

Ohio Department of Higher Education Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**'3 to Get Ready' Campaign Helps Students Prepare for College**

Department of Higher Education initiative spotlights FAFSA and applying for and choosing a college

COLUMBUS, OH – A new campaign coordinated by the Ohio Department of Higher Education will help high school students prepare for college by focusing on applying for financial aid, submitting college applications, and selecting where they'll pursue their college education.

The "3 to Get Ready!" campaign is a statewide initiative that highlights three aspects of the college prep process: 1) The Ohio Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Initiative; 2) Ohio College Application Month; and 3) College Signing Day.

"It is important that every student in high school have a plan for what is next, whether that be the traditional four-year campus experience, apprenticeship in the trades, commuting to a two-year community college or regional campus, utilizing and building upon their career technical experience to earn a certificate, starting a business, or joining the military," said Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey. "Every student should complete the FAFSA, to understand what resources are available to them as they evaluate what they do next. Ohio has numerous opportunities and we want each student to have the information they need to pursue their career path."

Chancellor Carey said the campaign, in addition to helping students, will support another goal.

"The 3 to Get Ready! campaign will also help support Ohio's Attainment Goal, which states that 65 percent of Ohioans between the ages of 25 and 64 will have a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary workforce credential of value by 2025," he said.

The financial aid filing season will officially begin on Monday, October 1, with the launch of the 2019-2020 FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The Ohio FAFSA Completion Initiative focuses on encouraging high schools and institutions of higher education to host students and families who are in need of support during the FAFSA completion process.

Ohio College Application Month runs slightly longer than a month, beginning on October 1 and concluding on November 15, 2018. The goal of the campaign is to assist high school seniors as they apply for their chosen postsecondary education option, including certificate, associate degree, and bachelor's degree programs.

College Signing Day is a celebration of students' plans for continuing their education or training after high school. Qualifying high school seniors will publicly "sign" with their colleges of choice and will be celebrated by their peers, building staff, and families. College Signing Day is typically held during the spring of the school year.

High schools, institutions of higher education, and community partners that want to participate in the campaign can register at www.ohiohighered.org/3toGetReady. Once registered, participants may request materials to support their local events, including stickers (for students), buttons (for staff), and posters (to display). Participants who support all three parts of the initiative will receive a special designation from the state of Ohio.

Social Media:

www.OhioHigherEd.org

