

# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

**October 2010**

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## **Lincoln, Omaha College Fairs coming up!**

Don't miss the opportunity to visit with representatives from state, regional and national colleges during the upcoming Lincoln and Omaha College Fairs.

The **Lincoln Area College Fair is Sunday, October 17** from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Southeast Community College, 8800 O Street in Lincoln.

The **Omaha Area College Fair is Sunday, October 31** from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Sapp Fieldhouse.

Both events will feature representatives from over 120 colleges and universities along with financial aid presentations conducted by EducationQuest Foundation.

The College Fairs are sponsored by EducationQuest through partnerships with the Nebraska Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers and Nebraska high school counselors.

Follow these tips to help you make the most of your College Fair visit:

**Before you attend, determine which colleges you want to visit** (a list is available in the [College Fair article](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#)).

**Prepare a list of questions** to ask the college representatives. Ask about deadlines to apply for admission, scholarships and financial aid.

**Attend a financial aid program at the College Fair** to learn about types of aid and how to apply.

If you have questions about the Lincoln Area College Fair, contact the EducationQuest Lincoln office at 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745. For questions about the Omaha Area College Fair, contact the EducationQuest Omaha office at 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300.

## **Educational Planning Programs also feature college reps**

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an Educational Planning Program at your high school or a school near you. These programs also feature college representatives. See the "[Upcoming Events](#)" section at [EducationQuest.org](#) for dates and locations.

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## **EducationQuest tools will help you find the right fit for college**

Check out [College Profiles](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) to research colleges in Nebraska and across the country. You can search for schools based on location, size, school type, cost, major, activities and services for students with disabilities. Your search results page will list colleges that match your criteria and provide a link to more information about the school.

### **Video demonstrates college selection process**

Our “Find the Right Fit” video features two high school seniors who demonstrate that searching for the right college is like shopping for a good pair of shoes – you have to find the right fit! You’ll find this 10-minute video at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/...).

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### **Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?**

If you haven’t done so already, visit your top college choices **soon** as application deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these tips for a successful visit:

**Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance** to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you.

**Check out the college website before your visit.** Most college sites have a section for prospective students where you can learn about the school’s admissions process, types of majors, student services and employment opportunities. You might even be able to schedule your visit online.

**Visit while school is in session.** You won’t get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

**Get a feel for the campus.** Hang out in the student union, find coffee shops with wireless Internet access, eat in a restaurant close to campus or attend athletic or cultural events.

**Ask LOTS of questions.** See the EducationQuest *College Prep Handbook* or website for [good questions to ask](#).

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### **Winning the scholarship game**

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

**Don’t pay for scholarship searches!** Use free search sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) where you’ll find over 2,000 state and local awards. Scholarship resources are also available at your local library and at the EducationQuest offices in Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.

**Visit your guidance counselor weekly** for information about local scholarships.

**Get organized.** Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local and college-specific scholarships deserve top priority because you’re more likely to earn them.

**Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).

**Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

**Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.

**Get an early start on essays.** Describe your interests, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities – but be sure to tailor your essay to the scholarship topic.

**Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

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### **Watch your mailbox ...**

Seniors...your parents will soon receive a postcard from EducationQuest highlighting what you should do this fall to prepare for college. Review this information carefully with them to make sure you complete important tasks before the deadlines.

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### **October “To Do” List**

Complete these tasks during October to stay on the right college-planning track.

#### **Juniors and Seniors:**

Attend the College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.

#### **Seniors:**

Schedule campus visits.

Narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.

Register by September 17 for the October 23 ACT.

Register by October 8 for the November 6 SAT.

Register by November 5 for the December 4 SAT.

Register by November 5 for the December 11 ACT.

### **For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:**

#### **Kearney**

308-234-6310

800-666-3721

#### **Lincoln**

402-475-5222

800-303-3745

#### **Omaha**

402-391-4033

888-357-6300

[EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org)

[KnowHow2GONebraska.org](http://KnowHow2GONebraska.org)

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