FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

1. The first step in locating financial aid to assist with your college expenses is to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. You can access these forms at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. Assistance with completing the form is available at 1-800-433-3243. The financial aid awarded through the federal government may include Pell Grants, scholarship funds, and/or loans.

2. The most comprehensive source of free information on federal student aid is located at www.studentaid.ed.gov.

3. Loan Cancellation/Deferment Options for Teachers

   If you're a teacher serving in a low-income or subject-matter shortage area, it might be possible for you to cancel or defer your student loans.

   Federal Perkins Loan Forgiveness

   If you have a loan from the Federal Perkins Loan Program, you might be eligible for loan cancellation for full-time teaching at a low-income school or teaching in certain subject areas. Find out more here. You can also qualify for deferment for these qualifying teaching services. Check with the school that made your Perkins Loan for more information.

   Stafford Loan Forgiveness for Teachers

   If you received a Stafford Loan on or after October 1, 1998, and you teach full time for five consecutive years in a low-income school, you might be eligible to have a portion of the loan cancelled. This applies to FFEL^{SM} Stafford Loans, Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans, and in some cases, Consolidation Loans.

   Stafford Loan Deferment/Forbearance Provisions
   If you have a FFEL or Direct Stafford Loan and you're teaching full time in a teacher shortage area, you might be eligible for deferment (postponement of repayment) if you borrowed before July 1, 1999. If you borrowed on or after July 1, 1993, you might be eligible for forbearance (a temporary postponement or reduction). Information is located at: http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp

4. Search for scholarships and loans that match your situation at websites such as http://www.finaid.org/ and http://www.cfnc.org/ .

5. Check with local civic clubs, businesses, community college foundations offices, and local high school guidance offices, to identify local scholarships available in your community.

ECU College of Education Scholarships for Part-Time Students

Scholarships may vary each year and are dependent upon funding. The items below are examples of past scholarships available to part-time applicants. Please visit the link for the most current information and application deadline (next deadline March 1, 2012) http://www.ecu.edu/educ/scholarships.cfm

1. Michael Bunting Scholarship for Wells Fargo Partnership East
2. Benjamin Scott Denton Scholarship in Special Education
3. Dr. Sandra Hopfengardner Warren Scholarship – preference to students from Greene county
4. Eloise Faison Teacher Scholarship
5. Pat and Lynn Lane Scholarship -
6. Don and Linda Lassiter Scholarship – preference to first generation college students from Johnston County then eastern NC
7. Angel Boberg-Webb Memorial Scholarship – preference to special education majors who reside in eastern NC
8. Mona W. Jarvis Elementary Education Scholarship – preference to elementary majors in Beaufort County
9. Laughinghouse-Learey Scholarship – preference to Math, Science, Elementary majors from Pitt or Craven county
10. James Bryant Kirkland, Jr. and Evelyn Johnson Kirkland Middle Grades Scholarship – preference to students in Robeson County and then other identified eastern NC counties

Information for Current School District Employees

1. Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) Created by the 2011 NC General Assembly, this program is a forgivable loan providing funding to students pursuing degrees in certain critical fields. Recipients must sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the loan by working in North Carolina in their approved field of study. Details of the program are currently under development and more information will be posted as available. http://www.cfnc.org/fels

**The funding sources listed above vary from year to year depending on availability of funds.

Sunshine Lady Foundation

The foundation scholarships are for full-time students but a few WPE students have received funds in the past. Awards are based equally on merit (GPA 3.0) and need (family income under $85,000). Qualified students, seeking their first four-year degree, should e-mail the scholarship coordinator, Mary Ellen Box at slfscholarships@usa.net or call 252-393-7146 to request an application by leaving full contact information. SLF has another program for survivors of domestic abuse for women only: WISP.

Financial Information for Military, Veterans, Dependents, and Spouses

1. Allied services all branches of the military and accepts **100% Military Tuition Assistance** for most programs. Whether you are in the **Marine Corps**, **Navy**, **Air Force**, **National Guard** or **Army Reserve** (*Allied works with the active-duty **Army** on a reimbursement basis*) you can use Tuition Assistance to pay for your career training. Learn more about Tuition Assistance eligibility requirements for your specific branch of service at http://www.education4military.com/a/military/military-students.aspx .
2. **Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts** (MyCAA). This program promises to provide Financial Assistance for **military spouses** to further their education.
   Who is Eligible: Spouses of active duty and active National Guard and Reserve service members.
   http://www.education4military.com/a/military/default.aspx
   http://www.education4military.com/a/military/military-spouse.aspx
3. **Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund**. Available to **dependent children** of US soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, or Guardsmen who have been killed or permanently disabled (100% VA disability rating) as a result of an operational mission or training accident, or who is classified as a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA).
   - A high school senior, high school graduate, or registered as a full time undergraduate student. Under the age of 26.Apply online at http://www.fascholarship.com/
4. Many veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one education benefits program, including the:
   - Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33)
   - Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB, chapter 30 and chapter 1606)
   - Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP, chapter 1607)
   - Post Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance program (VEAP, chapter 32).
   Info available at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/step-by-step.htm
5. The **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program** is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. The mission of VR&E is to help **veterans with service connected disabilities** to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. Financial assistance to attend college may be available. Information may be found at: http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm

   Financial resources may change without notice.