



## Access Update Newsletter

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### Register now! Regional Meetings and Policy Briefing



NCAN will hold four regional meetings for the college access and success community this spring in Tampa, Santa Barbara, Minneapolis-Saint Paul, and Washington, D.C. Regional meetings are a great way to network with and learn from peers through panel presentations, roundtable discussions, and a practical "how-to" session, all focused on this year's theme: "Advancing Equity."

NCAN members are also invited to NCAN's annual Policy Briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on April 18. The day includes presentations from national higher education policy experts and staff members from the federal government, a networking lunch, and visits to Congressional representatives.

NCAN members can attend Regional Meetings free of charge. The non-member registration fee of \$50 can be applied toward your first year of NCAN membership dues.

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### 2012 National Conference Call for Proposals



NCAN invites proposals for workshop sessions at its 17th annual National Conference, "Changing the Odds: College Success for All," that will take place September 17 - 19, 2012, at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

The conference provides professional development and networking opportunities for college access and success programs that help participants serve more students, improve existing services, and raise college-going and completion rates in their

communities. Proposed workshop sessions should be designed to teach participants a skill or strategy so attendees have specific ideas to implement upon leaving the session.

The deadline for submission is **Friday, March 16, 2012**. For more information, read the complete [call for proposals](#).

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## 2012 FAFSA Resources and Tips

The holidays have come and gone and for those in the college access world, our favorite season is upon us. Most of us are enjoying the daily celebrations as we help complete one FAFSA after another. The FAFSA season is perhaps our most challenging yet rewarding time of the year. Provided below are some tips, resources and errors to avoid that you may find helpful as you work through helping to complete one FAFSA after another after another...



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## NCAN Launches New Web Site, Asks for Member Submissions

On January 3, NCAN launched a redesigned [web site](#) to better meet the needs of members and spread the word about college success. "We hope that you will find the site more attractive, easier to navigate, and better updated with relevant, timely information," Kim Cook, NCAN's executive director, said. "We also want to help increase member visibility through the site."

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## New Colleague Joins NCAN Staff

On January 9, Amina Anderson Pringle began her work as NCAN's member services manager. Mrs. Pringle joined NCAN after four years as a college retention advisor at the District of Columbia College Access Program (DC CAP), one of NCAN's largest members.



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## Let's Get Ready Wins \$500K in Chase American Giving Awards



**Let's Get Ready**, an NCAN member serving students in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states, won second place and a prize of \$500,000 in December in the first-ever **American Giving Awards**, presented by JPMorgan Chase.

The winners were determined via a Facebook voting drive that ran from December 1 to 8, 2011. The awards provided Let's Get Ready with the opportunity to reach a national audience, drawing attention to the critical need for equitable college access and to the impressive accomplishments of their alumni, many of whom return as mentors in the program.

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## Federal Budget Retains Maximum Pell, Trims Years of Eligibility

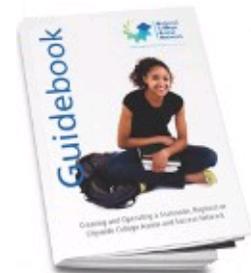
In December, Congress finalized an agreement to fund the federal government for the remainder of federal fiscal year 2012, which ends on September 30, 2012. Most educational programs of interest to the college access and success community received level funding or small changes from FY11. One item of note is the small \$15 million increase to TRIO programs.

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## College Access and Success Networks Grow Nationally

Did you know that only 18 percent of college access and success networks charge a membership fee? In 2011, NCAN surveyed 39 statewide, regional and citywide college access networks as part of the research for a new guide titled **Creating and Operating a Statewide, Regional or Citywide College Access and Success Network**, available for free on NCAN's website.



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## Student Voice: Thanks for the Inspiration and Options to Reach our Dreams

Looking for a little inspiration today? Consider this message a Michigan State College Advising Corps advisor received last fall from a junior at Bay City Central High School.

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## MEMBER NEWS

Read updates from more than twenty NCAN members including Dr. Danielle Moss Lee's five-part series on Edutopia.org, free copies of National Survey of Student Engagement's *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College*, and the 2012 Gates Millennium Scholars Program Application.

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