**2014 Graduates – Bright Futures Instructions**

**Seniors, please carefully read!!!**

**Even if you think that you will not qualify for Bright Futures - there are a number of grants, work-study programs and low interest student loan programs that are offered by the state so we will be registering all seniors.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT FILLING OUT THE BRIGHT FUTURES APPLICATION (FFAA) IS ONLY PART 1 OF THE PROCESS. IF YOU WANT MONEY FOR COLLEGE, YOU ALSO MUST FILL OUT THE FAFSA FORM STARTING JANUARY 1ST, 2014 AT** [WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV)**. FILLING OUT FAFSA IS PART II**

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**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS – A MUST READ!**

[Once you complete the application online], [Bright Futures] applicants will receive a User ID and PIN [to access] the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) website. Students [must use the User ID & PIN] to [enter the] website to monitor the status of his/her Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application. **It is the student's responsibility to check the status of his/her application and award.** It is also the student's responsibility to **inform us of any changes**.  Call toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 with questions. **If you are unable to provide a Social Security Number, please leave the "social security number" field blank. Our system will generate a Pseudo number WHICH YOU MUST RECORD!**

**Once you complete you application, OSFA will enter your Florida Financial Aid Application into the State Student Financial Aid Database. You should receive an e-mail outlining any additional documents or certifications needed to complete your application process.**

**To update any demographics or to monitor the status of your application, follow these steps:**

**Go to www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org,**

**Choose “State Grants, Scholarships & Applications,”**

**Choose “Application Status & Award History.”**

**To update information, choose "Initial Student Update" and then “Application,” or**  **“Name, Address, and Institution.”**

**To monitor your status, choose "Initial Student Status" and then**

**“Application/Certification” or “Award/Notifications - FARH”**

**Award status and notifications are posted to your online record!**

**Regarding your Bright Futures User ID and PIN - Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!**

**DO NOT LOSE THE PIN/CONFIRMATION NUMBER YOU GET WHEN YOU APPLY ONLINE!!!!**

All Seniors planning to apply to a Florida 4-year public or private university, a 2-year community college (Miami Dade included), or a vocational/technical school are required to register. For students planning to go out of state, as a back-up, you should go ahead and apply by entering the name of any in-state College or university you plan to use as your back-up school. You never know what might happen.

**You must register by the end of your senior year or you will lose your Bright Futures eligibility. In other words, if you don't register because you are planning to go to school out of state but you later return to go to a Florida school, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE YOUR BRIGHT FUTURES AWARD.**

Remember the first Bright Futures evaluation takes place at the end of January. So if you register but have not yet completed you SAT/ACT or turned in your community service hours, you need to do so IMMEDIATELY so when the system reaches in for your transcript, it will get a complete record of everything.

Good Luck seniors and let me know if you have any questions.