



LELAND HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

LELAND'S COLLEGE AND CAREER EVENTS

College Match Event: Leland will host a College Match Event for our students and their parents on Saturday, November 7th, from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Leland ITC. We will offer presentations about how to choose a college that is a good match, financial aid overview, college admissions testing basics, resources, post secondary options, and a panel presentation of Leland Graduates and parents. We will be selling books from Octameron Press at this event. Cost of the books range from \$6-13 (ASB Fundraiser). Titles of books: College Match, Do It Write, Behind the Scenes, Campus Pursuit and Don't Miss Out. This is a free event. You do not need to RSVP. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about helping students find the best post secondary option.

Financial Aid Night for our seniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, **January 12th** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the ITC/Library. A financial aid basics document is available at lelandhigh.org in the Career Center's Home Page.

Community College Night will be held at Leland next spring with representatives from our six local community colleges.

COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

College Application Packets with application tips for college applications and UC and CSU information is available in the Career Center and on the Career Center Web Site. CSU and UC applications are accepted until 11/30. California has one of the best public college systems in the country. Every year, it becomes more competitive for available spaces. The California Budget Crisis will impact the numbers of students the public universities admit. We are encouraging everyone to consider all post secondary options including independent colleges, out of state colleges and community colleges. Students interested in California public colleges need to apply broadly. Facts to consider when making decisions are: the total cost of the education, number of years to obtain a degree, and availability of classes and services. Seniors planning on enrolling at a community college will begin the process next spring.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA 2012 UPDATE

University of California has a new freshmen admission policy beginning with the Class of 2012. SAT Subject Tests will no longer be required, however, the Classes of 2010 and 2011 must still meet the SAT Subject requirement of two tests in different subject areas. Only 10% of high school graduates will receive an admissions guarantee vs. 12.5% now. To obtain additional info, visit <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/eligibilitychanges/>.

CSU UPDATE

CSU's will be giving priority to students in their local service area. Our service area is SJSU and SFSU. Seniors are encouraged to apply broadly and to submit their CSU applications early to CSU Campuses not in our service area. Deadline for all CSU Applications is 11/30.

TESTING INFORMATION

SAT/ACT TESTING INFO (Leland School Code 053091)

Students may obtain SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, and ACT registration forms in the Career Center. Students can register at collegeboard.com for the SAT Tests and act.org for the ACT. Colleges will accept both the SAT Reasoning or ACT and will take their best score. For the ACT, many colleges (including UC) also require the Optional Writing Test. Most colleges will not accept test scores from seniors after the December testing dates. Seniors are responsible for meeting deadlines and officially sending test scores to each college. UC's and some independent colleges also require SAT Subject Tests. UC requires two SAT Subject Tests in different subjects areas (if you take Math, it must be Math 2). Beginning with the Class of 2012, UC will no longer require the SAT Subject Tests. However, the Classes of 2010 and 2011 need to meet the UC SAT Subject Tests requirement. Test dates are available on the Career Center Page at lelandhigh.org. Students requesting fee waivers for these tests need to see Mrs. Albers.

PSAT INFORMATION

PSAT results will be distributed to students in their social science class before Winter Break. Revolution Test Prep will offer an informational meeting about understanding the PSAT results to students and parents on January 13 at 6:30 p.m. in our ITC.

TEST PREP INFO

Information about test prep is available in the Career Center. Students can prepare for these tests with classes, books, and online resources or classes at act.org and collegeboard.com. E Group Learning and Revolution Prep offer classes for a fee at Leland. Information is available at: egrouplearning.com or revolutionprep.com. Revolution offers financial aid to students who qualify (call 877-738-7737). The Career Center has many testing books that students can checkout. Next semester Revolution will offer Mock ACT's and SAT's for a small fee.

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER INFO

Leland offers a four-year comprehensive career/college guidance program. Our program is integrated directly into the student's course work. There are appropriate career/college guidance activities for each grade level. Seniors complete the unit in the fall in their Economics or American Government class. Juniors complete the unit in their English Class in February. Sophomores complete the unit in November in their history class. Freshmen complete the unit in December or January in their history class. The students will also complete a computer activity during this unit using the following online programs: Get In 2 College, Choices Explorer, Choices Planner, and Prep HQ.

LHS has two comprehensive career/college guidance computer programs that are Internet based that can be accessed 24/7 and can be used to research careers, colleges, majors, financial aid and many other topics. Parents and students can set up an account with these excellent programs using any computer with Internet access. Instructions for parents to access Choices Planner and Choices Explorer are available at the Career Center Web Site. At this site is an online personality assessment that we have sophomores complete "Do What You Are". Also at this site is a Learning Styles Indicator that the freshmen take. If your student has not taken the Learning Styles Indicator, encourage them to take it by following the instructions at the Career Center Web Site Home Page. This will provide a helpful report that can help the student study smarter. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the excellent resources by clicking on the Parent Tab.

Leland also has students use a program called Prep HQ. Parents can access Prep HQ through their students' account. Instructions for the student to set up an account are available at prephq.com. Enter Leland for institution at the top of the page and instructions will be on our Home Page. Prep HQ allows Leland to send out e-mail messages to students and parents. Students will receive messages regarding upcoming college visits shortly if they are registered with Prep HQ.

Leland's Career Center has excellent college and career resources for parents and students. We encourage students and parents to use the computer guidance programs detailed in this newsletter, Get In 2 College and Prep HQ throughout the year to research careers, majors, colleges, and financial aid.

Leland's Career Center is open Monday through Friday until 4 p.m. You may reach Joan Albers in the Career Center at 535-6290 x 241. Mark McClure is our Academic Counselor who works in the Main Office. Mr. McClure is currently working with credit deficient students.

GET IN 2 COLLEGE PROGRAM

Get In 2 College is a wonderful resource for students and parents that is **only** available at the **Career Center Website at lelandhigh.org**. This program includes a **College Admission Handbook, Protected Subscriber Only Site, Consolidated Page of 600 Links, Mini-Manuals and Power Points**. The 43 page College Admission Handbook has comprehensive information about the college process. We feel this Handbook is a must read for our students and parents. The Protected Subscriber Only Site has downloadable documents including grade level calendars and check lists, campus visits, financing college, college comparison, SAT/ACT Testing, etc. The consolidated page is available on the protected site and has over 600 helpful links and is sorted by category. Some topics in the Mini-Manuals include: Getting Organized for College, College Visits, Common Application, Writing Effective Essays, Standardized Testing, Parent Role, and Financial Aid/Scholarships. We strongly encourage you to use this great program and take advantage of the wealth of information and resources in the Handbook and at this site.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Leland will offer a **Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents on January 12th at 6:30 p.m. in our ITC/Media Center**. The FAFSA is the form that needs to be submitted for any senior applying for federal, state and institutional aid. Information about submitting the FAFSA will be available in January in the Career Center. The FAFSA is submitted online. You will need to request a PIN in advance for a parent and the student at fafsa.ed.gov. Students need to be aware of all required forms and deadlines. A financial aid tip document will be posted on the Career Center Web Site in January. On the Career Center Home Page there is a document that explains financial aid basics.

Independent/private colleges require additional financial aid forms. Many colleges require the **CSS Profile**. The Profile needs to be submitted and can be accessed at collegeboard.com.

Most colleges offer merit scholarships. Many colleges have programs and funding for underrepresented minority and economically disadvantaged students.

If a senior is applying for California's financial aid, Cal Grant, he or she will need to submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form by March 2. Mrs. Albers will complete the school section of the GPA Verification Form. Deadline to Mrs. Albers is February 26th. The Senior is responsible for mail this gpa form by March 2.

If you would like to find out how much you will be expected to contribute for your child's college education, Financial Aid Calculators are available at fafsa4caster.ed.gov, collegeboard.com or act.org.

Financial Aid websites: finaid.org, csac.ca.gov, salliemae.com, fafsa.ed.gov, collegeboard.org.

Scams: Parents and students need to be aware of **scholarship scams**, fraudulent scholarship search services, and fraudulent financial aid seminars. Information is available in the Career Center.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leland's **Scholarship Bulletin** is posted in the Career Center, Social Science, and English classrooms. This bulletin has information about many scholarship opportunities for high school students in grades 9-12 and is updated monthly. Students may obtain copies of this bulletin and the scholarship applications from the Career Center.

Scholarship websites: fastweb.com, finaid.org, srnexpress.com, gocollege.com, finaid.org, Petersons.com.