

COLLEGE & CAREER CONNECTION

SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER* VOLUME 7/ISSUE #2



After a whirlwind of applications, activity, and exploration throughout the last couple of months, we can now take a moment to pause and reflect on the progress, achievements, and success that was made. Applications continue to be submitted, careers explored, and plans refined. This edition of the College & Career Connection will



provide a recap on the eventful start of the year, upcoming events and to-dos, as well as continued support and resources for all students and families. Please continue to reach out with questions and take time with this newsletter and other provided resources as important sources of information. I look forward to continuing to partner with and provide support to Simley students and families on all aspects of planning for the future!

Warmest wishes as we venture into these late fall and early winter months,
Megan Kimble, *College and Career Counselor*

FALL RECAP AND CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

- All freshmen toured the Student Center through their English class and learned about how and when to access the space. They also learned about a variety of planning resources that are available to them throughout their time at Simley.
- 50+ students were in attendance during the **MN Registered Apprenticeship** presentation by a state field representative.
- Seniors participated in an “**Application 101**” presentation in their English classes early in the fall. The presentation covered all areas of post-secondary planning, including a timeline of what they should be doing and when in order to stay on track with planning their chosen pathway after graduation. They received a variety of resources to support their efforts that can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ms7gCRigBRSHc9axU9Ayuijpw-XpZPxa?usp=sharing>.
- September and October brought **over 25 college representative visits to Simley**. Visits had excellent attendance and participation from students and these visits were a great opportunity to learn about different schools in more personal way.
- In partnership with Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color (MnACC), **Simley hosted a terrific college fair on October 24th which included over 50 colleges**. All students in grades 10-12 attended and college reps commented repeatedly on the positive level of engagement and questions asked during the fair. Check out a few pictures from the fair below.
- Juniors opted-in to take the **PSAT** in October and can access the results in early December.
- Around 75 students explored different career pathways and engaged with a wide range of area businesses, unions, and non-profits at the **St. Paul Career Connect fair** in mid-October. It was a very beneficial opportunity for students to be a part of!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, November 10, 2023:

AP Registration deadline

Thursday, November 16, 2023:

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

Thursday, December 7, 2023:

Construct Tomorrow apprenticeship/trades fair at St. Paul RiverCentre (field trip- watch for permission slip!)

Thursday, February 1, 2023:

Wallin Scholars 4-year scholarship application closes (2-year pathway scholarship application opens this month!)

Monday, February 5, 2023:

B.E.S.T. Foundation Scholarship application opens (only open for one month!)

Tuesday, February 6, 2023 (5 PM):

Financial Aid Night and FAFSA Completion Event (during conferences)

COLLEGE AND MILITARY VISITS TO SIMLEY

Fall college visits conclude next week with the list of schools below. To sign-up scan the QR code or go to: <https://bit.ly/visitsignup21>.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, November 7: | Winona State University at 9:25 AM |
| Wednesday, November 8: | College of St. Scholastica at 1:35 PM |
| Thursday, November 9: | Northern Michigan University at 9:25 AM North Dakota State University at 11:15 AM U.S. Army in the lunchroom |
| Monday, November 13: | MN Army National Guard in the lunchroom |

ASVAB CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** is an exam required for those planning on joining any branch of the military but the program isn't just for students interested in the military. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program helps students to discover their strengths and interests and then map out post-secondary plans with comprehensive information for over 1,000 occupations. It will be offered at on **Thursday, November 16th** and there is no cost. *The test is open to students in grades 10-12 who want to learn more about their career options or for those that are interested in joining the military.* See Ms. Kimble in the Student Center for more information and to sign-up!

DIRECT ADMISSIONS MINNESOTA

We kicked off **Direct Admissions** in October with **every Simley senior who is on-track to graduate receiving a letter home and an email which included the colleges and universities that they have been proactively admitted to** based on courses and grades through junior year. Learn more details about this program here: www.oh.edu.state.mn.us/directadmissions. *Students should see Ms. Kimble with questions.*

Benefits of the Direct Admissions MN Program for students: A stress-free college admissions process, no application fees, and boosted confidence knowing they are admitted when they apply

Important next steps for seniors participating in the Direct Admissions program:

- Students must **respond using the Google Form** included in the notification email. This is where they will indicate the schools they are interested in.
- Students must then **apply (for free!) to each school they are interested in**, confidently, knowing that they are already admitted.
- Students watch email for official acceptances and next steps from each individual college.



FAFSA OPENS IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR



The **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** is required for any student seeking federal or state financial aid (loans, grants, work study) to attend any type of college. The **MN Dream Act** 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).

The new FAFSA redesign is being finalized and will open in **December this year**, rather than its typical October 1st opening date. The application is expected to be shorter and simpler to complete and allow more students access and eligibility to aid. The MN Dream Act application opening will align with the date the FAFSA opens. For more information on the new FAFSA, go to: <https://studentaid.gov/>.

For Minnesota students planning to attend a public college or university in the state, this application will also open up eligibility for the new **Minnesota North Star Promise**. This will be a "last dollar" Minnesota grant program that will close any gaps in tuition and fees after federal and state grants have been applied. For more program information, go to: <https://bit.ly/minnesotansp>.

SAVE THE DATE!

In partnership with Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College, **Simley will be hosting a financial aid/FAFSA completion event during winter conferences on Tuesday, February 6th!** This event is free and open to all seniors and their parents. Professional financial aid officers from local colleges will be on-site to answer questions and help families complete the FAFSA or the MN Dream Act.

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. www.wallinpartners.org

4-year program

Up to \$16,000 over 4 years, comprehensive advising support, access to career opportunities

Requirements:

Graduating senior from a partner high school (Simley)

Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA (unweighted)

Demonstrated financial need (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OSP3KB3DTydVvermGuQ1RD7TND0vCO6t/view?usp=sharing>)

Must attend an accredited, 4-year, public or private institution in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, or any Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the nation

Application open November 1 - February 1

2-year program

Up to \$6,000 over 2 years, comprehensive advising support, access to career opportunities

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

Planning to start college full-time at a partner 2-year college in Minnesota

Application opens on March 1.



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. Beware that there are also many scholarship scams out there- so never pay to get a scholarship, never give your social security number, and be skeptical when you are doing your research. If you aren't sure if something is legit, ask! **Check-out more valuable scholarship information and opportunities here:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DwJHtLF1K1RTMaiGeuodBEs9TOJAWHwb/view?usp=sharing>

OTHER UPCOMING FAIRS & OPPORTUNITIES

| Event | Description | Date & Location | Registration/notes |
|---|--|--|---|
| U of M Sustainable Systems Management & Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Open House | This event will include a general program overview with specifics about each specialization, food & drink, along with a question & answer panel made up of current students, alumni, industry professionals & staff. | November 11, 2023 10am -12 pm 106 BioAg building U of MN St.Paul campus | Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZ_KDgDp3KDq_QTp-U59DYgR7KZupasYczNL_kUMtQ5BeT5zA/viewform |
| Bus trip to check-out North Dakota State College of Science | All expenses paid bus trip to go to Whapeton, ND to check-out North Dakota State College of Science. 2-year college with over 90 programs. Hands-on learning and state-of-the-art equipment. All the perks of a 4-year campus at half the cost! Parents/guardians welcome! | November 16, 2024 North Dakota State College of Science Whapeton, ND | Check out this flyer for more information: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OneJ3ec0AqnrWHipDITxylJuRGvLLcDX/view?usp=sharing |

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| <p>MN House of Representatives Page Program</p> | <p>The Page Program is a hands-on educational opportunity for 11th grade students who are interested in government. Page program participants will participate in meeting with legislators, lobbyists, members of the judiciary and more. The program is one week long and is both challenging and rewarding, providing both serving and learning components. This is an excellent experience and resume builder!</p> | <p>MN Capital Application due: November 22nd</p> | <p>Find more information and the application here: https://www.house.mn.gov/sergeant/overview</p> |
| <p>College Board's Real Talk</p> | <p>Real Talk is a career and college exploration initiative designed to connect Black students and families with Black professionals and representatives from colleges and access organizations across the country.</p> | <p>Virtual events the first two Tuesdays of every month for the entire school year.</p> | <p>Register here: www.bigfuture.org/RealTalk Check out the fall handout: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DUSiDBi0HSR6zxe3dF1GmdCIF57M5Rw1/view?usp=sharing</p> |

WHO'S HIRING

THERE WILL BE A NEW JOB BOARD COMING SOON! THIS WILL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE OF MS. KIMBLE'S OFFICE. KEEP AN EYE OUT ON THE BOARD FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND WHO'S HIRING!



Megan Kimble, Simley High School College & Career Counselor

Follow me on Instagram! @collegecareercounselor

Email me at: kimblem@isd199.org

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

