**HELPFUL TIPS WHEN APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID**

APPLY EARLY:

It’s very important that you apply early to be eligible for the best aid package. The FAFSA for the upcoming academic year is available in October and uses the prior/prior year’s tax return (this year it’s the 2017 tax return). This makes it easier than ever for you and your family to complete the FAFSA early. P.S.: It’s important to remember to add the college of your choice to the FAFSA, hopefully Shoreline! Our college code is 003791.

DON’T ASSUME YOU WON’T QUALIFY:

Many students believe their family income is too high to qualify for aid. Your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) is based on a number of factors, only one of which is the family income. Completing the FAFSA is always free and, aside from Pell which is generally awarded to low income students, there are other sources of funding available, such as Washington State Need Grant, institutional grants, work study opportunities and student loan funding. Why not apply and find out what may be available for you?

ENTER CORRECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS:

Be sure that the information you enter on the FAFSA is accurate, particularly your Social Security Number and that of your parents. If your parent doesn’t have a Social Security Number, they should enter 000-00-0000. Parents should NOT make up a number or use a taxpayer ID number.

PROVIDE PARENT’S INFORMATION:

The majority of students right out of high school will be considered dependent students, so parent information will be required on the FAFSA. This is true even if they are living away from their parents after high school. Students who are fully estranged from their parents are welcome to visit our office, or email us at [finaid@shoreline.edu](mailto:finaid@shoreline.edu) for information specific to their circumstances.

ATTEND A FAFSA WORKSHOP:

Shoreline offers FAFSA Workshops on campus every other Monday afternoon, where students and families can get help completing the FAFSA and ask questions. To find workshop dates just go to our website or email us at [finaid@shoreline.edu](mailto:finaid@shoreline.edu).