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CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WELCOME NEW JERSEY COLLEGES

On Thursday, November 20, 2008, Camden's five high schools will make sure their seniors interact with New Jersey college and university representatives at a "College Fair for Camden Seniors."

More than twenty New Jersey colleges and universities will be in attendance at the Woodrow Wilson High School gymnasium to talk with students from Woodrow Wilson, Camden, Creative and Performing Arts, Brimm Medical Arts, and Met East high schools.

A senior's fall semester is a critical time for deciding on a college and working through the enrollment process. An important step is to identify colleges that are a good fit, and talking to a representative from that school can help.

Students will also have the opportunity to apply online for a PIN so that they can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically—speeding up the process of qualifying for financial assistance.

At this fair, many colleges will be represented by staff members from the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. Located at nearly every New Jersey college or university, EOF offers a wide array of campus-based outreach, support, and financial services to students who qualify, including counseling, tutoring, and developmental courses. EOF is one of the nation's most comprehensive and successful state-supported efforts to provide access to higher education for economically and educationally disadvantaged students.

"The college fair provides a tremendous opportunity for students from Camden to meet with representatives from colleges and universities and to discover the wealth of opportunities that are available to them at New Jersey institutions and through the EOF program," said Dr. Glenn Lang, executive director of EOF.

The college fair is a product of a long-standing collaboration between the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Camden's high schools through the C.H.A.M.P./GEAR UP program at Rowan University. C.H.A.M.P./GEAR UP is supported by federal, state, institutional, and private funding. EOF is also a partner, providing the opportunity for summer bridge programs after students graduate from high school. Materials and information about financial aid will be made available by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, or HESAA.

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