

Students and Schools Celebrate College Knowledge Month in October

College Knowledge Month brings students, schools and colleges together to help students apply to college for free

This is the first year Minnesota students can apply to historically black colleges and universities for free, from now until June 30

ROSEVILLE, MN – Minnesota students are participating in College Knowledge Month during October, a time when high schools and postsecondary institutions help students navigate the college application process. Minnesota students can also send in college applications to participating institutions for free.

“Applying to higher education after high school can be an exciting and confusing time for students, especially if they are the first in their family to go to college,” said Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. **“Bringing together high schools and postsecondary institutions helps students get the support they need to decide what is best for them. This is particularly important in eliminating barriers to college entrance and helping students get the information they need to work through their college applications.”**

Minnesota joined College Application Week in 2011, which piloted at 17 high school sites. Since then, the initiative has expanded to include over 190 schools and college access programs. The month-long effort allows students to do more than just submit an application. Applying is only one step of the college application process – the result of thoughtful exploration and planning. During the month of October, students participate in the process at their own pace. Schools can align this initiative with the many college exploration activities that are already taking place in the fall of the academic year.

And for the first time ever this year, students in Minnesota can apply to historically black colleges and universities around the country for free, thanks to a new partnership with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

“Minnesota students can now apply to any number of fifty historically black colleges and universities free of charge and with just one application,” said Higher Education Commissioner Larry Pogemiller. **“This partnership expands options for students and will help them choose their 'best fit' college or university.”**

For more information, visit the Office of Higher Education website: <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1972>

How Minnesota students can apply to HBCUs for free:

1. Go to www.commonblackcollegeapp.com.
2. Click on the “Apply Now” link.
3. Register as a student and complete the application.
4. Enter “MN2017” in the Pomo Code field.
5. Submit the application.
6. Check your email for instructions on how to submit transcripts and test scores.

By the Numbers

In 2014,

- More than 68,000 Minnesota students received college planning and exploration activities during the month of October.
- 85 percent of 12th graders surveyed submitted at least one application during College Knowledge Month events.