

Colo-Nesco to host Iowa College Application Campaign

By Brett Van Waus

Colo-Nesco Community School District will participate in the Iowa College Application Campaign, a statewide program sponsored by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. It is part of a national effort to encourage high school seniors to start the college application process. Seniors from other local high schools are also invited to participate in the College Application Campaign event on Nov. 6, 5-7:15 p.m., at the Colo-Nesco Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria. High school juniors are encouraged to apply to schools as well.

"We want to expose our students to thinking about different careers," said Jessica Radmaker, College Application Campaign event site coordinator/professional school counselor for Colo-Nesco CSD. "There are a lot of possibilities, even growing up in a small town."

Radmaker added that anyone from fifth-graders through high school seniors are encouraged to attend the event to see what kind of career they may be interested in pursuing after school. Organizers



A Colo-Nesco student and his parents listen to a local business representative at last year's College and Career Fair. Colo-Nesco Guidance Counselor and organizer Jessica Radmaker hopes to attract around 40 businesses to the fair on Nov. 6 at Colo-Nesco High School. (Photo submitted by Jessica Radmaker)

see the event at Colo-Nesco as a kind of '21st century career guide.'

As part of Iowa's college access initiative, Colo-Nesco will work with its seniors to complete and submit at least one college application during events being held the first week of November. Various colleges, universities, community colleges

and local businesses from central Iowa will be in attendance. The fall fair will have a focus on careers in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) field and the spring fair (scheduled for March 12) will have a focus on skilled labor and manufacturing. The events will offer an opportunity to the students and their families

to learn from representatives of businesses what types of positions are currently offered, summer employment opportunities and skills needed to obtain future employment.

The goal of the program is to get more students applying to Iowa colleges early in their senior year. During this event, students may apply to any of Iowa's 15 community colleges, three public universities and the more than 30 independent colleges and universities in which they are interested. Community colleges, technical schools and beauty schools will all be represented as well.

"We want to inform students that there are options," said Radmaker. "They don't have to settle for being less than happy."

Radmaker expects 38 seniors to participate, with the help of volunteers from various Iowa colleges and Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Seniors from other local high schools are also invited to participate.

"College Application Campaign can open the door for students by encouraging them to take a significant step toward college," stated Karen Misjak,

executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, the state agency sponsoring the program. "As educational attainment increases, income also increases and the percent of Iowa's population living in poverty decreases," explained Misjak. "With nearly two-thirds of Iowa's fastest growing occupations requiring training or education beyond high school, Colo-Nesco is helping to prepare their students for sustainable future careers in the state."

More information about College Application Campaign is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or by contacting the Iowa College Student Aid Commission at 877-272-4456. For more information on Colo-Nesco's involvement in College Application Campaign, please contact Radmaker at jradmaker@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us or 641-377-2282, ext. 226.

If any business or individual is interested in participating or seeking more information about the event, please contact Ms. Kandice Roethler at the school (641-377-2282 ext. 244/kroethler@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us) or Radmaker.