



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Free financial aid workshops begin Oct. 2 across Lake County**

Grayslake, IL (September 26, 2017) For the tenth consecutive year, University Center of Lake County has collaborated with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and multiple partners across Lake County to organize a series of workshops at which students and families can electronically submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The 2017-18 series will begin on October 2. These workshops are held in the computer labs of high schools, colleges, libraries, and nonprofit organizations. Volunteers trained by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission are available to provide assistance; at least one volunteer at each site speaks Spanish.

The FAFSA is required to access any federal student aid and to access the State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) funds. Many colleges and universities also rely on FAFSA data to determine eligibility for the institution's own financial aid funds. Students seeking financial aid to attend college from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

High school seniors and their families, current college students, and adults planning a return to school will be welcome at any of these sessions. It does not matter which college the student plans to attend.

Students should bring the following documents with them: a copy of 2016 Federal Tax information (parent and student 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040 and all W2 forms), recent bank statements, the student's driver's license and Social Security card or Student Alien Registration card if the student is not a U.S. citizen.

New this year will be two winter workshops ("What Comes Next After FAFSA?") to assist students who have submitted their FAFSA in understanding their results and in taking the next steps to ensure that their intended colleges have received all the necessary data.

**2017-18 FAFSA Completion sessions:**

Oct. 2, 2017, Cristo Rey Saint Martin de Porres College Prep-Waukegan, 5 – 6:30 pm

Oct. 3, 2017, Waukegan High School-Washington Campus, 5 – 8 pm

Oct. 4, 2017, North Chicago Community High School, 3:30 – 7 pm

Oct. 5, 2017, Round Lake High School, 3:30 – 9 pm

Oct. 7, 2017, Cristo Rey Saint Martin de Porres College Prep-Waukegan, 9 am – 12 pm

Oct. 9, 2017, Round Lake Area Public Library, 6 – 8 pm

Oct. 10, 2017, Zion-Benton Township High School, 6 – 7:30 pm

Oct. 11, 2017, North Chicago Community High School, 3:30 – 5 pm

Oct. 12, 2017, Wauconda Area Library, 6 – 7:30 pm

Oct. 13, 2017, YouthBuild Lake County, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Oct. 15, 2017, Waukegan High School-Washington Campus, 9 am – 12 pm

Oct. 16, 2016, Highland Park High School, 4 – 8 pm

Oct. 17, 2017, Mundelein High School, 5 – 8 pm

Oct. 18, 2017, Lake County High School Tech Center-Grayslake, 5 – 7 pm

Oct. 19, 2017, Round Lake High School, 3:30 – 5 pm

Oct. 24, 2017, Waukegan High School-Washington Campus, 5 – 8 pm

Oct. 25, 2017, Zion-Benton Township High School, 6 – 7:30 pm

Oct. 30, 2017, College of Lake County-Grayslake, 3 – 7 pm

Nov. 2, 2017, College of Lake County-LakeShore, 3 – 7 pm

Nov. 6, 2017, Round Lake Area Public Library, 6 – 8 pm

Nov. 8, 2017, North Chicago Community High School, 3:30 – 6 pm

Nov. 9, 2017, Zion-Benton Township High School, 6 – 7:30 pm

Nov. 27, 2017, College of Lake County-Grayslake, 12 – 4 pm

Dec. 2, 2017, Waukegan High School-Washington Campus, 9 am – 12 pm

Dec. 6, 2017, North Chicago Community High School, 3:30 – 6 pm

Dec. 7, 2017, College of Lake County-LakeShore, 3 – 7 pm

Jan. 9, 2018, YouthBuild Lake County, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

**“What Comes Next After FAFSA?” sessions**

Jan. 24, 2018, University Center of Lake County, 6 – 8 pm

Feb. 10, 2018, University Center of Lake County, 9 – 11 am

To RSVP for any of these sessions or to download a flyer with the dates and locations, visit [www.ucenter.org](http://www.ucenter.org).

The workshops are being sponsored by the University Center of Lake County, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the College of Lake County, TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers, YouthBuild Lake County, Lake County Regional Office of Education, Lake County High School Technology Center, Mundelein High School, Round Lake High School, Round Lake Area Public Library, Wauconda Area Public Library, Waukegan High School, Cristo Rey St. Martin de Porres College Prep, Zion-Benton Township High School, North Chicago Community High School, and Highland Park High School, with support from North Shore Gas.

For more information, contact Dr. Myra Gaytan-Morales, Assistant Dean for Academic Services & Programs, University Center of Lake County, at (847) 665-4108 or [mgaytan@ucenter.org](mailto:mgaytan@ucenter.org) or connect on Facebook via “Fafsa campaign.”

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Contact: Hilary Ward Schnadt, Associate Dean for Academic Services & Programs  
847/665-4004  
[hwschnadt@ucenter.org](mailto:hwschnadt@ucenter.org)