Preparing your Child for College

A Tip Sheet for Parents

- **Identify your child's career path** without making the decision for them.
- **Start Early**! This will lead to better results.
- **Use the free resources available** to you, such as www.gacollege411.org to find out about various college and career opportunities.
- Take time to **plan college visits and tours**. Include two and four year colleges. Use this opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the school. Remember to also be observant and make mental notes about your observations.
- **Avoid Scams**. Financial scams may promise a lot, but in actuality do nothing to benefit you or your child. They may be in the form of scholarship guarantees, application payments by credit cards only, or loans with upfront fees.
- **Select your school options** by considering such questions as: Does my child's career require a four year degree? Is my child looking to attend college in or out of state? What housing arrangements will they need? Is there a meal plan option available?
- **Identify the financial barriers and work towards a solution** by opening a college account and start saving early, applying for legitimate grants and scholarships, or completing the FAFSA to receive financial aid.
- **Investigate, Investigate, Investigate!**