

December 2009

# Counselor's Corner

From the desk of: Diane Barnett

## Useful Websites

- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- [www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com)
- [www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.50states.com/cc/alabama.htm](http://www.50states.com/cc/alabama.htm) - scroll down to the bottom to "More Alabama Comm Colleges..." for a listing of 2 yr colleges/technical schools info.

[www.50states.com/college/alabama.htm](http://www.50states.com/college/alabama.htm) - has a listing of 4 yr AL colleges w/ info. Again, scroll down to "More Alabama Colleges"

## Creating A Resume'

A resume' includes information that is not included on your high school transcript such as community service activities, work experience, and extra-curricular activities. Some scholarship applications require one to be attached. It is your way to let a scholarship committee know who you really are. Students, if you need help in preparing one come by my office and I'll get you started.

Reach me by email at:

[dbarnett@ccboe.org](mailto:dbarnett@ccboe.org)

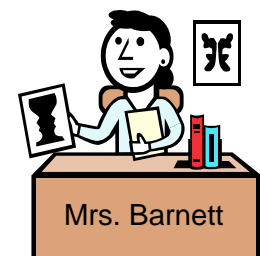
## New Guidance Counselor at Cullman Area Career Center

Parents and Students: As the new Guidance Counselor here at the Career Center, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve you and look forward to working with you in this capacity. The senior year of high school is packed with new challenges. One hundred and forty of our 510 students here at the Career Center are seniors. The faculty, administration and I are actively involved in helping our seniors transition successfully from high school into the next level of education and training. We are willing to help in any way to further the success of our students. Please don't hesitate to contact us. Here are some

items of interest:

- Scholarship deadline for Wallace St. is February 15th. Two letters of recommendation are required with the application. Technical scholarships do *not* require an ACT score but Academic, Leadership and all Health scholarships do.
- This Spring CACC will guide qualifying seniors through the process of articulation with Wallace for semester credit in their technical program. More information coming as that time nears.

- CACC students should stay in contact with their instructors and me for scholarship information that pertains to them.
- Parents should file a FAFSA as soon as they receive W2's in January. I can answer questions about this process if needed.



Mrs. Barnett

## Financial Aid - What's a FAFSA anyway?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application can be completed online and is required to qualify for any type of financial aid. Parents should file a FAFSA even if they don't think they'll qualify for grant money. Some student loans don't accrue interest until after graduation. You qualify for those according to your FAFSA results. Times are hard for most folks lately but don't assume you can't

continue your education if you don't qualify for grant money. Student loans are a viable source of college funding that shouldn't be overlooked. They are low interest loans and some don't require repayment to start until after graduation. If you're hesitant to borrow money for college consider it an investment. Most folks think nothing of financing 25-30K dollars for a vehicle that will depreciate quickly. An investment

in your education will reap very positive rewards. Spending 10-12K for 2 years at a junior college or technical school will increase your lifetime earnings drastically. The truth is—most people pay for their education with student loans—so don't dismiss the idea. File as soon as you receive your 2009 W2 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Or, packets can be picked up here or from local high school counselors.