



### MCAN E-Alerts

As a member of the Minnesota College Access Network, you will receive these e-alerts with news on college access in Minnesota and around the country.

If you are not a member yet, visit our website at [www.mncollegeaccess.org](http://www.mncollegeaccess.org) to join online!

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## Minnesota College Access Network

"Building a Network to Impact College Pathways for all Minnesotans."

JANUARY 2009

### VOLUNTEER FOR COLLEGE ACCESS EVENTS

#### I KNOW I CAN

Join Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and more than 200 other volunteers to read with and discuss a unique children's book called I Know I Can to 2,700 third graders in Minneapolis Public Schools. For more information or an application to volunteer, [click here.](#)

#### MN COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

[College Goal Sunday](#) (CGS) is a national program that provides free information and assistance to low income families who are filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Each year, volunteers give their time to assist students and their families with the financial aid form. The first step to making a difference in a student's life is to attend one of their free FAFSA trainings. For a list of trainings, [click here.](#)

#### REGISTER NOW FOR MCAN'S SPRING TRAINING EVENTS

MCAN's Spring Training Schedule will focus largely on financial aid information. To register for at training, or learn more, please see our [EVENTS WEBSITE.](#)

#### Resources for Immigrant Students

Thursday, January 22, 2009 (1:00-4:00 PM)

This session will focus on aid and financing options for Undocumented Students. [Click here to REGISTER for this event. Space is limited.](#)

#### Financial Aid Options for Homeless Youth

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (1:00-4:00 PM)

Financial aid options for homeless youth, or youth at risk of homelessness, will be discussed. Space is limited: [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

#### Financial Focus on Undocumented Students

Friday, March 20, 2009 (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

This session will focus on aid and financing options for Undocumented Students. [Space is limited: REGISTER TODAY!](#)

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### NEWS AND LINKS

#### [National News](#)

[New Scholarships Aid Students Committed to Service](#)

USA Today Jan 2, 2009

Longer-term, service-based merit aid looks like an idea with momentum. Colleges are catching up to the interests of an especially civic-minded generation of students, building curricula around service-learning and eager to attract the most ambitious students. [Click here for the full article.](#)



## Local News

### LAID OFF WORKERS GO BACK TO SCHOOL; COLLEGES RESPOND WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Winona Daily News January 4, 2009

Southeast Technical College is offering special programs and scholarships to help laid off workers. Other Minnesota schools are doing the same. Anoka-Ramsey Community College in St. Paul recently announced it would slash tuition by half for unemployed Minnesotans. Similarly, Normandale Community College in Bloomington is waiving tuition for some classes beginning in January for Minnesotans eligible for unemployment benefits. [For the full article, click here.](#)

### PRIVATE COLLEGE COUNCIL POLICY AGENDA 2009

Minnesota's Private Colleges are making two proposals with their College Opportunity Agenda. [Click here for the full agenda.](#)

## Tools and Resources

### STAFF SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE ACCESS EFFORTS IN ST. PAUL, MN

City of Saint Paul VISTA members work to eradicate poverty by closing the education gap between the "haves" and "have-nots." VISTA members perform "indirect service" that increases the capacity of their host organizations with specific, goal-oriented projects in areas such as fund development, partnership advancement, and volunteer recruitment and management. Interested organizations should contact Caleb Jonas at 651-266-8582 or [caleb.jonas@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:caleb.jonas@ci.stpaul.mn.us) with questions.

### FAFSA4caster

Use the FAFSA4caster to learn about the financial aid process and get early estimates about eligibility for federal student aid. [Click here.](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here.](#)

Questions or comments? [Email us](#) or call Amanda Ziebell-Finley at 651-645-7400 ext. 201