College Night seeks to inform students
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High school students and their parents can learn about MHCC and college scholarship opportunities at a free College Night event set for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Vista Dining Center at the main Gresham campus.

Experts will field questions about college, costs and financial aid and will award a few scholarships. Refreshments are provided.

Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) has sponsored similar events throughout Oregon and Virginia since 2007.

MHCC was invited to host a College Night that year and has followed up each year. ECMC provides the information and trains the presenters.

Topics include: How college can change your life; choosing the right college; paying for college; and scholarship searches and scams.

The presentation is aimed at high school juniors and seniors, although Sydney Eustrom, MHCC manager of student outreach and recruitment, encourages all students to attend.

"It could be a student who already knows where they want to go... or it could be somebody who’s not even thinking that college is their next step," said Eustrom. "It’s intended for everyone."

Students who attend are eligible for a drawing of four $500 scholarships, good at most colleges or universities in the U.S.

Eustrom and MHCC Financial Aid Adviser Tracy Marshall will speak on Wednesday. Both received ECMC training, which encourages story telling to better engage visitors.

"It’s a really casual and comfortable format for high school students, their parents, high school counselors, community members, to come and get their general questions answered,” Eustrom said.

Student guardians and friends are welcome, also. Questions will be taken throughout the presentations.

"You want the support of those you are surrounded by,” said Eustrom. "It’s also super-helpful to get the parents involved and informed."

While a prime outreach opportunity for MHCC, the event is designed to be “hugely informative,” Eustrom said. She wants it “to be something where every single student in that room feels they can relate to some piece of info, whether they are coming to MHCC or not,” she said.

"It’s not the steps for getting started at MHCC, it’s the steps for getting started at college.”

Portland Community College and Clackamas Community College will host the same event, also on Wednesday.

Pizza and soda will be served to guests starting at 5:30 p.m. The presentation begins at 6 p.m.