



September 25, 2019

College Changes Everything – Financial Aid is Available!

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019, I will be joined by Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School Principal Charles Anderson, Michele Clark High School seniors, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to launch College Changes Everything Month. We will hold a press conference at Michelle Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School, 5101 W. Harrison St, Chicago, IL 60644 on October 1, 2019 at 9 a.m. to announce millions of dollars of financial aid available for families in Illinois. We will be encouraging high school seniors to get an early start on both college and financial aid applications.

College Changes Everything month is sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and its partners, College Changes Everything (CCE). CCE is a college access movement that recognizes that college can be a life-changing experience not only for students but also for families and communities, with significant impacts on their potential career prospects, future salary and changes in the levels of poverty, life expectancy, crime and obesity rates in their communities. The CCE movement supports the Illinois goal of increasing the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) helps to make college affordable for students throughout Illinois by providing information on education and financial aid for students and their families. In the past the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing season began in January. But this year, FAFSA is moving to a new schedule to align financial aid applications with the college admissions season.

Students need to be aware of the upcoming opportunity for college assistance beginning on the first day of October. In addition to federal financial aid, Illinois also has Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grants and AIM HIGH funds available for students. As Chairman of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee, I have worked hard with our committee and governor to increase MAP grants to \$500,000,000 and AIM HIGH grants to \$35,000,000 in Illinois.

So, let's come out to support our high school seniors in Austin on October 1st, and let's make sure that everyone who wants to go to college gets the financial support that they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LSF', written over a blue horizontal line.

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District