



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Lee College hosts 'Financial Sense for College' workshop

On Thursday, Jan. 12, high school students will have the opportunity to begin planning for the next step in their education as Lee College hosts a special workshop, Financial Sense for College.

Sponsored by the college, the event will provide both students and parents with tips on managing college costs.

"When it comes to pursuing a college degree many families find themselves at an impasse," said Dr. Donnetta Suchon, vice president of Student Affairs at Lee College.

"Although higher education is key to both personal and national economic stability, record-breaking costs are pushing a college degree beyond many students' reach."

According to recent reports, tuition at most public, four-year colleges and universities has increased an average of 8 percent.

Additionally, approximately two-thirds of recent college graduates borrowed money to pay for their bachelor's degrees and graduated with an estimated average of \$25,000 in debt.

Nationally, student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt and is expected to exceed the \$1 trillion mark this year.

"At first glance the statics touted in the headlines are alarming," Suchon said. "However, with careful planning, a college education can be affordable. By hosting this workshop, we hope to help students and parents take a first step toward building a financial plan for college."

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with an opening reception. At 7 p.m., college officials will discuss the steps families can take to reduce future college costs. A special guest presentation by Dr. James Lyons, interim president at Dillard College, will also be featured.

"Dr. Lyons' presentation is focused on the responsibilities of financing the true costs associated with a college education," Suchon said. "Those costs include more than just tuition and books. Students and parents must also plan for class fees, transportation, meals, housing and emergency expenses. "This workshop is available to all students, regardless of their college choice," she continued. "We encourage the community to join us Jan. 12."

The workshop will be held in the Lee College Performing Arts Center, located at 200 Lee Drive in Baytown. The event is free and open to the general public. Additionally, Spanish translation services will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information, contact Sharon Graber at [sgrab@lee.edu](mailto:sgrab@lee.edu).

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