

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – J

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT

FAFSA Completion and Financial Literacy – Mapping Your Future Resources

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At AAC’s [February 2020](#) meeting, Catherine Mueller, Executive Director of [Mapping Your Future](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides college, career, financial aid, and financial literacy services, shared how Mapping Your Future works the South Dakota Education Access Foundation and with other organizations in the state to improve college access and increase FAFSA completions.

Mapping Your Future has capacity to offer additional services to campuses during this challenging time and has partnered with other organizations to support efforts to retain current university students and to recruit new students:

From: Cathy Mueller [mailto:cathy@mappingyourfuture.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Lien, Joelle <Joelle.Lien@sdbor.edu>
Subject: Mapping Your Future free resources for you and your students

Hi Joelle,

Below is a letter we sent to the financial aid professionals regarding some of our resources at Mapping Your Future that we discussed on the call today. The links under “Communication Resources” are to the flyers we discussed. That is the PDF version. I will send the word version in a separate email in case anyone would like to customize the flyers.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks!

Cathy Mueller

(Continued)

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ONLY

Dear -----

We hope you and all of your family and colleagues are doing well.

Our world today is dramatically different that it was just a few weeks ago. But one of the things in this world that has stayed constant is our capacity to help each other in a crisis. Just like me, you've hopefully been the recipient of this kindness or seen the posts from others where people are helping neighbors, friends, and strangers. My neighbor offered to pick up some groceries for me when he went to the store, a friend posted that someone paid for her elderly mother's groceries at the store, others have offered face masks and hand sanitizers to those medical professionals, store clerks, delivery drivers, and others on the front line of this crisis.

Not unexpected, the financial aid community has also been helping one another and sharing resources - whether it be hosting webinars for everyone to view for free or emailing links of resources for postsecondary institutions and students. Because the **South Dakota Education Access Foundation sponsors Mapping Your Future**, your institution and your students have access to a number of free resources that can assist during the current crisis. I am sending this email to you in case you weren't aware of the free services and/or don't receive our newsletters.

MappingXpress

This is a free online document transfer service that allows students and parents to share their documents with the institution securely. We're finding that many institutions are using the service for more than financial aid verification, including admission and scholarship applications. For more information about MappingXpress, visit <https://mappingyourfuture.org/services/aboutmappingxpress.cfm>. Let us know if you would like a demo of the service.

Communications Resources

To help communicate with your students, Mapping Your Future created two versions of a flyer for different audiences:

- [Financial Aid Tips for Students Affected by the Coronavirus](#) for current college students
- [Financial Aid Tips for High School Students Affected by the Coronavirus](#) for graduating high school seniors

We also created [Online Resources for High School Students Affected by the Coronavirus](#) for middle and high school counselors.

Other Free Tools

Other tools that may be helpful to your office as you work virtually are:

- Direct Loan exit counseling PowerPoint presentation
- Printable Direct Loan exit counseling materials

Let us know if you would like these documents emailed to you or we can provide a link for download.

FAFSA Completion

April 22, 2020

Page 3 of 3

To be alerted about other tools and services, subscribe to the Tip of the Week or the Mapping Your Future Higher Ed News, visit <https://mappingyourfuture.org/newsroom/newsletters.cfm>.

StudentAidPandemic.org

Mapping Your Future also partnered with another nonprofit to create a website to help students with their financial aid and student loans during this crisis, <https://StudentAidPandemic.org>. These are free services that our nonprofit organizations are providing to help fulfill our missions of helping students and borrowers. The site was featured this past week on CNN, Money.com, NPR, and a number of other national and local news sites.

Our hope is that by providing these resources, students and borrowers will find the help they need during this time of crisis.

Let us know if you have any questions or need more information.

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Beth Ziehmer
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beth@mappingyourfuture.org
573-217-1935 Direct
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IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

AAC members are encouraged to share Mapping Your Future resources with their campuses and to reach out directly to Cathy Mueller for assistance with campus-specific initiatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None