



FOR

## GA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

January 2010

1

Issue # Four



**COLLEGE**  
**YES YOU CAN**

### College, Yes You Can

The focus for January is that any student can attend college. It could be a 4-year university, a 2-year college, or a technical college. It doesn't matter where a student attends; we just want them to be aware of the opportunities available beyond high school. GAcademy411 can help students to explore all the colleges in Georgia and nationwide. Help us encourage students to create a plan and decide where they want to attend college after high school.

### January 11th - College, Yes You Can Day

On January 11th, more than 500 high school students will be visiting the Capitol as part of College, Yes You Can Day. There will be a brief program with Superintendent Kathy Cox and three college students speaking to the group. Students will have the opportunity to use the GAcademy411 website, ask questions about financial aid, and learn more about the FAFSA and the HOPE Program. Be sure to check our next edition for photos from the event.

### New Lesson Plans on GAcademy411

Over the last few weeks 70+ new lesson plans have been added to the Professional Center for GAcademy411. You can find these lesson plans on the Resources tab, under Professional Resources. In the coming months they will be moved to the Lesson Plans link.

### New Communications Link on GAcademy411

There is a new Communications link located at the bottom of the home page of GAcademy411. This link will take you directly to archived GSFC newsletters, news releases, media materials and the order form to order publications. We hope that this will help you find the information you are looking for a little more quickly.



## 2010-2011 FAFSA is Now Available

The 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available. It has changed from last year, so you may want to review the changes. The Department of Education is no longer mailing out paper copies of the FAFSA. You can access a copy of the [FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#). Students can use their GAcology411 accounts to apply via FAFSA on the Web. Watch for an announcement for a FAFSA 101 Webinar that will be conducted in the coming weeks.

## Professional Center Tips

### Using the Group Builder

On the Students and Groups Tab in the Professional Center, you will find a button for "Group Builder." This will allow you build a custom group of student that you can run reports on and send communications to. You will name the group and then select the students by grade level, last name, gender or ethnicity.

### Merge Accounts

Did you know that you can merge two GAcology411 accounts? How often have you encountered a student that has more than one account? Now, you can merge those accounts so they will only have one. Visit the Students and Groups Tab in the Professional Center and at the bottom of the page you will see an option to "Merge Accounts." This will let you search for a student, and it will also provide you a list of students that might have duplicate accounts.

## School of the Month

Our first school of the month is **Huntington Middle School**. Information about Huntington Middle School will be featured on GAcology411 by the end of the month. Here is just a sample of how they are using GAcology411:

"Our goal is for every 8th grade student to transition from Huntington Middle School to high school with a GAcology411 account and a working knowledge of how to use the site effectively. Additionally, we want every 8th grader to identify 3 possible careers to target once in high school. The graduation coach and counselors also give career lesson in the Family and Consumer Science class in accordance with the 8th grade career curriculum using the GAcology411 website. Huntington has also implemented an "On Track to Graduate" (OTTG) transitional program that gives 8th grade students an individual percentile

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ranking for how prepared they are for high school as the 8th grade year progresses. Students earn points as they accomplish 8th grade objectives on the OTTG program. Having a GAcology411 account and completing various activities on the website are components of the OTTG that count towards graduation readiness." Visit their link on GAcology411 later this month for more information.

Would your school like to be featured as a GAcology411 School of the Month? If so, please complete the [nomination form](#).

## Financial Aid and GAcology411 Presentations

Would you like to schedule a presentation about financial aid for your students? Would you like a member of the GSFC Staff to come and speak with a group about GAcology411? We would be happy to come and visit your school. Please fill out the [online request for a presentation](#) and we'll be in touch with you shortly.

## Closing Thoughts

I hope you are ready to begin the New Year! We are excited about the continued growth of GAcology411 and look forward to sharing additional information with you. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me at [sarahb@gsfc.org](mailto:sarahb@gsfc.org) or by calling 770-724-9021.

Best wishes for a great January!

Sarah Baumhoff  
Vice President, Client Services  
Georgia Student Finance Commission