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VSAC office closings through January 31, 2007

Monday, October 9	Columbus Day
Friday, November 10	VSAC Annual Meeting
Wednesday, November 22	VSAC closing at noon
Thursday, November 23	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day (observed)
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day
Monday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mark your calendar!

October 12: The Vermont Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (VASFAA) fall meeting in the morning at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT, followed in the afternoon by the School Advisory meeting

October 26: Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA) fall training at Middlebury College. More information coming soon to www.easfaa.org.

November 8: The Department of Education's one-day training at Vermont Technical College on the provisions of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act, with special focus on Academic Competitiveness grants and National SMART grants. For more information, visit <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/ANN0610.html>.

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**Vermont Student
Assistance Corp.**

10 East Allen Street
PO Box 2000
Winooski, VT 05404
(888) 307-8722

www.vsac.org
vsacloan@vsac.org

Contacting VSAC

In order to provide your office with prompt service, we ask that you continue to use the specific telephone numbers and e-mail addresses listed below.

Financial aid professionals should call VSAC's School Services team at 888-307-8722, e-mail us at vsacloan@vsac.org.

Students and families should be directed to contact VSAC by calling only 800-798-8722 or by e-mailing info@vsac.org.

Your assistance with this will ensure that each individual calling VSAC will reach staff trained to provide assistance with his or her questions and concerns.

VSAC private loan interest rate update

The variable interest rates for VSAC's private loans changed on October 1, 2006. The new rates are effective through December 31, 2006. Visit www.vsac.org for more information.

VSAC Scholarships Program update

The majority of scholarships disbursed in one installment have been sent to the schools. Scholarships that require verification of enrollment and academic standing prior to disbursement will be disbursed on or before November 30 for the fall semester and on or before March 31 for the spring semester.

The *Scholarships* booklet for the 2007–2008 academic year is currently being updated. We expect the new version to be available in December.

Vermont state grant update

Full-time Vermont state grant applications received after September 29 will be placed on hold until the fall disbursement rosters have been processed and we can determine whether or not we are able to process additional full-time applications. At this time, we still expect to accept part-time applications through December 2006 and non-degree applications through January 2007. Please encourage your Vermont students who have not submitted their Vermont state grant applications to do so as soon as possible.

Get the forms you need

Get the forms you need on the **Forms** page under Financial Aid Professionals at www.vsac.org!

It is VSAC's intention not to direct students to these forms. Instead, we will leave it up to each aid office to educate its students to:

1. go to this Web page to download the PDF version of the promissory note.
2. return all pages of the application. Not returning all pages will make the promissory note incomplete and unusable.
3. direct the student as to where the school would like the completed promissory note submitted — to VSAC or the school.

VSAC asks that you not download the form and store it on your own system or server. It is important that all copies of the form come from the VSAC Web site. This is the only way that VSAC can ensure that all updates or changes by the Department of Education occur and that everyone is using the most current versions of these forms.

To order a supply of VSAC loan applications, contact our School Services team at vsacloan@vsac.org or toll free at 888-307-8722.

New service for your institution

In August, VSAC implemented a new service called Certification Request. This service allows your students to initiate the loan process by contacting VSAC. We will, in turn, send you relevant information needed to certify a loan. There are a variety of options for all loan types. For more information, please contact our School Services team to see if there's an option that will work for your financial aid office.

Financial aid training workshops

Join VSAC for a financial aid training workshop. The agenda includes a beginner session for new counselors with little or no financial aid experience, and a refresher session for those looking to increase their awareness. Look for more information and register online in mid-October in the Financial Aid Professionals section at www.vvac.org.

Thursday, November 30, at the Quality Inn and Suites, Brattleboro
Friday, December 1, at the VSAC Career and Education Center, Rutland
Wednesday, December 6, at the Comfort Inn, St. Johnsbury
Friday, December 8, at the Hampton Inn, Colchester

Paying for College presentations

Are your prospective students asking about the financial aid process? VSAC hosts Paying for College presentations at high schools around Vermont from October through early December. The presentation is for high school seniors and their parents, and covers topics such as what financial aid is, how it is applied, and how expected family contributions are determined. Find locations, dates, and times at <http://services.vvac.org/ilwwcm/connect/VSAC/General/Calendar+of+Events/Paying+For+College+Presentations/>.

Financial fitness tools at www.vsoc.org

VSAC recently created a new Web page to assist families in finding helpful information regarding financial planning and debt management. The new page is a work in progress, with helpful links to educate families on financial fitness. If you would like to recommend we add a site for your students, please contact your School Service representative at vsacloan@vsac.org. The site can be viewed at <http://services.vsoc.org/ilwwcm/connect/VSAC/Loan+Repayment+-+Consolidation/Financial+Fitness+Tools>.

Helpful Web sites

Mapping Your Future

www.mapping-your-future.org/

www.mapping-your-future.org/features/dmtensteps.htm (student calculators and tools on the left side bar)

Financial literacy

www.jumpstart.org/search.cfm — Jump \$tart offers a clearinghouse of financial literacy and debt management information based on audience, cost, and material type

www.consumer.gov/idtheft — provides a good general booklet for all audiences on what ID theft is all about

www.ftc.gov/gettingcredit — what your students need to know about their credit (recommended for high school and traditional students entering college)

www.ftc.gov — “Building A Better Credit Report” for consumers

www.myfico.com/Downloads/Brochures.aspx?fire=1 or www.myfico.com/CreditEducation/?fire=1 for information on FICO scoring

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Look for our next issue in early winter!