

Helpful Information for Volunteers

BACKGROUND

- **College Knowledge Month** is sponsored by a network of K12, higher education and nonprofit partners. Individual schools register to participate and receive training and support from the steering committee. To date, there are 65 schools who have requested volunteer assistance *across the state*.
- The main goal of College Knowledge Month is to **provide every graduating high school senior with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to apply to college** - with a particular focus on helping first-generation students, low-income students, and students who may not otherwise apply to college.
- College Knowledge Month **activities are planned and implemented by each school**. Keep in mind that no two schools are the same. Some site coordinators have participated in this effort since 2011; others are participating for the first time.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Students are encouraged to research different college and universities in order to find the best fit for them. There is a great list of resources – including a weekly calendar to use as a guide throughout the month. **Online resources are available** on <http://bit.ly/ckm4students> and categorized into three themes – Explore. Plan. Apply!
- Host sites are required to provide a designated space and time **during the school day** for completing college applications. Most volunteers are asked to assist schools in this capacity. Some schools will have other volunteer needs such as presentations or college fairs, etc.
- Students may have questions about **application fees**. Note that some colleges and universities in Minnesota do not charge an application fee year-round – while all Minnesota schools are accepting the **NACAC fee waiver for qualifying students**. If students have questions about eligibility, please refer them to their guidance counselor. Up-to-date information will be posted on the College Knowledge Month website during October.
- Please do not use this time to recruit for a specific school. **Students should be encouraged to explore different colleges and universities in order to find the best fit for them** (including certificate programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees).
- Prior to arriving – confirm day/time you are expected with the site coordinator, confirm any visitor guidelines for the high school.

MATCHING PROCESS

- When you register, please select the region(s) in which you are willing to travel. Specify your expertise and level(s) of assistance. The more detail, the better for site coordinators.
- Site coordinators are encouraged to contact you on a first-come, first-serve basis to confirm your availability and schedule you for their event(s). For this reason, registering to volunteer does not guarantee that you will end up volunteering at a specific site, or at all.