

COLLEGE & CAREER CONNECTION

SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL * VOLUME 7/ISSUE #4



It may be the spring-like winter we've had but the year seems to be cruising by! In the world of college and career planning it has been busy with financial aid, scholarships, the new FAFSA, junior classroom visits, meetings and applications with seniors, and more! Check-out the information and updates in the following pages and be sure to let me know what questions you run into as you plan!

Megan Kimble, College and Career Counselor

JUNIOR PLANNING PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Kimble has now been in all junior level English classrooms. Additionally, an email went out to all PSEO, TriDistrict, and online juniors with the information that was shared in classrooms. Juniors received a range of information and resources. You *should* have seen a blue “**Junior Planning Guide**” come home; I'm sure there weren't students who neglected to share this document. Just in the off chance a parent hasn't seen this important guide, **it can be accessed here:** <https://bit.ly/juniorguide1>. The guide includes information on different pathways after high school, the college search, college admissions and applications, and a timeline of what students should be doing to stay on track.



Now is the time for juniors to start planning and prepping for after high school, if they haven't already! A great place to start is to **determine which pathway your student will taking**. Use the tools and resources that are available to research the pathway and gain better insight on what needs to happen to get there. Planning early and having continued conversation about where your student sees themselves and what their goals are will help to alleviate stress later. *As I tell students, if there are questions about any of the pathways or processes to get there, please don't hesitate to ask!* Ms. Kimble will be back in classes in April to present on *paying for college and financial aid*. More information will be sent home and posted in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING TO NOTE

- **MARCH 1-** *The Wallin Partners 2-year scholarship* application opens March 1 with a deadline of May 15 (more on page 2).
- **MARCH 4-** Last call to complete the *B.E.S.T. Foundation Scholarship application!* The deadline is March 4th at 3:00 PM, *no exceptions*. If you receive a scholarship, you will be notified the first week of May with an awards viewing party on May 29th.
- **MARCH 12-** Juniors will take the ACT (or practice Accuplacer) on Tuesday, March 12th.
- **MARCH 21-** *Financial Aid Drop-In Help!* Seniors and their families can drop by any time between 4:30 and 6:30 PM to ask questions and get help with their FAFSA or MN Dream Act applications from local financial aid officers.
- **LATE APRIL-** Ms. Kimble will be back in English 11 classes to go over *paying for college and financial aid resources*.
- **APRIL 24-** *Registered Apprenticeships presentation*. All students welcome to come and learn about apprenticeships and the trades from a guest speaker, Jeremy Parker from the Department of Labor and Industry.
- **APRIL 25-** Simley will offer the *Accuplacer for placement purposes for seniors* planning to attend Inver Hills Community College or Dakota County Technical College in the fall. Interested seniors should sign-up with Ms. Kimble to sign-up.
- **MAY 3-** *Senior Career Fair at Two Rivers High School*. Simley will take a bus to the fair. Seniors looking for an alternative pathway to a career instead of college are encouraged to attend. There will be a wide-range of employers offering positions that include on-the-job training, benefits, and full-time employment that leads to a career, not just a job!



ADDITIONAL FAFSA SUPPORT EVENT

The financial aid/FAFSA completion event in early February was a success! While the event went well, there were a ton of questions and some confusion, especially with the rollout of the new FAFSA. Because of this, and to provide as much support to families as we are able to, we will be offering an additional FAFSA support event to Simley families on **Thursday, March 21st**.



The event on March 21st will be an open, drop-in session for students and families to come and ask questions, work on their FAFSA, and get help with the financial aid process. Local college financial aid officers will be onsite to work with families. All are welcome!

A reminder that the FAFSA is the one financial aid application to determine eligibility for any kind of state and federal grants, loans, and work study. The **MN Dream Act** (now open!) is a state application for undocumented students to be eligible for financial aid benefits. One or the other is required to be considered for any type of financial aid for post-secondary education (technical college, community college, or 4-year college or university). **Every student planning to attend any type of college after high school should complete either the FAFSA or the MN Dream Act.**

Refer to the handout linked here for additional support with the FSA ID: <https://bit.ly/FSAIDSHEET>. For more financial aid information, visit <https://studentaid.gov/> or <https://www.youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid>.

MINNESOTA DREAM ACT NOW OPEN

***From MN Office of Higher Education, February 2024*

The Minnesota Dream Act, the state's financial aid application for students with undocumented status, is now available for students to complete. College-bound students who plan to attend college or career school during the 2024-25 school year should complete the 2024-25 MN Dream Act. Like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the application must be completed each academic year that the student is enrolled in college.

Students who complete the MN Dream Act are eligible for state-based financial aid, including the [Minnesota State Grant](#) and [North Star Promise Scholarship](#), if they meet state residency requirements. Students can also receive in-state resident tuition rates and privately funded financial aid at MN public colleges and universities. Information and application can be found at: <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2056>.



CONTINUED FAFSA DELAY

***From MN Office of Higher Education, February 2024*

On Jan. 30, the U.S. Department of Education (US DOE) announced that colleges and universities will receive 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicant data beginning in the first half of March. Initially, US DOE had announced institutions and state agencies would begin to receive data by the end of January 2024.

This new timeline is up to six weeks later and will cause an additional delay for college-bound students and families to receive financial aid offers, which will likely occur in early to mid-April. Students will receive financial aid offers much later than anticipated, which compresses the timeframe that students and families can weigh options and make informed decisions with aid offer information.

The traditional May 1st commitment deadline will need to be flexible. National College Decision Day traditionally lands on the first day of May each year. Students should check the website of the institutions they are interested in, as some deadlines may have shifted to allow more time for students to make informed decisions.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are a great way to help pay for college. There is an abundance of money available, but there is also a lot of hard work that goes into applying for scholarships. Remember, the more local you stay, the more likelihood you are to receive an award. **A great place to check for scholarships is Xello.** Anything that comes across my desk, I add to Xello, so it's always worth looking! Once in Xello, click *College Planning* and then *Scholarships*.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGHLIGHT

WALLIN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Simley is thrilled to be partnering with Wallin Education Partners! Wallin Education Partners is a proven college completion program in Minnesota that includes financial aid and comprehensive support to ensure graduation. Wallin has both a 4-year and 2-year program, both of which are more than just a scholarship. The 4-year program application closed on February 1 but the **2-year program application opens March 1** with a priority deadline of May 15.

The **2-year program** provides students with up to \$6,000 over 2 years, comprehensive advising support, access to career opportunities. There are a few different paths within the 2-year program so be sure to check on the Wallin website for details.

Note: More than 100 students (almost 70%) were selected for the 2-year program. Don't miss this amazing opportunity!

Requirements:

- Designed to serve students pursuing a two-year degree to enter the workforce
- Graduating senior from a partner high school (Simley)
- Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA (unweighted)
- Demonstrated financial need (same criteria as 4-year)
- Planning to start college full-time at a partner 2-year college in Minnesota

Application opens on March 1. Go to: www.wallinpartners.org for more info and to apply!



FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FOR TEACHING

ISD199 and Simley High School are offering an outstanding opportunity to current seniors at Simley. This opportunity is being offered to someone interested in pursuing a career in the education field, specifically, teaching. **The scholarship will cover 4-years of full tuition and fees reimbursement for a student to attend an accredited institution and pursue a teaching degree.** Additionally, the scholarship will provide the student with an \$8,000 stipend over the course of their student teaching period as well as up to a \$6,000 stipend for transportation, technology, and any other needs related to the program.

Student must be successfully admitted to the college, take approved coursework, receive satisfactory grades, and complete the program to earn reimbursement. Once completed, the student agreed to a 4-year term within the school district that provided the scholarship. More information will be released soon; those interested should see Ms. Kimble.

DUNWOODY'S PATHWAY TO CAREERS PROGRAM



The Pathway to Careers (P2C) Program is focused on preparing underserved and under-represented high school juniors and seniors for college success, immediate jobs, and great careers! Dunwoody works with community organizations and partners to identify and build relationships using mentors, hands-on activities, and academic support. Any student interested in a technical career should consider this fantastic opportunity!

The P2C Summer Experience Program is an opportunity for students to explore in-demand technical career paths during an immersive and engaging 3-week summer experience aimed at preparing high school juniors and seniors for college. During the 3 weeks, students will visit job sites, talk with industry partners, create meaningful connections with Dunwoody faculty and peers, and complete hands-on projects in a variety of technical fields. Students are required to attend the summer experience (June 10-28) and attend monthly meetings throughout the academic year to stay connected. Students will receive a stipend for their time, commitment, and participation. **Participants of P2C also receive a scholarship of up to \$10,00 a year for two years to attend Dunwoody. Deadline to apply: May 1, 2024**

Apply and learn more here: <https://dunwoody.edu/admission-aid/scholarships/pathways-to-careers-program-p2c/>

MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER!

Students have excellent opportunities to take advantage of with three months off of school every summer. Many students will use this time to work and earn money (see next page for job openings!) another great use of time is participating in summer camps and programs. Summer programs provide plentiful benefits to students, allowing them explore and gain experience with fields of interest, network with like-minded peers, and build new skills. These programs are also great to add to a resume or college application. Check-out just some of the great local and regional opportunities available to high school students this summer!



BEST PREP MN BUSINESS VENTURE

Best Prep MN Venture Summer Opportunity Minnesota Business Venture (MBV) is a weeklong intensive for students in grades 9-12. Students work together in teams, hear from inspiring speakers, gain leadership experience, and explore career paths - all while learning how to create and present a business plan. MBV is offering two sessions: July 7-12 or July 21-26, both held at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

Deadline to apply: April 19, 2024 (price increase after this date)

Register and learn more here: <https://bestprep.org/minnesota-business-venture/>



Inspire. Educate. Connect.

MN AVIATION SUMMER CAMP

MN ACE Camp is a weeklong residential summer camp connecting students with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of aviation careers through hands-on projects, tours, and flight experience. Activities include tours of commercial airline operations, shadowing employees during a working flight, an MSP Tower tour, applied lessons in physics while indoor skydiving, flight attendant training with emergency procedures, and the opportunity to pilot multiple aircraft with FFA-Certified Flight Instructors including drones, gliders, helicopters, general aviation training aircraft, and a special full-motion airline simulator. Two sessions with space for 30 students each will be offered for 2024. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Deadline to apply: April 1, 2024

Apply and learn more here: <https://www.mnacecamp.org/>

SCRUBS CAMP

The goal of Scrubs Camp is to get students excited and interested in pursuing a career in the health sciences. At camp, students get to interact directly with many working professionals in the field and through field trips. They get to experience what it would be like to work in a particular career field. Themes vary from year to year but core sessions are repeated and all students are exposed to different



labs, equipment/instruments, and simulation experiences. There are a variety of dates ranging from 2-5 day camps and locations, mostly held on college campuses around the state.

Deadline to apply: First come, first serve.

Apply and learn more here: <https://www.healthforceminnesota.org/students/scrubscamp.html>

ST. KATE'S LEAD AND INFLUENCE SUMMER CAMP

This summer, harness your potential to lead and influence. **St. Catherine University's free, five-day summer workshop** will empower you to see yourself as a leader and learn from women in professional business careers while experiencing life on its campus. This workshop is free of charge, but has limited availability in order to keep class sizes small. Students will learn from St. Kate's faculty in a classroom setting and take one trip off campus to visit a local company. June 24-28. Open to upcoming junior and senior female students.

Deadline to apply: First come, first serve. Don't wait to apply!

Apply and learn more here: <https://www.stkate.edu/leaders-in-business-summer-workshop-24>



ST. CATHERINE
UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGES

Well before students can enroll in college, there are summer options at Minnesota's private colleges. Some are for high schoolers, others for younger kids. Whatever their age, they'll find new ways to explore existing passions or develop new ones — from sports to music to languages. Some are away camps, others run during the day. See for yourself how our colleges are offering something unique, helping students get more out of summer.

Deadline to apply: Deadlines vary

Apply and learn more here: <https://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/news-events/events/summer-enrichment-programs>

UW-MADISON ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMP



The Engineering Summer Program (ESP) is a **free, three-week residential program for rising high school juniors and seniors who are interested in engineering**. Participants will experience living on UW-Madison's campus while getting a sense of what it means to be a Badger Engineer. Beyond the ESP core curriculum of math, physics, chemistry and engineering design, students will participate in hands-on workshops, visit industry sites, go on field trips, and receive mentoring from faculty. Each ESP participant will build life-long connections while furthering their passion for engineering. ESP 2024 will take place from July 13-August 2. Please note there is a virtual, free opportunity to experience this camp as well. More details can be found online.

Deadline to apply: March 11, 2024

Apply and learn more here: <https://engineering.wisc.edu/about/inclusion-equity-and-diversity/engineering-summer-program/>

MITY YOUTH ENRICHMENT SUMMER PROGRAM

MN Institute for Talented Youth (MITY) and Expand Your Mind (EYM) provides exciting learning opportunities within a stimulating, new environment. The program brings together talented students from across the Twin Cities, the nation, and the world for intensive learning and discovery during two 2-week summer sessions. Located at **Macalester College in St. Paul**, MITY challenges students



academically while developing leadership skills, instilling self-confidence, and fostering lifelong friendships among like-minded peers. Nearly 30 unique course offerings designed specifically for motivated learners. Two sessions (June 17-28 M-F) or (July 8-19 M-F).

Deadline to apply: *First come, first serve. Don't wait to apply!*

Apply and learn more here: <https://mity.org/in-person-programs/expand-your-mind-eym/>

STEM DISCOVERY- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Where can your interest in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics take you? During our interactive summer programs, you will network with peers while learning about current topics in research and exploring academic programs and career pathways through presentations, laboratory tours, science experiments, technology demonstrations, and Q&A sessions. Presenters may include College of Science and Engineering (CSE) faculty and graduate researchers, recent alumni in industry, and undergraduate students. Three sessions will be offered and all will be held on the U of M Twin Cities campus.

Deadline to apply: April 19, 2024 (Application opens March 1, 2024)

Apply and learn more here: <https://cse.umn.edu/college/k-12-outreach/discover-stem>



ANALYTICS U- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

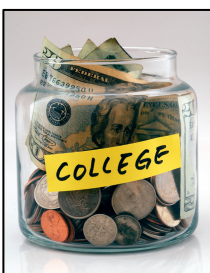
Analytics U at the Carlson School of Management is a *free week-long pathway program* for underrepresented high school students, **introducing them to how data science can play a critical role in solving real world problems that impact our everyday lives**.

The program will also include: college exploration and professional development opportunities, connections and networking with industry professionals in the metropolitan area, and an immersive educational experience at the Mall of America. The program is held on the U of M Twin Cities campus and runs from August 12-16, 2024.

Deadline to apply: June 3, 2024 (Application opens April 1, 2024)

Apply and learn more here: <https://carlsonschool.umn.edu/experience/diversity-equity-inclusion/admissions-programming/analytics-u>

COLLEGE DOLLARS & SENSE



Combining personal finance with college preparation skills, College Dollars & Sense is designed to offer students a chance to see themselves in college or trade school and understand how their personal finances will affect their lives after high school and in the workforce. In this one-week **virtual** summer program, students are introduced to personal finance concepts, learn strategies for affording and saving for college, and interact with students, professors, and business leaders while developing the skills they need to succeed after high school. *Students with full participation are eligible to receive a \$100 stipend at the conclusion of the program.*

Deadline to apply: May 15, 2024

Apply and learn more here: <https://www.mcee.umn.edu/programs/classroom-learning/college-dollars-sense>

NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMER CAMP AT SDSU

The Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University is hosting 2024 Natural Resources Camp, July 22-26 at Oak Lake Field Station near Astoria, SD. Camp is a great way to gain exposure to the world of natural resources, including fish, plants, wildlife, soils, invertebrates, and water. The camp offers opportunities to gain hands-on experiences in natural resource ecology and management. The camp is intended for students entering grades 9 - 12, who have a strong desire to learn more about the natural world or who have an interest in pursuing a career related to natural resources.

Deadline to apply: May 31, 2024 (or until full- space is limited!)

Apply and learn more information here: <https://www.sdstate.edu/natural-resource-management/natural-resources-high-school-program>

NATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAM SEARCH RESOURCE

Looking to branch out? Check-out Teen Life's summer program website to search for a wider range of national summer programs. These vary widely in terms of distance, deadlines, focus, and cost but the website allows you to filter based on what you are looking for, which is helpful.

Search for national summer programs here: <https://www.teenlife.com/category/summer/?program-type=summer>

JOB POSTINGS

THERE'S A NEW JOB BOARD RIGHT OUTSIDE OF MS. KIMBLE'S OFFICE. STOP BY TO CHECK-OUT LOCAL JOB POSTINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES- EMPLOYERS ARE STARTING TO HIRE FOR SUMMER!



Megan Kimble, Simley High School College & Career Counselor

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Email me at: kimblem@isd199.org

Book a meeting with me at: <https://bit.ly/kimblemeeting>

