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## Paying for College Financial Aid, Admission Workshop Slated for IWU, Feb. 21; Part of Statewide Program Slated for February by Gov. Ryan

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**Paying for College  
Financial Aid, Admission Workshop Slated for IWU, Feb. 21;  
Part of Statewide Program Slated for February by Gov. Ryan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Where's the money . . . for college?

Find out at a free workshop on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at Illinois Wesleyan University, Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. in the Atrium of the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

Completing a FAFSA form is the first step in applying for student financial aid by college and university students.

Illinois Gov. George Ryan (R) has proclaimed February to be Financial Aid/Admission Awareness Month (FAAM) to help Illinois residents with the college admission and financial aid process. 1999 is the tenth year Illinois has marked FAAM in February.

FAAM is sponsoring many activities statewide this month to help students and families become more aware of resources available for financing a postsecondary education and the college selection process.

Families can receive assistance completing FAFSA at 39 workshops statewide during Feb. 13-21. Workshops are provided as a public service, free-of-charge.

Financial aid professionals will be on hand at the workshops to assist families with completing the FAFSA and other related questions. Financial aid professionals from IWU, Illinois State University, Heartland Community College, a loan officer from Wells Fargo Bank, and others will be on hand to discuss financial aid matters at the Feb. 21 workshop.

Families planning to attend the workshop at IWU and desiring to file their FAFSA electronically should make those arrangements by calling the IWU Financial Aid office before Feb. 21 at 309/556-3096.

Workshops provide families with information on:

- o Latest industry topics, including electronic filing of the financial aid form,
- o FAFSA,
- o Changes to the 1999-2000 FAFSA form,
- o Early awareness issues such as academic preparation and planning for college costs,
- o College Illinois (the new Illinois Prepaid Tuition Program),
- o General information about the new federal tax credits and benefits for higher education.

The workshops allow families to complete their FAFSA with financial aid professionals on-hand to answer individual questions. Families should bring all completed 1998 tax forms, as well as any other asset information necessary for completing the 1999 FAFSA. To expedite the process, families should complete the FAFSA as much as possible in advance of the workshop.

"February often is when families begin completing the financial aid forms for college and start narrowing down their college choices," said Larry Matejka, executive director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

"FAAM," Matejka added, "gives all families access to the best information to help get students and families started."

FAAM has its own web site at [www.faam.org](http://www.faam.org). This site provides additional information on the FAFSA Completion Workshops, other FAAM activities, and other information on topics related to college planning. FAAM activities include financial aid workshops, cable television and radio broadcasts statewide for high school students, current college students, adults returning to school, parents, and families.

FAAM is sponsored by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC), the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Inc. (ILASFAA), ISAC, and 20 lending institutions that provide student loans.

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