



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 2, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT: Monét N. Robinson
770-724-9022

Georgia High School Students Attend “College, Yes You Can” Day at the Capitol

ATLANTA – The Georgia Student Finance Commission recently hosted “College, Yes You Can” Day that brought over 130 students and high school counselors to the State Capitol. During the event, students representing Chamblee High, Winder Barrow High, Hiram High, South Cobb High, South Gwinnett High and Pathway Christian School, learned more about the resources available to help them plan, apply and pay for a higher education.

“The future success of our young people depends on the availability, quality, and accessibility to higher educational opportunities which ensures a well educated and highly trained world class workforce,” said Tim Connell, president of the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

To kick off the event, Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle encouraged the students to take advantage of the GAcollege411 website, and explore its many offerings such as: career options, apply for college admissions, and compare and select a Georgia college or university. He also read a proclamation declaring January 26, 2009 as College, Yes You Can Day. In addition, Susan Atkins, Assistant Director, Student Support Services, Forsyth County Schools and Bob Carnaroli, Head Counselor, West Forsyth High School; Mike Augustine, Director of Admissions, Georgia College and State University; and Pennie Strong, President, Georgia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators shared the importance of planning for college, exploring financial aid options to pay for college, and taking advantage of all the services offered by the state of Georgia to help them fulfill their dreams of higher education.

There were several computer stations available for students to plan, apply and pay for college, set up My 411 accounts and the newest computer station allowed students to ask questions about filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.

“As the state agency that connects Georgians to resources and services about college planning, we are pleased that students walked away from ‘College, Yes You Can’ Day with great advice and direction on every aspect of pursuing an education beyond high school,” added Connell.



Georgia Student Finance Commission Regional Representatives, Linda Attebery and Thomas Flythe speaking with a student about how to plan, apply and pay for college during College, Yes You Can Day at the Georgia State Capitol, on January 26, 2009.

###

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

Since 1965 the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) has provided more than \$9 billion in financial aid to help **over two million** Georgians achieve their dreams of higher education. GSFC funds and services 15 different low-interest education loan programs including Stafford and PLUS loans, consolidation loans, and state service cancelable loans. GSFC also administers multiple scholarship and grant programs, including the nationally acclaimed HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program. Additional information about GSFC products and services is available at www.gsfc.org or (800) 505-GSFC (4732).