

GCS COLLEGE EXPO INFORMATION SESSIONS

10:30-11:30

Session 1 **CFNC/FAFSA** Room 101 Presenter - Mathieu Chapman, Highland School of Technology

This session will cover two important tools for the college planning process. College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a North Carolina free service that provides comprehensive career and college planning resources for elementary, middle and high school students. We will discuss how CFNC can help you plan, apply, and pay for college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the federal aid application that must be completed by seniors who want to be considered for federal and state need-based aid. We will discuss how to complete the FAFSA and what financial aid resources are available to students.

Session 2 **First Generation College Applicants** Room 201 Presenter - Jessica Daniels, Bessemer City Early College

This presentation will cover the best practices for First Generation students as they progress through high school, plan and pay for college, and transition into the university environment.

Session 3 **Get Ready to Win Scholarships!** Room 202 Presenter – Grant Sparks, Director of Counseling & Media Services

Learn what it takes to win scholarships - especially the BIG ones! This presentation will help students and parents understand how to prepare to be competitive to win scholarships, how to find scholarships, and how to avoid common mistakes in the scholarship process.

Session 4 **College 101** Room 205 Presenter – Dr. Ami Parker, Highland School of Technology

College 101 will cover the important tasks that help students and parents prepare for the college planning process. Topics to be covered are researching colleges, the application process, testing requirements, and financing college. Participants are encouraged to ask questions.

12:00-1:00

Session 1 **Historically Black Colleges & Universities** Room 101 Presenter - Anthony Ervin, NCCU Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions

HBCU: Not a Stereotype Anymore! The session will provide understanding and knowledge regarding HBCU's history, current status, and future!

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Session 3 **How to Market Yourself To Colleges** Room 202 Presenter – Dr. Kevin Plonk, Hunter Huss High School

How do you "toot your horn" without blowing it when writing college or scholarship essays? Or perhaps you've been asked to interview but you're worried you will sound arrogant. Or are you the shy student who "sells herself short"? Dr. Plonk will share her expertise in academic coaching and proofreading essays. Strategies from Peggy Klaus' book, "Brag! The Art of Tooting Your Own Horn Without Blowing It" will be presented to help students learn how to market themselves to colleges and to scholarship panels.

Session 4 **NCAA** Room 205 Presenters - Larry Carpenter & panel, Ashbrook High School (12:00-1:30)

Come and hear discussion about the NCAA Eligibility requirements for each school division - Division I, II, and III. Mr. Carpenter will discuss how to determine your core GPA and the scores needed on the SAT to be eligible, as well as the application process for the Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Former NCAA college athletes will provide information about NCAA expectations once you are on campus. There will be a question and answer period.

1:30-2:30

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Information about the Prizes and Drawings

"Our College Expo will be educational, fun and exciting throughout the day. Students and their parents will have a chance to engage in seminars, meet with college representatives from four states, mingle with special guests, and have a chance to win some AWESOME PRIZES. Prizes include: Dinner Gift Cards to local restaurants, Prom/Tuxedo gift certificates, Tanning and Gym memberships, discounts to local businesses, and MORE!! Drawings will be held throughout the day and you must be present to win."