



College Connections **CICU**

FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

When you are accepted to a college, the colleges will send an admission acceptance letter and a financial aid "award" letter that outlines the details of your financial aid. The financial aid award letter from each college will usually include a combination of different types of aid – grants, scholarships, loans and work-study – to help fill your financial "need." The difference between the cost of college (COA) and the EFC is each student's "need."

$$\frac{\$ \text{ Annual College Cost of Attendance (COA) - } \$ \text{ Your Family's Expected Contribution (EFC) }}{\$ \text{ Your Financial Need}}$$



Components of a Financial Aid Award Letter from the College to Help Meet Need

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Grants Work-Study | Scholarships Loans |
|----------------------|-----------------------|

Since the cost of attendance (the sum of tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, personal expenses) at every college is different, every award package you receive will be different and will include different amounts of aid. Non-need based aid, often called "merit" aid, may also be included and may be awarded based on academic merit, special talent or group affiliation.

When you receive your award letters, evaluate them carefully, assessing the direct and indirect costs associated with attending each college. If any non-need aid is in one financial aid letter and not another, account for that when comparing letters. Check to see if grants and scholarships are renewable for more than one year and make sure you know the criteria needed for renewal.

Once you choose the college you will attend, follow the directions to accept its offer by the stated deadline. If you don't, you may lose your aid. Also, notify the colleges you are declining of your decision to free up that aid for another student.

More resources on financial aid award letters:

Affording College 2010-11, pp. 6-7,

www.nycolleges.org/pdfs/AffordingCollege2010.pdf

"Guide to Financial Aid Award Letters," www.finaid.org/fafsa/awardletters.phtml

National Association of College Admission Counselors,

www.nacacnet.org/PublicationsResources/steps/Articles/Pages/FinAidAward.aspx

March Tasks for High School Seniors

- Contact financial aid offices at colleges to confirm that they have received all necessary paperwork and application material. Submit tax forms if asked.
- Narrow down college choices and, if possible, make campus visits.
- Look out for acceptance letters.
- Start looking for summer jobs or places to volunteer. Try to find paid or volunteer work in a career field that interests you.
- Keep up on academic work and extracurricular activities. Don't slack off!

Sources: Mapping Your Future, www.mappingyourfuture.org/collegeprep/seniorcalendar.htm
clicu College Connections, Vol. 3, No. 1, www.nycolleges.org/pdfs/CollegeConnectionsNewsletterv3n1.pdf

PRESIDENTIAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteerism, service learning and civic engagement. Honorees are chosen based on a series of factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the institution offers academic service-learning courses.

The most recent Honor Roll With Distinction includes: **Elmira College, Fordham University, Hofstra University, Keuka College, New York University, Niagara University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, and Union College.**

The most recent Honor Roll includes: **Canisius College, The College of New Rochelle, Daemen College, Dowling College, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Ithaca College, Le Moyne College, Long Island University/Brooklyn Campus, Manhattan School of Music, Marist College, Marymount Manhattan College, Metropolitan College of New York, Molloy College, Mount Saint Mary College, Nazareth College, Nyack College, Pace University, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Pratt Institute, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. John Fisher College, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Skidmore College, St. John's University, University of Rochester, and Wagner College.**

Sources: Learn and Serve America, Corporation for National and Community Service www.learnandserve.gov/about/programs/higher_ed_honorroll.asp, 2009 Honor Roll
The Independent Sector, Spring 2010, www.cicu.org/CMT/reports/TheIndependentSectorSpring2010.pdf

STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

According to research by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the growth rate for college student volunteers is more than double the growth rate for all volunteers. College students are also twice as likely to volunteer as individuals not attending college. Campus Compact, a national coalition committed to promoting community service in higher education, conducts an annual survey of its 1,198 member institutions, which include 48 of New York State's independent colleges and universities. Based on the most recent survey, Campus Compact found that:

- Approximately 33% of college students at Campus Compact institutions participated in community service in 2008-2009, a 2% increase from the previous year.
- Students contributed an estimated 366 million hours of service to their communities during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- An average of 3.8 hours a week were spent in service-related activities by students at member Campus Compact institutions.

The top 20 areas addressed by the students' service activities were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| •K-12 education (89%) | •Multiculturalism/diversity (70%) |
| •Tutoring (82%) | •Access/success in higher education (70%) |
| •Hunger (82%) | •Civil rights/human rights (68%) |
| •Poverty (81%) | •Women's issues (63%) |
| •Environment/sustainability (81%) | •Economic development (61%) |
| •Mentoring (80%) | •Disability issues (59%) |
| •Housing/homelessness (80%) | •Global citizenship (57%) |
| •Reading/writing (78%) | •Public arts/theater (55%) |
| •Health care (75%) | •Agriculture/nutrition (54%) |
| •Senior/elder services (73%) | •Mental health (52%) |

Sources: Campus Compact Annual Survey Results: Executive Summary Results, 2009, www.compact.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/2009_CC_Annual_Survey_Exec_Summary.pdf
The Independent Sector, Spring 2010, www.cicu.org/CMT/reports/TheIndependentSectorSpring2010.pdf
"A Priceless Service," www.cicu.org/publicationReports/article.php?Article_ID=99

REACHING OUT: NEW YORK'S INDEPENDENT COLLEGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

New York's independent colleges and universities benefit the cities, towns, and villages near their campuses in countless ways – economically, culturally, and through community service endeavors. As volunteers in the localities outside their classrooms, students strengthen their bonds with citizens of those communities, gain experience in working with others, and often find personal fulfillment. Below is a small sampling of community service projects.

Adelphi University's Center for Social Innovation promotes the role of the institution in community affairs and addressing social issues. Students in its Levermore Global Scholars Program work with local groups on Long Island and in New York City on service activities as part of their course requirements.

The Gary Horowitz Center for Service Learning at **Alfred University** offers a course that requires students to work on a service project in the village of Alfred; community partners include the Alfred Box of Books Library, Herrick Memorial Library, and Alfred Alive.

All varsity athletics teams at **Bard College** are required to do a community service project each year. Teams work in the local community. Past projects have included soccer clinics for local youth, bake sales for charity, blood drives, and volunteer work at the Ronald McDonald Center in Albany.

Students, faculty, and staff at **Barnard College** and **Columbia University** can volunteer to work with Community Impact (CI), a nonprofit organization that serves those in need in Harlem, Washington Heights, and Morningside Heights. Nearly 1,000 student volunteers participate in 25 community service programs through CI, partnering with more than 100 organizations and groups.

At **Canisius College**, the Office for Community-Based Learning offers students an opportunity to combine academic course work with relevant and meaningful community service. For example, Justice In Action, a group of students, faculty, administration, and staff, coordinates initiatives such as Bringing the World to Campus, which focuses on refugees in Buffalo.

Clarkson University regularly offers free guidance to North Country businesses and has partnered with the Development Authority of the North Country to help bring broadband to the far reaches of the Adirondacks.

In Buffalo's Seneca Babcock community, **Daemen College's** Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement broke ground on the Babcock Neighborhood Garden where neighborhood children help tend the garden in the summer.

At **Fordham University**, the Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice (CSJ) connects students with volunteer opportunities, service learning classes, internships, and one-time service projects. The CSJ has partnerships with more than 200 nonprofits, government agencies, and community organizations.

The Community Outreach and Opportunity Project (COOP) at **Hamilton College** sponsors Hamilton Serves, an event held on the last day of orientation in which students perform 4 hours of community service at parks, nursing homes, libraries, food banks, and local agencies in Oneida County.

In May 2010, the student organization Society of Sisters United and Brothers United (SOSU/BU) at **Hartwick College** celebrated 10 years of dedication to community service.

Before graduation, nearly all of the students at **Hobart and William Smith Colleges** (HWS) will have participated in community service. Among their projects are Geneva Heroes,

an 8-week service and leadership program for Geneva middle schoolers created, staffed, and run by HWS students, and Building Bridges, which pairs college students with Geneva 7th and 8th graders.

At **Hofstra University**, the Office of Student Leadership and Activities (OSLA) partners with a variety of local agencies to sponsor one or more monthly outreach programs, offering students different ways to serve the community.

The **Iona College** Center for Campus Ministries offers many volunteer opportunities, including working in soup kitchens, visiting the elderly in senior housing facilities, and befriending intellectually challenged adults in the Best Buddies program.

VIC Internet Radio, a student-run radio station at **Ithaca College**, hosts an annual 50-hour charity marathon to raise money for local nonprofits such as Loaves & Fishes of Tompkins County, an organization that provides free meals and hospitality to those in need.

At the **Jewish Theological Seminary**, the Va'ad Gemilut Hasadim: Susan and Jack Rudin Center for Community Outreach partners with various New York City agencies and promotes community service that includes blood drives, a soup kitchen, one-on-one tutoring in reading for students at the Ralph J. Bunche School/PS 125, and volunteer work at the Anshe Chesed Men's Homeless Shelter.

Students at **Keuka College** help plan and participate in Celebrate Service . . . Celebrate Yates, the annual Yates County community service day; volunteers paint and repair structures, clear trails, and help serve senior citizens.

Le Moyne College's Office of Service Learning promotes service opportunities with nonprofit organizations in and around Syracuse. Students contributed over 13,854 hours of community service at 88 sites in Syracuse in 2009-2010.

The Office of Campus Ministry and Social Action (CMSA) at **Manhattan College** develops community service projects in response to students' interests. Local projects include working with nursing home residents, helping out in soup kitchens, tutoring children and teens, the Annual Toy Drive, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

Outreach programs at the **Manhattan School of Music** include Music Heals, in which students perform for diverse audiences in underserved areas of New York City, in hospitals, senior living residences, hospices, and other community centers.

Marymount Manhattan College held its first Day of Action on April 10, 2010, where students and faculty cleaned up DeWitt Clinton Park in Hell's Kitchen. Other volunteers bagged and distributed food and clothing to those in need at the St. Francis Xavier Mission in New York City's Chelsea section.

At **Molloy College**, Latina undergraduates in the Mentoring Latinas Program offer support and friendship to Hispanic middle school students in Rockville Centre. The college's Center for Social and Ethical Concerns has placed hundreds of students in more than 40 community agencies on Long Island.

Partners for Learning at **Nazareth College** connects students with children, teachers, and staff at 4 public schools, the Lewis Street YMCA, the Southwest Community Center, and Hope Hall in Rochester. Partners for Serving places Nazareth College volunteers at human service agencies in Rochester.

At **New York Institute of Technology** (NYIT), the student-managed Community Service Center promotes and organizes service opportunities at NYIT's Manhattan and Old Westbury campuses. Project coordinators, current NYIT undergraduates, forge connections between students and local communities and document all student community service activities.

In **Niagara University's** Learn and Serve Niagara program, approximately 2,500 students provide 55,000 hours of community service each year. Learn and Serve Niagara activities include cleaning city parks, raising funds to purchase playground equipment, and helping low income and the elderly prepare tax returns.

The RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center at **Rochester Institute of Technology** offers volunteer opportunities with more than 270 local agencies, including Meals on Wheels, AIDS Rochester, Inc., ARC of Monroe County, Bethany House, Fingerlakes Land Trust, Habitat for Humanity, and YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County.

The Anita L. Stafford Community Partnerships and Service Learning Program at **Sarah Lawrence College** offers students service opportunities in Yonkers and New York City. Sarah Lawrence College's community partners include the Bezczak Environmental Education Center, the Greyton Foundation, the Right-to-Write Program at Valhalla Correctional Facility, and New York City's Urban Justice Center.

At **St. Bonaventure University**, the First-Year Service Program introduces freshmen to volunteer service in the community. Bona Buddies connects students with local children for one-on-one counseling and mentoring, the Warming House is a student-run soup kitchen, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers people help in filling out their tax returns.

The Washington, D.C. based Campus Kitchens Project works with educational institutions to provide nourishing meals to those in need by recycling unused food from campus cafeterias. **St. Lawrence University**, the first institution in the state to join this nationwide project, launched its chapter of Campus Kitchens with a community dinner in the spring of 2010.

Union College has also joined the Campus Kitchens effort by bringing freshly-cooked meals to the city's City Mission.

The **Syracuse University** Volunteer Organization recruits students for volunteer work with local agencies. The University's Literacy Corps mobilizes students to help young children improve their reading skills, while the SRC-ECS Mentoring Program places engineering students in public schools.

Students and administrators at the **University of Rochester** have created UReading, a tutoring and mentoring program that pairs undergraduates with preschool and kindergarten-aged children from the Rochester Preschool Parent Program and the city's School 29.

At **Vassar College**, the Community Action Office and the Vassar Student Association connect students with volunteer opportunities in Poughkeepsie. An annual event, I Won't Grow Up Day, brings local families to the College Center for arts and crafts, games, displays, performances, and other activities to raise funds for Poughkeepsie's Child Abuse Prevention Center.

The Port Richmond Partnership at **Wagner College** links academic work to the needs of local nonprofits. Each year, Wagner College's 1,850 undergraduates invest about 80,000 hours in course-related internships and community service projects focusing on the needs of the diverse and economically challenged Port Richmond area of Staten Island.

Sources: *New York's Private Colleges and Universities*, www.nycolleges.org/; The Independent Sector, *Spring 2010*, www.cicu.org/CMT/reports/TheIndependentSectorSpring2010.pdf; individual college and university Web sites.