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GSFC Awards Eleven High Schools for Increasing FAFSA Completion

ATLANTA – The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) recently identified and challenged several eligible high schools in Georgia to increase the number of students that complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by 50 percent or more. The FAFSA is used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state and college-sponsored financial aid. Eleven Georgia High Schools will receive \$1000 each for improving their FAFSA completion rates.

The following eleven Georgia high schools accepted the challenge and improved their percentage of students completing the FAFSA: **Bacon County High School** (Bacon County), **Cross Keys High School** (DeKalb County), **Elizabeth Andrews High School** (DeKalb County), **Frank McClarin High School** (Fulton County), **Lanier Charter Career Academy** (Hall County), **Meadowcreek High School** (Gwinnett County), **Phoenix High School** (Whitfield County), **Pierce County High School** (Pierce County), **Rutland High School** (Bibb County), **Swainsboro High School** (Emanuel County) and **Toombs County High School** (Toombs County).

"We are very proud of these Georgia high schools for increasing their FAFSA completion rate," stated Tricia Chastain, President of GSFC. "By working together with educators, we can help more Georgia students realize their higher education dreams," she added.

This event was made possible by the U.S. Department of Education College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP). The purpose of the CACGP is to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants that are aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other stateand lottery- funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, GAcollege411.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, default management and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC products and services is available at <u>www.gsfc.org</u> or <u>www.GAcollege411.org</u> or 800.505.GSFC (4732).

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