

**WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE/CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2012**



IMPORTANT DATES

November 13	College Financial Aid Workshop	7:00 PM – WMHS Auditorium
November 17	“Preparing For Success Seminar” for high school girls	MC Rockville 10 am to 4:30 pm

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

A financial aid workshop will be held at Watkins Mill High School on **Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium. This workshop is very important for parents of 11th and 12th grade college-bound students but all parents are welcome to attend. Mr. Chad Spencer, Associate Dean of Admission & Financial Aid at Davidson College, will present “**Financial Aid 101: A College Education is Affordable.**” The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile will be discussed along with other pertinent financial aid information. Topics covered will include: Helpful Hints and Practical Ideas; Choosing a College and Paying for It: Myths and Facts; Money Questions Students Should Ask; College Cost Comparison Chart, and more. Don’t miss this important event!

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS

New security measures this year: No ticket, no ID, no test!

SAT

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION	LATE REGISTRATION
November 3	October 4	October 19
December 1	November 1	November 16
January 26	December 28	January 11
March 9 (no Subject Tests offered)	February 8	February 22
May 4	April 5	April 19
June 1	May 2	May 17

The SAT tests will be administered at WMHS on November 3, 2012, March 9, 2013, and June 1, 2013.

The regular registration fee is \$50.00 and includes four free score reports to colleges. The late registration fee is an additional \$27.00. Waitlist registration is an additional \$44.00. Register on line at www.sat.collegeboard.org **The Watkins Mill High School code is 210568.**

ACT

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION	LATE REGISTRATION
December 8	November 2	November 16

February 9
April 13
June 8

January 11
March 8
May 3

January 18
March 22
May 17

The ACT will be administered on April 13, 2013 and June 8, 2013 at WMHS.

The regular registration fee is \$32.00 (no writing) and \$50.50 for the ACT Plus Writing test (recommended). Four free score reports are included in the registration fee. The late registration fee is an additional \$22.00. Standby registration is an additional \$43.00. Register on line at www.actstudent.org. **The Watkins Mill High School Code is 210568.**

FEE WAIVERS FOR SAT & ACT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS MEETING ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The College Board and The ACT both offer waivers for students for whom the payment of fees for the tests presents a serious barrier to college entrance. Eligibility is determined primarily by membership in a family whose annual income falls within predetermined guidelines or for those whose family receives public assistance / lives in subsidized housing. Students should see Mrs. Prochnow for the Fee Waiver Eligibility Form and registration instructions. Students using a fee waiver can register for the SAT or ACT online with the assigned fee waiver number.

WATKINS MILL TO HOLD KAPLAN ACT AND SAT TEST PREP FOR \$199!!!

Watkins Mill High School will be holding an ACT and an SAT preparation class in collaboration with Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions to prepare students for the March SAT or the April ACT, both of which will be held at Watkins Mill. This partnership is to benefit students of WM. We are pleased to offer our students this great advantage which will potentially assist them in increasing their ACT or SAT scores. By getting the preparation by highly qualified Kaplan teachers, students will obtain the skill set needed to perform at the best of their ability on the ACT or SAT. In turn, students will have a chance to open more doors in regard to gaining admission to the college or university of their choice, in addition to scholarship opportunities.

WM students have an advantage of taking this course which retails for \$599 for only \$199. This includes class materials, and 10 sessions of instruction beginning on Tuesday, February 5, for the March 9 SAT and on Tuesday, March 5 for the April ACT. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 5:30 pm. See Mrs. Pickeral in the Counseling Office for registration forms and to submit payment. Checks can be made payable to Watkins Mill High School and can be brought to Mrs. Christine Pickeral in the Counseling Office. Each class will be capped at 25 students.

FREE online SAT and ACT Test Prep for MCPS Students

Students should take advantage of the FREE SAT and ACT online prep offered by MCPS. To access this resource, go to the WMHS webpage, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>, click on the "Free SAT/ACT Test Prep" icon and follow the directions. You may use these study guides at any time. Use the study guides to learn more about the tests, review specific skills, take practice quizzes, and track your progress. Students can pace themselves through the online course, but should set goals for themselves such as 1-2 hours per week for SAT/ACT Prep.

Additional sites for **FREE SAT and ACT** test prep:

www.number2.com

www.studentedge.com enter the access code "GJUPWJQR" and complete the registration page to access the test prep section which contains about approximately 30 hours of customized online instruction.

Another site for **FREE SAT test prep**, go to www.ineedapencil.com

FREE ACT Practice: <http://www.actexampracticetests.com>

SAT and ACT Prep classes offered through Montgomery College

Montgomery College will be offering SAT and ACT Prep classes in preparation for the December tests. These classes are \$300 for 30 hours of classroom instruction.

Also offered are targeted prep classes for SAT Prep in Math or SAT Prep in Critical Reading & Writing. These classes are designed for students who need to bolster their scores in one specific area. These targeted classes are \$210 for 18 hours of classroom instruction.

For more information on the schedule of classes, please visit:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/ce/satprep.html

SAT OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

There is a list of colleges that do not use SAT or ACT scores for admitting substantial numbers of students into their bachelor degree programs. Some schools exempt students who meet a certain grade point average, while others use SAT or ACT scores only for placement purposes. Please check with the college's admissions office to learn more about each individual college's requirements. The National Center for Fair & Open Testing publishes a list at: <http://www.fairtest.org/>.

SAT Special Needs Testing Locations: 2012-13

MCPS provides a central testing location in Bethesda for most students pre-approved for accommodations on the SAT. The student using the Walter Johnson H.S. special testing center will receive notification from the College Board that they are approved for "School Testing" and report to WJHS on the day of the test. Students requiring the use of a reader and/or writer will test at his/her home school and will receive approval for "Site Testing." For additional information contact Sue Hartung at the Walter Johnson High School site (301-803-7140).

Information on requesting accommodations on College Board tests may be found on the [College Board website's Services for Students with Disabilities](#) page.

COLLEGE FAIRS

Watkins Mill H.S. will provide field trip buses to the Montgomery County College Fair in April. Permission forms will be available in the College/Career Center in the spring. Other college fairs are listed for parents and students to consider attending on their own.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

There will be a **HBCU (Historically Black College & University) College Fair** sponsored by Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 608 North Horners Lane, Rockville, MD, for high school students and parents on **Saturday, November 3, from 8:30 am until 2 pm**. There will be **workshops and seminars** including "How to Write The Perfect Essay," and the "ABCs of Financial Aid." Over 22 colleges and the Coast Guard and Air Force Academies will be present. There will also be **on site admissions, and application fee waivers will be available**. Last year, students walked away with over \$250,000 in scholarships!! For additional information and student registration, please go to www.mtcbc.org "College Fair."

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

The United Negro College Fund and MCPS will host a **College Night** featuring representatives from 50 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. All parents and students in grades 9 – 12 are welcome to attend. There will be on the spot admissions interviews for qualified seniors if they bring completed applications, an official transcript and test scores. The event will take place on **February 13, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Kennedy H.S.**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR (field trip)

Juniors should plan on attending the **Montgomery County College Fair**. WMHS will be attending on either **April 17 or 18, 2013**. Signups will begin in late March. MCPS will provide school buses to transport students for \$5 each and students must bring a bag lunch to eat on the way back to school. Students are not allowed to drive separately. Parents, you are encouraged to visit the fair on the evening of April 17 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. The college admissions representatives will be available to answer your questions. There will be hundreds of schools represented at this fair. It has grown over the years to become one of the largest in the nation. Please take advantage of this field trip.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

Sources: Federal Financial Aid, State Aid, Institutional Aid from colleges and universities, and Private Sources such as civic organizations, churches, businesses, foundations and clubs.

There are 4 types of financial aid:

Grants which do not have to be paid back and are based on financial need; **scholarships** which are awarded to students based on special talents, skills or high academic achievement; **loans** which must be repaid usually with interest after you graduate; and **Work-study** which allows students to work and earn money to pay for school.

To apply for federal need-based aid as well as aid from the state of Maryland, students and parents should complete and submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after January 1, 2013 but before March 1, 2013 to maximize the chances of receiving federal aid and state aid. Please note that many colleges have financial aid deadlines well before March 1. Please check with your colleges to be sure. As a general guideline, it is good to submit your FAFSA by Valentine's Day, February 14.

Each senior should apply for need based financial aid. Many families mistakenly think they may not qualify for this type of aid based on their income and assets. However, if you choose not to apply for need-based financial aid, you may be closing the door on opportunities that could help you pay for college. There are other sources of financial assistance available regardless of your need, but most require that you first file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Seniors and their parents can (and should!) register for their FAFSA PIN (Personal Identification Number) now. If you fill out the FAFSA on-line you will need this information in order to "sign" it. To apply for this number please visit the U.S. Department of Education website: www.pin.ed.gov. This is an important first step in applying for federal student aid.

Word of caution: There are many sites which charge a fee for filling out the FAFSA form such as fafsa.com. The real site is www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no charge for applying for federal student aid.

Get help in completing the FAFSA at: www.fafsa.ed.gov, "help" buttons on every page of the online applicaton will take you to additional help. You can also click the "Live Help" button to chat with a customer service representative directly or by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID between the hours of 8 am and midnight EST.

Student Aid on the Web, <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp> , your free source for information from the U.S. Dept. of Education on preparing for and funding education beyond high school.

Get an idea of how much aid you might receive by going to the following site sponsored by USA Funds and the state of Maryland:

<http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/WebCACFiles0910/cac70C119start.html>

After federal and state government programs, the best source of financial aid is directly from colleges and universities. It is imperative that every student investigates exactly how financial aid is distributed at each school they are applying to.

Typically, a freshman application for admission starts the financial aid process and each applicant is automatically considered for merit-based money. Occasionally there are special scholarships, often quite large and therefore heavily competed for, that require separate applications. You do not want to find out that the "perfect scholarship" just passed you by because you missed the deadline.

Become a "student" of each school's website and check back often for updates.

More than 35 schools have replaced loans with scholarships, grants and paid work-study positions in an effort to recruit high-achieving, economically disadvantaged students and to increase economic -- and, indirectly, racial -- diversity. Some of the schools that have replaced loans with grants include: Colby, Amherst, Vanderbilt, Harvard, Bowdoin, Wellesley, and Vassar. Go to <http://www.finaid.org/questions/noloansforlowincome.phtml> to see the complete list.

Seven Tuition-Free Colleges

College of the Ozarks (MO), Deep Springs College (CA), Berea College (KY), Olin College of Engineering (MA), Cooper Union (NY), Curtis Institute of Music (PA) and Alice Lloyd College (KY).

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Word of caution: do not pay for scholarships or scholarship searches!

Looking for scholarships? Many local and national scholarship opportunities are posted on the Watkins Mill College/Career Center webpage and links to the application form & eligibility criteria are included when offered. Go to <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> , click on "Career Center" and then scroll down to "Scholarships." The "General Scholarships" are individual scholarships received in the WMHS College/Career Center. Some scholarship forms are not available online but can be found in the College/Career Center scholarship bin. See Mrs. Prochnow for assistance.

The "web-based searches" are generally large databases where students create a profile and are matched with scholarships.

Minority Scholarship Information

A list of scholarships that target minority students has been posted on the Watkins Mill H.S. webpage for your convenience. To view the document online, go to: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> and click on "Career Center." Look on the left side for "Scholarships for Minority Students."

Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program

If you are a minority in the senior class with significant financial need (Pell grant eligible) who will be a freshman in college next Fall, please consider applying for the Gates Millenium Scholars program online: <http://www.gmsp.org>. Here are the requirements:

- African, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander or Hispanic ethnicity
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- minimum cumulative H.S. unweighted GPA 3.3
- demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service & extracurricular activities
- meet Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria (determined by Fafsa4caster: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)

This renewable, need-based scholarship provides financial support throughout the student's undergraduate career and into graduate school for those who choose to study in one of these seven disciplines: computer science, education, engineering, library science, math, public health or science. GMS scholars are mentored throughout college to assure them every opportunity to attain their degree. Nominator should be an educator (principal, teacher or counselor) writing about the student's academic record. Recommender should be a person writing about the student's community service and leadership activities. **Deadline for applications January 16, 2013.**

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE SCHOLARS

full tuition & fees for two years!

Eligibility criteria:

- average cumulative unweighted GPA - 3.5 (although 3.0 or better are encouraged to apply)
- average SAT range is around 550 to 650 on any of the 3 sections. If a student has below 550 on any section, he/she needs to take the MC placement test also. The ACT score should be 24 or better. TOEFL score is considered but student must have an ACT or SAT score also. Applications for this very selective program are in the Career Center and require recommendations, essays & resume. Apply NOW! Twenty-five students are selected from Montgomery County for this two-year full tuition scholarship to MC. Students who apply to MC Scholars and are not selected for the scholars program are placed in a pool for the MC Academic Specialty Scholarship (a one year full-tuition scholarship to attend MC which may be renewable for a second year). Applications will soon be available on the Montgomery College website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/MCScholars **Deadline is generally in mid January.**

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

full tuition & fees for two years! This is not part of the MC scholars program—it is a separate scholars program. Originally, it was set up as a one-year program for the sophomore year in college for students interested in business. In 2008, the program changed to a two-year program. Students run the on-campus Starbucks which generates funds for scholarships for the Business Institute. Students participate in competitions. They also run an "Apprentice" program—great hands-on learning tool. Students in the program make many connections with local business partners & internships are readily available due to these local and national connections. Excellent connection with UMCP's Smith Business School, but Macklin Business Institute students are encouraged to apply for transfer to other schools besides UMCP. The Macklin Institute is recruiting a freshman class of 12-15 sharp students who wish to major in business. This is a full 2-year scholarship and students must commit to attending for their freshman & sophomore year. GPA should be above 3.0 and SAT 550 or higher in each section. Why not apply for this special program and check it out further--contact person is Steve Lang at 240-567-1707. Applications will soon be available online at www.macklin.org. **Application deadline is usually in mid-January.**

(There will be an information session for both the Montgomery Scholars and Macklin Business Institute Programs on Saturday, November 10, at 11 am at MC Rockville in the Theatre Arts Arena).

Each spring, the **WATKINS MILL PTSA/BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** is offered to seniors at WMHS who are members. To become a member, complete an application which can be found on the WMHS homepage and submit \$5 to the main office. Students complete one simple application to be considered for many different scholarships such as the Montgomery Village Foundation Scholarship, MV Rotary Scholarship, the PTSA General Scholarship, the Booster Club Scholarship and many more. Applications will be available in the Career Center in early spring.

UMCP Maryland Pathways Program is for students with very low family incomes to attend college without debt. Maryland residents who receive a "0" EFC calculation on the FAFSA (adjusted gross incomes of \$30,000 or less on their 1040A or 1040EZ income tax form) are eligible provided they are academically eligible for admission to the University of Maryland. To be considered for the Maryland Pathways program or any other need-based aid, students must complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) between January 1, 2013 and February 15, 2013. You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to qualify for financial aid and an additional application for the MD Guaranteed Access Grant must be submitted, as well. For further information, see your counselor or Mrs. Prochnow in the College/Career Center.

COLLEGE VISITS

Throughout the fall, college admissions representatives make appointments to visit & recruit Watkins Mill juniors & seniors. These meetings are held in the College/Career Center. A list of colleges that have already made appointments can be accessed on Family Connection, www.connection.naviance.com/wmhs. All juniors and seniors should have received a password to enter the site, but if forgotten, please contact your counselor or Mrs. Prochnow, so it can be reset. Parents can enter the site as guests using the password "Watkins." Once in the site, click on "View All Upcoming Visits" to see the current list (subject to change).

In order to attend a visit, students must first sign up on Family Connection, click on "Visit Schedule" and then "sign up" for each individual visit. The student must then print out the confirmation page and obtain teacher approval from the teacher whose class you will be missing. This is the student's pass to attend. It is the student's responsibility to get this pass signed. **A student's attendance at any college visit is at the discretion of the teacher. Only students who have a signed pass may attend these visits.**

COLLEGE OPEN HOUSES

All colleges encourage prospective students to visit during their junior and senior year of high school. These visits help in the decision-making process of which school to attend. Check with the schools you are considering and see when their campus visits are. Plan to visit if at all possible. See a dorm, talk with students, meet with the admissions representatives and learn what scholarships might be available for you.

Finding the Right Fit

There is no such thing as a "one size fits all" college -- what is right for one student may not be right for another student with similar characteristics. Do not select a school based on reputation, but instead on how well it fits your requirements. Try looking beyond the reputation and amenities (beautiful campus and buildings) and focus on the students, professors, opportunities

and course offerings. Choose colleges that support the way you learn best and where the institutional philosophy is in line with goals for your own education.

Why Consider Liberal Arts Colleges?

Liberal arts colleges are small and focus on the undergraduate. They provide students with a broad based knowledge in science, the humanities and art. Students are actively engaged in the learning process and critical & analytical thinking and writing skills are stressed. Classes in liberal arts colleges are taught by faculty (not graduate assistants) and professors interact with students in and out of the classroom. The experience of students at a liberal arts college differs from that of students at large public institutions. There is an emphasis on individualized instruction in a primarily residential environment. A 1998 study found that although only 3% of all American college graduates were educated at residential liberal arts colleges, they accounted for 19% of the U.S. presidents, 23% of Pulitzer Prize winners in drama, and 8% of Forbes magazine's listing of the wealthiest CEO's in America. Graduates from liberal arts colleges are twice as likely to earn a doctorate degree in science and are disproportionately represented among leaders in education, public service and business. (from <http://www.thecollegeadvisor.net/>, Nov. 06)

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Montgomery County Women's Bar Foundation is again sponsoring its "**Preparing For Success**" conference on Saturday, **November 17, at Montgomery College Rockville campus, 10:00-4:30**. This is a seminar aimed at **high school girls** who plan to attend college or enter the workplace. This is a **free** day of fun and learning. Seminars include: How to Get a Job and Keep It, Life After High School, The Right Look Fashion Show and more. Lunch provided and free bus service from WMHS at 9:15 am. Register on-line at www.preparingforsuccess.org.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP GREATER WASHINGTON

Provides a six-month, interactive youth leadership development program for sophomore and junior leaders with diverse backgrounds. Students who are aspiring leaders who can inspire and enlighten are the best candidates. The goal of the organization is to foster community involvement and involve students in contributing to their community. The application and further information can be found online at www.lgwdc.org by clicking on the "Youth Leadership Greater Washington" button. Application **deadline: November 26, 2012** with an application fee of \$35. The fee can be waived in event of financial hardship. More info on the program's website.

WRITOPIA LAB (www.WritopiaLab.org), an award-winning nonprofit that runs creative writing workshops for kids and teens, is offering **special college essay workshops this fall**. Through a fun, collaborative workshop format, they help students brainstorm, plan, draft, revise, and polish their essays.

There is one one-day remaining: **Monday, November 12th from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** in Tenleytown, DC

The workshops are small (3-6 students) and led by published writers, who help students identify unique and meaningful personal stories, and then give them the space and guidance to tell those stories in their own authentic voices. Students will leave the workshop not only with revamped college essays, but also with new confidence in their writing.

In 2011 and 2012 alone, **college essay students have won admittance to: Harvard, Yale, Brown, Princeton, Stanford, Williams, University of Chicago, Hampshire, UT Austin, University of Virginia, Suny Binghamton, and many more.**

The cost for a 3-hour workshop is \$150. Private sessions are \$95/hour. There is a need-based sliding scale as well. To find out more about Writopia Lab college essay workshops, go to

<http://www.writopialab.org/college-essays.html>

The Corcoran School of Art will host National Portfolio Day on Saturday, December 1, from 10 am to 2 pm at their campus located at 500 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington, DC.

Representatives from dozens of art schools will offer advice on how to best prepare your portfolio for admission to art schools. For more info. Contact The Corcoran School of Arts:

www.corcoran.edu/home or (202) 639-1800

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

is currently accepting applications for their 22-month program that devotes full time to the study of radiological science. Class starts in July 2013. **Application deadline: February 1, 2013.**

Application fee: \$30. A health occupations aptitude test is required this fall and class selection will take place in May. For more information: Stacie Maier, Program Director, 301-754-7889 or maiers@holycrosshealth.org. For additional information, please refer to website:

www.holycrosshealth.org, click on "career opportunities" and then the link to the Radiology School.

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE ONLINE REGISTRATION

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, handles registration to determine a student's initial eligibility to play sports at a Division I or Division II college or university. Seniors are encouraged to register with the Clearinghouse online at: www.eligibilitycenter.org. From the home page, the student should click on "Prospective Student-Athletes" which will link the student-athlete to the necessary information. To download a copy of "The Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete" and to see other Resources offered by the Clearinghouse, go to:

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA.pdf>. You must then request that your SAT/ACT scores and transcripts be sent to the Clearinghouse directly by Collegeboard and ACT and your high school. There is a fee for registering with the Clearinghouse. Fee waivers are available to all students who have received an SAT or ACT fee waiver. The Clearinghouse customer service telephone number is 877-262-1492; representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Once registered, students need to come to the Counseling Office to request that their official transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse.

COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS --> GO AMTRAK! - *Buy one, Get one free!*

JUNIORS & SENIORS start making travel plans. Tickets must be booked 7 days in advance.

You may access the AMTRAK website for details on how to access this discount:

www.campusvisit.com/amtrak. Fill out a short form; hit Submit for special Amtrak promotion code; then book your ticket online or by phone with Amtrak using this special code. Pick up your tickets and travel in comfort to college campuses.

WEBSITE TO HELP RECRUIT STUDENTS TO FEDERAL JOBS

The Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Department of Education's website, www.studentjobs.gov, is designed specifically for high school and college students who are looking for temporary employment with the federal government.

Studentjobs.gov features include the following:

- Links to student-employment pages for more than 50 federal agencies
- Links to articles that profile student job opportunities
- A link to the federal government's worldwide employment information database of permanent federal jobs

- Email notification every 24 hours for newly posted vacancies that meet the student's personal job-search profile
- A resume builder and online application tool

APPRENTICESHIPS

The Washington, DC Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) offers three and 5 year tuition-free telecommunications and electrical apprenticeship programs for students with strong math and science skills. Class are held in Lanham, MD. Students are placed on different project sites in the D.C. metro area. First year apprentices earn approximately \$41,000, and that amount increases each year during training.

JATC apprenticeship graduates immediately step into the construction industry as Journeymen Electricians, and earn \$81,000 a year plus benefits.

The program is for high school graduates. Applicants must provide high school transcripts showing a passing grade in Algebra I and pass a qualifying exam. Applications are accepted year-round. Learn more about how to apply by visiting www.getchargedup.org or calling 301-429-2575.

MARYLAND STATE POLICE CADET PROGRAM

The Cadet Program is an opportunity for responsible young men and women to work for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. They make a competitive salary while gaining knowledge of the MD State Police way of life and are on track to becoming a State Trooper at the age of 20.5 yrs old. Qualifications include: Age 17-19, U.S. citizen, valid driver's license, H.S. diploma or GED, excellent moral character, clean drug and criminal history.

Application process takes an average of 4-5 months of testing and background investigation. Apply before H.S. graduation, before 18th birthday and attend an Applicant Orientation:

www.mdsp.org.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS

Check out the WMHS College/Career Center webpage, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/careercenter/>, for a listing of some of the area's internship opportunities available to high school students. Deadlines vary.

Federal government internships: www.studentjobs.gov

STUDENT JOBS

For part-time jobs, check out these sites: www.mycoolcareer.com, www.snagajob.com, <http://www.gazette.net/> or www.studentjobs.gov. On occasion, employers notify the Watkins Mill Career Center of openings. These jobs are posted on the Job Board in the Career Center. Students should be aware of federal rules that apply to working teenagers. For example, a 14 or 15 year old can only work up to three hours on a school day or 18 hours during a school week between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. There are 17 jobs that have been declared hazardous by the secretary of labor that are prohibited for teens under the age of 18. Visit <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov>.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO STUDENTS OF COLOR

BLACK COLLEGE COMMON APPLICATION

Students can apply to 36 Black Colleges with one application and one \$35.00 application fee. Once the application has been submitted, students are required to send their transcripts, test scores, recommendations and essay to all of the colleges they are interested in attending.

Applications and information are available online at www.eduinonline.com. Member colleges include Norfolk State, Tuskegee, Clark Atlanta, Coppin State, Fisk, Morgan State, Virginia Union, Virginia State and many more.

EVENING ON THE SPOT ADMISSIONS & SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS

Several historically black colleges/universities, HBCUs, are sponsoring on-the-spot evening admission/scholarship events in Montgomery County. The schedule is as follows:

Nov. 15, 2012 Morehouse College @ Gaithersburg HS, 6-8 pm for senior males with a 2.8+ cum unweighted GPA, or 3.2 WGPA; SAT 1500 (3 sections) or ACT 22+.

Nov. 28, 2012 Morgan State U @ Walter Johnson HS, 6-8 pm for seniors with a cum GPA of 2.0+, SAT 850 (CR + M only) or ACT 17. Scholarship consideration begins at a 3.0 GPA and an SAT 1000 (CR + M only) or ACT 22.

Feb. 13, 2012 HBCU College Fair @ Kennedy HS 6-8 pm for Grades 9-12! On the spot admissions for seniors.

Contact the Watkins Mill High School School Counselor or College/Career Center (301-840-3957) for more information. The high school hosting the event will want to know who to expect from Watkins Mill H. S. Typically, these evening events begin at 6:00 pm with a presentation from the admissions rep, followed by individual interviews (first come/first served). Students must be prepared with a completed application, official transcript and test scores in hand and be ready to interview with the admissions representative.