- Some colleges and scholarship entities require essays.
- Follow directions (type it/handwrite or specific word count).
- Draft essays early.
- Proofread it and get someone else to critique them.
- ✤ Write on various topics and save them all.
- Re-use content from them for multiple applications.



## **Scholarship Application** Letters of Recommendations

- Make a list of recommenders that you trust.
- Request letters:
  - Early
  - General



- Set recommenders deadlines 1-2 weeks before your deadline.
- Provide your Scholar Profile with your request.
- Re-use letters for multiple applications.
- Offer a pre-drafted letter of recommendation for them to tailor.

LETTERS

ECOMMENDATION

#### Template 7: Sample Letter of Recommendation

\_\_\_\_\_ [Month Day, Year]

To \_\_\_\_\_ [Scholarship Entity Selection Committee]:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_ [First Name and Last Name], with \_\_\_\_\_\_ [Organization], I am writing this letter to express my support for \_\_\_\_\_\_ [Scholar First and Last Name] and \_\_\_\_\_\_ [his or her] application for the \_\_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Scholarship]. \_\_\_\_\_ [He or She] plans to attend \_\_\_\_\_\_ [College or University] to major in \_\_\_\_\_\_ [College major]. \_\_\_\_\_ [He or She] demonstrated exceptional \_\_\_\_\_\_ [academic achievement]. \_\_\_\_\_ [Scholar Name] currently has a \_\_\_\_\_ [grade point average] at \_\_\_\_\_\_ [XX High School]. \_\_\_\_\_ [He or she] pursues academic excellence and welcomes challenges.

I have known \_\_\_\_\_\_ [Scholar First Name], for \_\_\_ [ no. of years] (or since 20XX). \_\_\_\_ [He or She] \_\_\_\_\_ [studied, worked or volunteered] with \_\_\_\_\_ [Organization Name] from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ [Month 20XX to Month 20XX]. \_\_\_\_\_ [Scholar First Name] is extremely hard working and displays sound judgement required for a leader. \_\_\_\_\_ [He or she] an individual who strong character and carries \_\_\_\_\_ [himself or herself] in a polite, respectable, and professional manner.

[He or she] impressed me with \_\_\_ [his or her] ability to \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_ [solve problems, communicate effectively, and think critically]. \_\_\_\_'s [Scholar First Name] creativity and innovative mindset exceeded my expectations. \_\_\_\_\_ [He or she] was extremely \_\_\_\_\_ [proactive], \_\_\_\_\_ [professional] and \_\_\_\_\_ [results-driven].

Without reservation, I strongly recommend \_\_\_\_\_\_ [Scholar First Name] as a candidate for your scholarship. Please afford \_\_\_\_\_ [him or her] the opportunity to continue to excel academically in college. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_ [Phone Number] or \_\_\_\_\_ [email address].

Best Regards,

[Your Signature} Name Title

# **College Funding General Checklist**

- □ Select a major(s)
- □ Apply to colleges
- □ Complete and submit the FAFSA (enter the college code)
- □ Apply for scholarships (throughout senior year & beyond)
- □ Review or appeal college Financial Aid Award Letter(s)
- □ Select a college to attend
- □ Accept your financial aid awards
- □ Pay enrollment and housing deposits

## *Conclusion* Key Takeaways

- College funding should not be an after thought.
- Discuss how you (parent/guardians) will pay for college.
- Put together a system or plan that works for YOU! (include a budget)
- Look for scholarships until you graduate from <u>college</u>!
- Track your progress.
- ✤ Get organized:
  - Create folders for college planning & funding documents.
  - Save account/login information in a central place.
  - Create a separate email address for college efforts.
- Don't waste people's time!!!!
- Say thank you.

# **Upcoming Events (Spanish)**

#### SEMINARIO WEB SOBRE FINANCIACIÓN Y BECAS UNIVERSITARIAS (EN ESPAÑOL)

Para los estudiantes de Secundaria del Condado de Stafford y sus padres En conjunto con la Oficina de Equidad y Responsabilidad

Fecha : Martes, 5 deApril de 2022 Hora : 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

#### Registrese en: https://scpscollegefundingspanish2022webinar.eventbrite.com



Register at: https://scpscollegefundingspanish2022webinar.eventbrite.com

# **Upcoming Events**

**Register at:** <u>https://www.investnothers.com/webinar-material</u>

(April)	(May)				
SAT Prep Strategies	ACT Prep Strategies				
Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)	Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)				
(For High School Students)	(For High School Students)				
(June)	(July)				
HBCU and PWI Colleges Official Panel Discussion	<u>Essay Writing and Letters of</u> <u>Recommendation</u>				
Sunday, June 5, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)	Sunday, July 31, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)				
(For High School Students & Parents)	(For High School Students & Parents)				

# **Give-a-ways (3)** Sponsored by the Psi Psi Omega Chapter

College <u>Fuding</u> Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me By: Dr. Christie Murray

#### Unmute Name, Grade, and High School

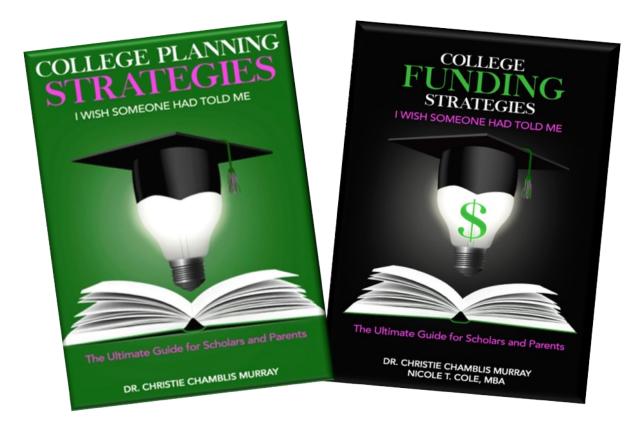


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www.investNothers.com

## **Reference Materials**



#### Books and Workbook Templates Available at: www.investNothers.com

# Past AKA Collaboration Webinar Recordings and Videos



- Top Strategies for Taking the SAT/ACT: <u>https://youtu.be/U2x9hIJngao</u>
- Writing Essays & Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/KlJ9SvbMVyo</u>
- General College Information & HBCUs: <u>https://youtu.be/EzR-Vk9pRKI</u>
- College Planning Made Easy: <u>https://youtu.be/RTfeZNL-BvA</u>
- College Funding and Financial Literacy: <u>https://youtu.be/FFavH7H5m88</u>
- College Admissions Panel: <u>https://youtu.be/-VWJZw6eBVU</u>
- Essay Writing and Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/UvWmgmbYWMs</u>
- SAT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/u-Y2L58YZ50</u>
- ACT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/hllxrEqU0gw</u>

# **Questions** (Unmute Your Lines or Use the Chat)



### www.investNothers.com