

College Planning Strategies

CEDARVILLE



CENTER FOR
LIFELONG LEARNING
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mark McClain

*Associate Dean, Lifelong Learning
& International Programs
Professor of Chemistry*



College Planning Strategies

... start early

My Basic Belief

God has designed and gifted every individual with a unique combination of personality, interests, abilities, gifts, talents, and passions. Our purpose in life is to maximize these resources for God's glory.

Life-Ministry vs. Lifestyle

“If our vocational endeavor is really a ‘life-ministry,’ then we will resist the attraction of “lifestyle” decisions and honor the **God-given gifts** we have at our disposal.”

“We stress that the educational journey upon which students are about to embark is **not to prepare for careers, but rather, to prepare for ‘life ministries.’**”

“...their education ought not to be about job title, name of company, or salary. It should be about preparing to **do kingdom things**, that is, to be so capable, as a nurse, or engineer, or accountant or an educator that people ask for ‘a reason for the hope that is within them.’”

Goal: Develop What God Has Given You

Spiritually

Emotionally/
Socially

Academically

Physically

Financially

Develop Spiritually

- Know the Word
- Attend church faithfully
- Be involved in youth group
- Identify your spiritual gifts and use them!
 - Music & worship
 - Missions trips
 - Service projects
- Pray and ask God for direction

Develop Academically

Recommended High School Curriculum

- English 4 years
- Mathematics 3-4* years
(algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus)
- Social Studies 3 years
- Science 3* years
- Foreign Language 2-3 years
(check with colleges for specific requirements)

* *More for science/math related majors.*

Develop Socially & Physically

- Exercise your skills and talents
 - Leadership
 - Music
 - Art
 - Theater
 - Athletics
 - Debate and public speaking

Understand Yourself

- Identify personal strengths and weaknesses
- Recognize abilities, hobbies, and important values
- Consider possible career interests
- Seek outside perspectives

Career Direct® Complete Guidance System

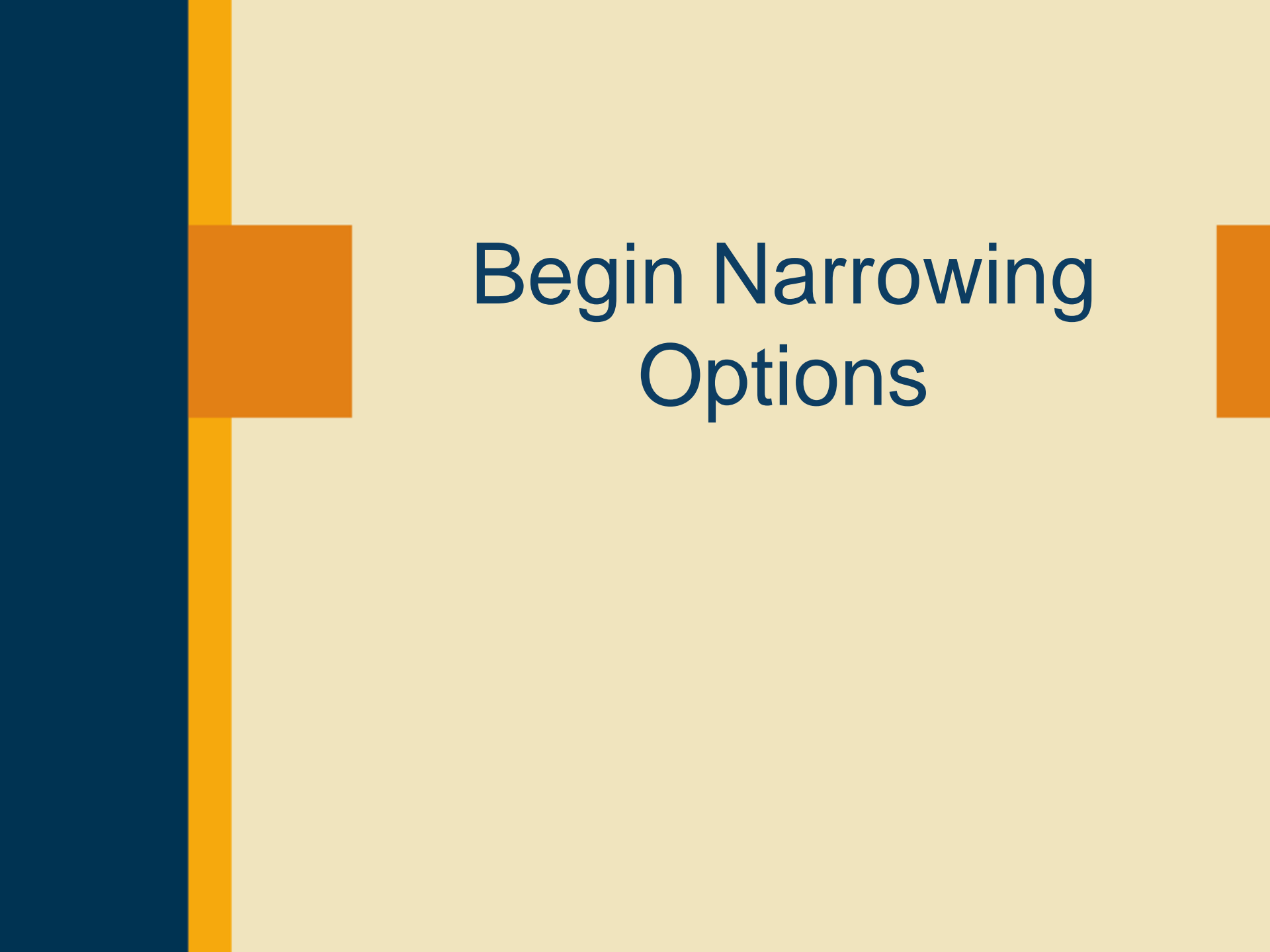
<http://careerdirectonline.org>

Assesses four critical areas: Personality, Interests, Skills, Values

ACT Assessment Interest Inventory

Develop Your Own College Criteria

- These criteria must reflect your personal beliefs
 - Needs (non-negotiable)
 - Desires (negotiable)
- Write out your criteria
- Prioritize the list
 - Needs should top the list
 - These may change as you gather more information
- Develop questions from these criteria



Begin Narrowing Options

Collect Information

- College catalogs and DVDs
- College websites
- College fairs and representatives
- Current students, parents, or alumni
- Church or school staff members
- Directories
- Parents & trusted advisors

The screenshot shows the Cedarville University website homepage. At the top, the Cedarville University logo is on the left, with the tagline "Inspiring Greatness" and a search bar on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "About", "Academics", "Admissions", "Alumni", "Athletics", "Donors", "Events", "Ministries", "Offices", and "Student Life". The main banner features a red background with the text "SUMMER CAMPS 2010" in large, yellow, stylized letters. To the right of the banner are images of students in "Academic Camps" and "Sports Camps". A yellow call-to-action box on the right says "Something For Everyone! Learn More >". Below the banner is a "Welcome to Cedarville" section with social media sharing icons. The left sidebar contains a vertical list of navigation links: "Prospective Students", "Alumni", "Parents", "Current Students", "Faculty & Staff", "Churches", "Donors", "Majors and Minors", "Campus Tour", "Costs and Financial Aid", "Graduate Programs", "Career Services", "Employment", and "CDR Radio". The right sidebar features three sections: "Upcoming Events" with a list of events (6/7 Music Camp, 6/7 Theatre Camp, 6/7 Worship Camp, 6/11 CU Friday), "Campus News" with a "More News" link, and "Two-Week University Experience" with a "Summer Studies" link. The footer contains copyright information and contact details for Cedarville University.

Colleges Vary Widely

- Identity
 - Public vs. private
 - Not for profit vs. for profit
- Breadth of programs
 - Single program vs. comprehensive
 - 2-year vs. 4-year
 - Graduate vs. undergraduate
- Selectivity
 - Highly Selective—*Competitive admission*
 - Selective—*Competitive or rolling admission*
 - Traditional—*Rolling admission*
 - Open—*Rolling admission*

Colleges Vary Widely

- **Worldview**
 - Secular vs. religious
- **Size & Demographics**
 - Local, regional, national
- **Campus life**
 - Programming
 - Residential vs. commuter
- **Financial Concerns**
 - Cost
 - Financial aid

Common Types of Colleges

- Research University
- Comprehensive College/University
- Liberal Arts College
- Bible college or seminary
- Commercial/technical school
- Community College

Consider long-term investment rather than short-term cost!

Additional College Characteristics

- Programs offered
- Accreditation
 - College
 - Program
- Out of class activities and opportunities
- Delivery modes (f2f, online, hybrid)
- Support services

Compare Schools

- Use your personalized, prioritized criteria
- Is the school right for you?



Visit Campuses

Early Visits

Start early!

- Freshmen/Sophomores
 - Use summer or family vacations
 - Attend special events (cultural, athletic, etc)
 - Camps (academic, athletic, leadership, worldview, etc)

In Depth Visits

Schedule through the Admissions Office

- Juniors
 - Official campus visits to narrow options
 - Test drive through early college programs
- Seniors
 - Early college programs
 - Overnight visit to finalize decision

Checklist for a Campus Visit

- Meet with an Admissions Counselor
- Verify admission requirements
- Determine actual college costs
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Take a campus tour

Checklist for a Campus Visit

- Investigate your academic program(s)
- Attend a class
- Talk with students and faculty
- Discuss your chances for success:
 - Admission
 - Graduation
 - Placement

Source: ACT's College Planning Guide



Apply for Admission

ACT and SAT Tests

- Preparation begins in 9th grade or before
- Take the PSAT seriously
- Take ACT and/or SAT test in spring of junior year
- Retake ACT and/or SAT in fall of senior year

ACT and SAT Tests

- Register online
 - ACT www.actstudent.org
 - SAT sat.collegeboard.com/home
- Test Prep
 - How much time?
 - How much money?

Junior Year Timeline

- Fall
 - Take the PSAT/NMSQT
 - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
 - October 13 or 16, 2010
 - www.collegeboard.com
- Spring
 - Take the ACT or SAT test
 - www.actstudent.org

Senior Year Timeline

- August – December
 - Apply for admission
- October – December
 - Re-take ACT/SAT
- December
 - Begin reviewing the FAFSA
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Free webinar: www.cedarville.edu/fafsa

Senior Year Timeline

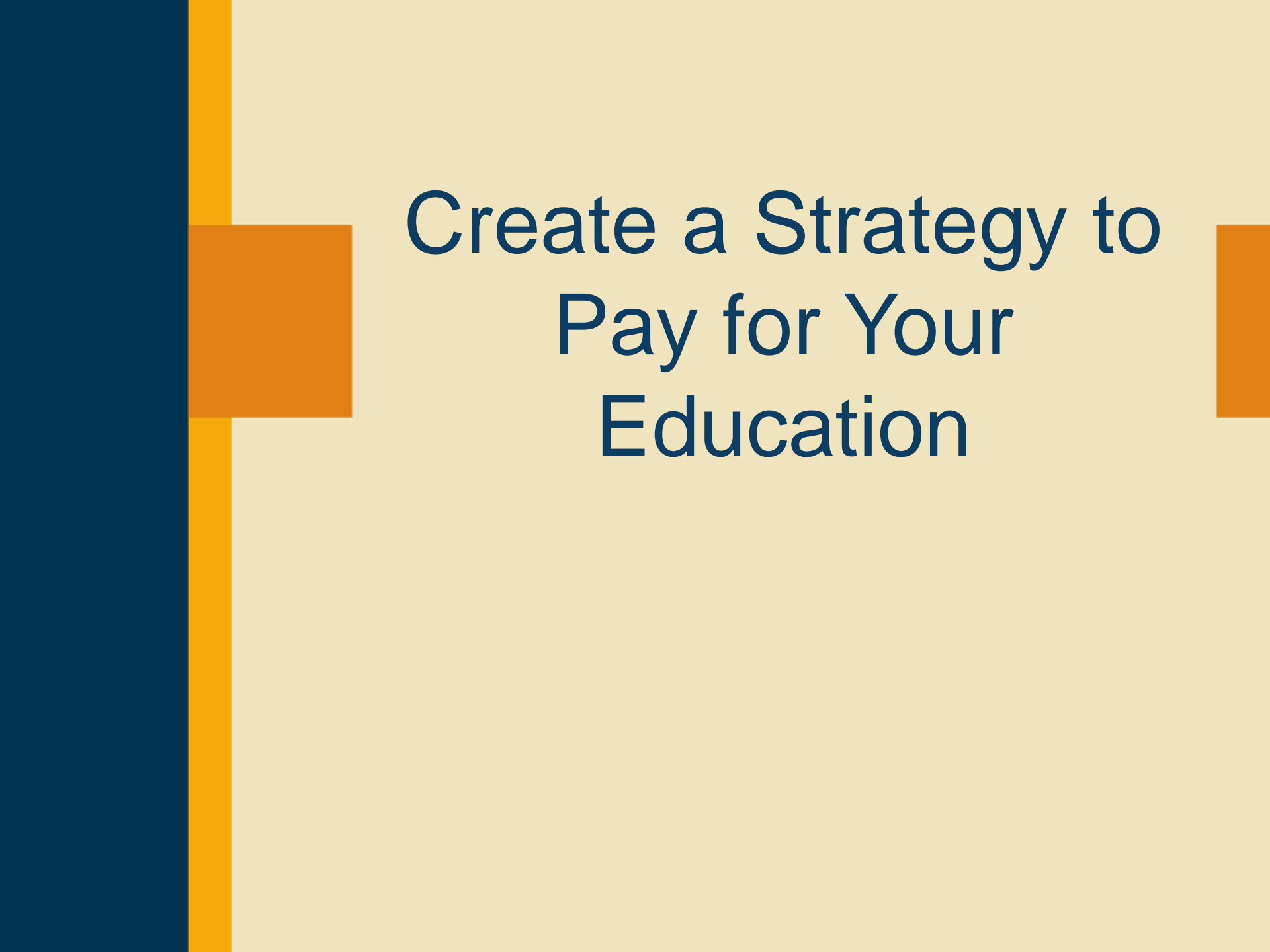
- January
 - Complete and submit FAFSA after January 1
- March – April
 - Receive notification of financial aid from school
- May 1
 - Submit reservation deposit

Apply for Admission

Submit materials to selected colleges

- Application (and fee) for admission
- High school transcript
 - Course name
 - Grade (include grade scale)
 - Credit (Carnegie units)

<http://www.cedarville.edu/admissions/homeschoolstudents.cfm>
- ACT and/or SAT scores
- Recommendations
- Meet deadlines and keep accurate records



Create a Strategy to Pay for Your Education

Who Is Responsible To Pay?

- Student!
- Parents
 - Colleges, universities, state and federal agencies all view you and your parents as the first source of funds for college
 - FAFSA will determine Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Save your money
 - The earlier you start the better; it's never too late to begin
 - Participate in 529 plans (e.g. Florida Prepaid)
- Aggressively pursue all sources of financial aid

Sources of Financial Aid

- Colleges & Universities
 - Academic, leadership, skill scholarships
 - Grants
 - Work
- State and Federal
 - Grants (Pell, SEOG)
 - State aid (e.g. Bright Futures)
 - Loans (Perkins, Stafford, PLUS)
- Outside Aid
 - Grants/scholarships
(employers, foundations service organizations)

Types of Financial Aid

- Gift Aid
 - Scholarships—usually based on special abilities
 - Grants—usually based on financial need
- Self Help
 - Work—part-time campus jobs
 - Loans—have to be repaid

Resources for Locating Financial Aid

- High school counselors
- College admissions and financial aid staff
- College websites
- Scholarship databases
- Local organizations, foundations, employers, libraries, etc.
- Military: ROTC

CAUTION!

- Be aware of scams.
- Do not pay for financial aid counseling, even if they “guarantee” results.

Scholarship Search Engines

- www.collegenet.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.wiredscholar.com
- www.supercollege.com
- www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/

College Cost-Cutters

- Advanced Placement college courses in high school
- Dual Enrollment programs (35,000 students in FL/yr)
- Credit by exam: College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Other tests (EMT)
- Accelerated degree programs
- Summer sessions

Remember ...

- Don't initially eliminate a school because of costs
- Any amount saved may result in additional options for paying for college
- Think of college more in terms of long-term investment rather than short-term cost

Final Thoughts

- Begin with the end in mind
- Begin early
- Be aggressive
- Be creative
- Prayerfully consider where God wants you attend
- Consult your parents and trusted advisors

Request handout of presentation

937-766-7933

mcclain@cedarville.edu

Contact Information

- **Admissions:** 1-800-CEDARVILLE (233-2784)
- **Financial Aid:** 1-800-444-2433
- **Registrar:** 937-766-7710 (transfer information)
- **Career Services:** 937-766-7868
- **Online:** www.cedarville.edu
- **Cedarville Reps:** www.cedarville.edu/reps
- **Early College:** www.cedarville.edu/ccl

T-shirt winners

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