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ADE Launches College Application Month Campaign in October

LITTLE ROCK — Whether planning to attend a two-year or four-year university, technical program, apprenticeship program, or certificate program, every Arkansas student is encouraged to pursue educational opportunities beyond high school. In order to be successful, students need additional support to navigate the college and financial aid application processes. To assist students with these very important tasks and to shed a light on their importance, the Arkansas Department of Education has named October Arkansas College Application Month.

Approximately 60 high schools around the state have signed up to participate in helping students apply for college and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Activities include hosting financial aid nights to encourage and assist parents with the FAFSA process, assisting students with tracking college applications and financial aid data and following up with students who need to complete these tasks, and hosting school-wide events and celebrations to build excitement about going to college. These events are made even more valuable with the passage of Act 331 of 2021, which requires students to complete the FAFSA in order to be eligible for state scholarships so they can maximize their federal and state aid. Many students do not realize the amount of aid they are eligible to receive until they complete the FAFSA.

“A big misconception is that college only includes two-year and four-year institutions of higher education with a focus on obtaining an associate degree or higher,” ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. “While that is one definition, other forms of post-secondary learning after high school, such as apprenticeship programs, technical programs, and certificate programs, can be vital to the educational and economic success of Arkansans. While completing college applications and the FAFSA can be time consuming and overwhelming, it doesn’t have to be with the right support. I want to thank the school counselors and career coaches for participating in this event and providing the assistance students need to not only succeed in completing their applications but also helping them be prepared for success in life.”

To kick off the month, some participating schools are holding assemblies focused on building excitement for the month’s activities. A few of the events are listed below.

October 1:

- **El Dorado High School** (El Dorado School District)
- 10:30 a.m.
- El Dorado High School Auditorium, 2000 Wildcat Drive, El Dorado, AR

October 4:

- **Little Rock Southwest High School** (Little Rock School District)
- 9:15 a.m.
- Arena Gym, 9715 Mabelvale Pike, Mabelvale, AR
- **The Academies at Jonesboro High School** (Jonesboro School District)
- 9:30 a.m.
- Performing Arts Center, 300 Hurricane Drive, Jonesboro, AR

To learn more and to see the list of other participating schools, visit <https://bit.ly/3m6XmZj>.

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