



FOR

GA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

November 2009

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Issue # Three

Win Up
To \$2,500!



Financial Aid 101

Georgia Student Finance Commission is pleased to offer Financial Aid 101 for counselors. This training will be offered in four locations throughout the state. To find out more information, please see the flyer below:

[Financial Aid 101 Flyer](#)

NEW NAME – Thanks to all of you who voted for the name for our newsletter. The new name is “The 411 on 411.” We hope you’ll continue to enjoy this publication and find it useful.

What Would You Do Student Video Contest

Have you ever wished...
...that life had a rewind button?

You’ve learned some lessons over the past few years. If you could rewind your life, how would you get closer to your goals? What would you do differently with the knowledge you have today? This is your chance to pass on those lessons to other students.

We’re looking for videos that show others what **YOU** would do if you had a second chance.

We want to see proof of what you’ve learned – and how that knowledge can help others reach their own goals. Need more motivation?

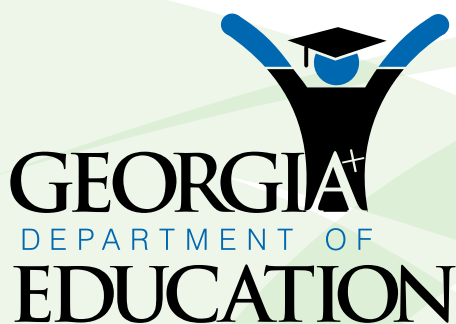
How about the chance to win up to \$2,500?

So, what would you do differently? Enter the Xap and Bridges’ **What Would You Do?** video contest and show what you’ve learned from your past. Tell us what you would do if you had a chance to redo your life so far!

You don’t need Hollywood connections or a big budget to win our contest, just some creative ideas and a message that can help others.

The contest closes December 4, 2009 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.

Visit the link from the GAc411 Home Page to find out more about the contest or visit www.bridges.com/video to learn more.



Department of Education Corner

New Middle and High School Education and Career Planning Tools and Resources to be located on GAcollge411!

The GAcollge411 website has become a comprehensive planning tool for grades 6-12 to assist students and parents with making more informed decisions regarding their future. Benefits for students include the addition of relevance for a student's educational planning, career planning and in the selection of course work while in high school.

The data collected through the GAcollge411 website will play a large role in the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE) Strategic Plan goals for continuous improvement. As an initiative for meeting the GaDOE Strategic Goal 1 of increasing the graduation rate, decreasing the drop-out rate and increasing postsecondary enrollment, the GAcollge411 website will develop an improved comprehensive system of student advisement focused on postsecondary options and careers.

GaDOE, with funding from the College Access Challenge Grant, has developed additional educator tools and resources for student advisement. These resources are focused on postsecondary options and careers and will be posted under the **"High School and Middle School Educators"** section on the GAcollge411 homepage.

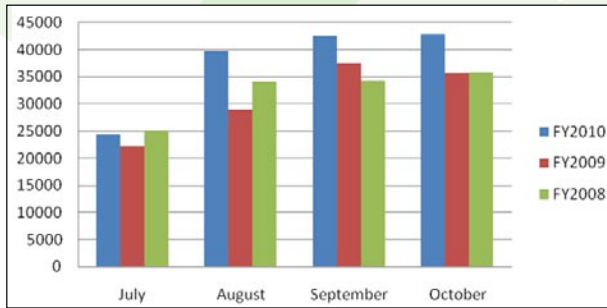
The new resources will include:

1. Professionally-developed videos and PowerPoint presentations.
2. Teacher-as-Advisor activities for grades 6-12 that are embedded with GAcollge411 information and an Educator's Guide to GAcollge411.
3. An electronic timeline and guidebook to assist local school systems with the delivery of Teachers-as-Advisor activities, PowerPoint presentations, videos and motivational modules (located at the bottom of the GAcollge411 homepage).



Another Record Setting Month!

October was another record setting month for GAcollege411. During the month of October, 42,802 GAcollege411 accounts were created. This is the largest number of accounts created during a single month since inception of the site. Thank you for all your work to spread the word about GAcollege411.



GAcollege411 Account Creation

Professional Center Tips

Resetting Passwords:

Did you know that you can reset a student's password via the Professional Center on GAcollege411? If a student has associated themselves with your school, then you can reset their password. To reset a password:

1. Log into the Professional Center
2. Select the "Students and Groups" tab
3. Search for the student whose password you want to reset
4. When you find that student, click on the hyperlink on their name
5. On the right hand side of the screen, you'll see a box for the option to reset their password or see their user name.

Fulfilling Transcript Requests:

Don't forget that you need to fulfill the requests of students who have requested transcripts to be released to a college. This is a new step that was added this year and transcripts will not be sent until you fulfill those requests.

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Closing Thoughts

November is another busy month in Georgia. November 9th – 13th is Georgia Apply to College Week. We look forward to sharing the results with you regarding the number of admissions applications completed during this week.

We hope to see many of you at the Georgia School Counselors Association Conference later in November. Please be sure to stop by our booth and say hello.

We're always looking for feedback on the site, so if you have any suggestions or problems, please don't hesitate to contact me at sarahb@gafc.org or by calling 770-724-9021.

Thanks again for everything you are doing to encourage students to use GAcollege411 to expand their opportunities.

Sarah Baumhoff
Vice President, Client Services
Georgia Student Finance Commission

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"Expand Your Opportunities"

GAcollege411.org

