

## March 2023

MNPS Counselors,

Welcome to March! It was truly a pleasure connecting with you and your seniors over the last month. Many of you have already connected with him, but let me introduce George Gutierrez, the newest addition to our coaches at Persist Nashville. A Nashville native that comes to us after spending five years working with seniors that graduated from Stratford, Maplewood, and Hunter's Lane, George will be assisting your seniors as they transition to college and help them along their journey to graduation.

Now that the FAFSA rush is over, the focus is getting seniors set up for success in Q4 and beyond. We would love to be a part of that success by getting as many seniors as possible to sign up with Persist so that the support can continue after graduation through coaching, community, and care. If you haven't already, [please sign up here](#) for a date and time that works for George and I to come briefly present to your seniors after Spring Break. We are truly thankful for the opportunity to connect with you and your seniors!

Sincerely,

Briana, *Persist Access Coach*

1	<b>NCAN Field a Full Team Workshop</b> From April 17-21, NCAN will host "Field a Full Team: How Everyone in K-12 Can Support Students' College and Career Plans," a week of programming around the idea that everyone in a school has a role to play in students' college and career readiness, including topics like helping students reach different kinds of college and career pathways, how to build a college and career readiness team, and what kinds of frameworks are useful for understanding what students should know and experience. Interest piqued? We hope so. The registration for more info is <a href="#">linked here!</a>
2	<b>Big Future: Real Talk</b> Real Talk is a virtual college exploration initiative designed to connect Black students and families with Black representatives from colleges and access organizations across the country, empowering Black students to own their futures their way. The website is full of tools, resources, and events. Check it out <a href="#">here!</a>
3	<b>The Voyager Scholarship for Public Service</b> This opportunity for your juniors includes up to \$50,000 in financial aid, access to a network of working professionals, and an ongoing speaker series to expose them to new areas of service and innovations happenings in their fields, and even a 10-year travel stipend after graduation! <b>Applications close on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 at 3pm, CT</b> , so encourage them to <a href="#">find out more information here and apply now!</a>
4	<b>Persist Onboarding</b> <a href="#">SIGN UP HERE</a> for a time for Persist and NSCC to come and meet your seniors. Sure kids can get an email or see a social media post, but we have found that the in-person connection is so important to establishing understanding, trust, and relationships (which are the cornerstone of strong coaching).  There are a few choices in how we can share this information in person with seniors:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Class Visits:</b> Visit a class that all seniors have to do a 15-20 minute onboarding presentation on Persist and become a Persist scholar post-graduation. NSCC admission counselors would be available to share information and check student's application status and needs individually.</li><li>2. <b>College &amp; Career Survival Workshop:</b> In class or lunch workshops on college and workforce survival to prepare students for success post-graduation followed by sign up for Persist and NSCC (if interested).</li><li>3. <b>Senior Assembly or Meeting:</b> 10-15 minute presentation on Persist and becoming a Persist scholar post-graduation for students to learn and sign up to start receiving texts! NSCC admission counselors would be available to share information and check student's application status and needs individually</li></ol>
5	<b>Text Coach Briana</b> December was full of engagement from students via text, so let's keep the ball rolling! In December, I worked with 535 students from nearly every MNPS school. Seniors are excited and eager to talk about college, career, and senior year, so please encourage them to text me for additional support! My number is 615-861-1674.

## February 2023

MNPS Counselors,

January flew by! This quarter is crucial for student success in the spring, so as you welcome students back today, check out the information below for upcoming events, scholarships, and resources.

I would love to get on your calendar for FAFSA support before Spring break, so please reach out to set up a date. Whether you have a few students left or a roster, I'm here to help get your FAFSA numbers to 100%!

Just let me know! Happy Black History Month!

Sincerely,

Briana, *Persist Access Coach*

1	<b>Monday Night FAFSA Webinars</b> Jason Seay is back with the Monday night webinars for your students and families who need FAFSA help. Feel free to share with families and encourage them to <a href="#">sign up here</a> . Check out <a href="#">this page</a> with Section-by-Section videos to get your students and families set!
2	<b>Ned McWherter Scholars Program</b> The McWherter application is now available through the <a href="#">TSAC Student Portal</a> . Applicants must have a 29+ ACT composite (1340+ SAT) <b>and</b> 3.5 unweighted GPA. <i>ACT superscores cannot be used for qualification</i> . Beyond completing the McWherter application, students must submit their highest ACT or SAT score and an official 7 <sup>th</sup> semester high school transcript by emailing <a href="mailto:McWherter.Info@tn.gov">McWherter.Info@tn.gov</a> or uploading to secure TN Cloud folder (password <b>McWherter2324!</b> ). Deadline for submission of all material is <b>February 15, 2023</b> .
3	<b>The Voyager Scholarship for Public Service</b> This opportunity for your juniors includes up to \$50,000 in financial aid, access to a network of working professionals, and an ongoing speaker series to expose them to new areas of service and innovations happenings in their fields, and even a 10-year travel stipend after graduation! <b>Applications close on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 at 3pm, CT</b> , so encourage them to <a href="#">find out more information here and apply now!</a>
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## January 2023

MNPS Counselors,

Welcome to Q3! I hope you all had a restful break and a wonderful holiday season.

This quarter is crucial for student success in the spring, so as you welcome students back today, check out the information below for upcoming events, scholarships, and resources.

As always, let me know how Persist Nashville can support your work. We can:

- Do a class presentation or lunch & learn
- Meet with a subgroup of students
- Support with applications, FAFSA, scholarships, event nights, etc.

Just let me know! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Briana, *Persist Access Coach*

<b>1</b>	<b>Future Fiskite + Persist Event</b> Invite seniors & their families to the Future Fiskite + Persist event on <b>Tuesday, January 17th at 5pm</b> to hear from student, faculty, and alumni speakers, grab a plate, and prepare to apply to Fisk! Each senior will get a personalized coach to help them through the enrollment process. Feel free to share the attached flyer and have students and families <a href="#">sign up here!</a>
<b>2</b>	<b>CFMT Scholarship</b> The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee General Scholarship ( <a href="#">linked here</a> ) is not due until February 1st. This is one of the best local opportunities for students, so encourage them to take advantage and apply today!
<b>3</b>	<b>APSU Scholarship</b> High school seniors have until February 1st to complete applications for the APSU Priority Scholarship ( <a href="#">linked here</a> ). Every student with a 3.0 GPA or higher who is accepted this year will receive some scholarship money from Peay. This is a change from the past. So strongly encourage your students to complete their Peay applications and apply for this scholarship.
<b>4</b>	<b>FAFSA Support for Families</b> The College for TN website is packed with easy links to share with families who still need to complete the 2023-24 FAFSA. Check out <a href="#">this page</a> with Section-by-Section videos to get your students set! Persist is also happy to provide FAFSA support at any upcoming events you might be hosting or to families who might need extra support, just reach out.
<b>5</b>	<b>Text Coach Briana</b> December was full of engagement from students via text, so let's keep the ball rolling! In December, I worked with 535 students from nearly every MNPS school. Seniors are excited and eager to talk about college, career, and senior year, so please encourage them to text me for additional support! My number is 615-861-1674.

## December 2022

MNPS Counselors,

As you all know, the final weeks of first semester are packed, but a crucial time for seniors to finish strong. Many of your students have received texts from me emphasizing the importance of FAFSA completion, scholarship searches, and applications for college before winter break. Some have even taken part in the lunch & learns to learn more about financial aid and choosing a major. Take a moment to check out the five resources below for specific ways to support your students even further.

As always, let me know how Persist Nashville can support your work. We can:

- Do a class presentation or lunch & learn
- Meet with a subgroup of students
- Support with applications, FAFSA, scholarships, event nights, etc.

Just let me know! Happy December!

Sincerely,

Briana, *Persist Access Coach*



1	<b>Scarlett Foundation &amp; CFMT Scholarships</b> The 12/15 deadline for this scholarship geared towards future business and STEM majors is quickly approaching. The application is <a href="#">linked here</a> and an easy shareable flyer for students and parents is <a href="#">linked here</a> just in case!  Also, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee <a href="#">just opened their scholarship</a> , due on Feb. 1. These are two of the best local opportunities for students, so take advantage.
2	<b>UT Promise Deadline</b> High school seniors have until December 15th to complete the UT Promise application, <a href="#">details linked here</a> . As you urge students to complete this application, feel free to use Persist. We would love to help review apps and essays with seniors.
3	<b>APSU Scholarship Deadline</b> High school seniors have until December 10th to complete applications for <a href="#">Austin Peay priority scholarship</a> . Every student with a 3.0 GPA or higher who is accepted this year will receive some scholarship money from Peay. This is a change from the past. So strongly encourage your students to complete their Peay applications and apply for this scholarship.
4	<b>FAFSA Mondays with Jason Seay</b> For your students and families who need FAFSA help, the wonderful Jason Seay is hosting live 2023-24 FAFSA walkthroughs at 6:00 p.m. CT on 12/5 <a href="#">linked here</a> and 12/12 <a href="#">linked here</a> . He also has this 2023-24 FAFSA Section-by-Section Videos have been recorded ( <a href="#">linked here</a> ) for parents/families who can't make the webinar.
5	<b>Text Coach Briana</b> As of December first, I have texted 1,492 of our seniors who asked to be reached out to and already engaged in meaningful conversations with over 446 students. Seniors are excited and eager to talk about college, career, and senior year, so please encourage them to text me for additional support! My number is 615-861-1674.

## November 2022

MNPS Counselors,

As we begin November, FAFSA season is in full swing and college applications are flowing. I know our calendars are full of events and meetings with students, parents, and families, but take a moment to check out the five resources below to make this month a success.

As always, let me know how Persist Nashville can support your work. We can:

- Do a class presentation
- Meet with a subgroup of students
- Support with applications, FAFSA, scholarships, etc.

Just let me know! Happy November!

Sincerely,

Briana, Persist Access Coach

1	<b>Schools That Meet The Full Need:</b> Check out <a href="#">this list</a> of colleges that have a stated commitment to provide all admitted US citizens and US permanent residents with a financial aid package that covers 100% of their calculated financial need. The colleges that cover all demonstrated need for undocumented and DACA students are included as well.
2	<b>College Essay Videos:</b> It's college essay season and students have tons of questions. <a href="#">This video from Princeton Review</a> and <a href="#">this video from College Essay Guy</a> review common mistakes students make and provide quick tips on writing strong essays and personal statements, both serving as great resources to share with your seniors!
3	<b>Make the FAFSA Simple:</b> FAFSA season is in full swing! Use <a href="#">this 3-step guide</a> to completing the FAFSA from CollegeforTN to make the process smoother for students, parents, and families at your next event or meeting.
4	<b>Lifestyle Calculator:</b> For more complex questions about money for college, check this <a href="#">Lifestyle Calculator</a> from CollegeforTN. This exercise sets students and families up for long-term success by walking them through the true cost of the lifestyle they want and just how much they'll need to earn to afford it.
5	<b>PathtoCollegeTN:</b> Sign up for the Path to College Newsletter <a href="#">here</a> so you don't miss upcoming events and resources like November's workshop on advocacy!

## October 2022

MNPS Counselors,

We are officially in application season, so this next month is sure to be filled with more college visits, FAFSA nights, lunch & learns, and transcript requests than we can count. Please check out the five resources below that will help your teachers, students, and families make this month a success.

As always, let me know how Persist Nashville can support your work. We can:

- Do a class presentation
- Meet with a subgroup of students
- Support in Applications/TN Promise, FAFSA

Just let me know! Welcome to October!

Sincerely,

Briana, Persist Access Coach

1	<b>FAFSA: <a href="#">College for TN Resources</a></b> If you're looking for a student-friendly page to explain financial aid options for a variety of post-secondary choices, bookmark this page! Featuring a link to the FAFSA application and the TSAC portal, this site will help you and students understand and navigate financial aid options throughout the college application process this semester. There's also a page dedicated to busting common financial aid myths <a href="#">linked here</a> .
2	<b>Get Started Applying: <a href="#">College Application Video Toolkit &amp; Fee Waivers</a></b> The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) partnered with Tennessee higher education institutions to provide college application instructional videos. While most of the fee waiver deadlines have passed, the video links walk students step-by-step through each college's application process and the application links take you to the college's admissions application or website.
3	<b>Student Guides: <a href="#">The Next Guides</a></b> Designed for high school students across the state of Tennessee, the Next Guides are a resource to help students and families prepare for what's next after high school graduation. The grade-specific booklets lead students and families to dream, explore, plan, and assess their next steps while keeping track of deadlines, application information, and recommendation letters throughout the year. The 12th grade and family guides also come in Spanish!
4	<b>Recommendation Letters</b> Recommendation letters are so important to get right. Below is a powerpoint to help counselors write and ensure teachers are writing the best recommendation letters possible for students. Click the link below to review. - <a href="#">Path to College training presentation</a>
5	<b>Scholarships</b> Check the list below for some local and national scholarship your students may be eligible for. - <a href="#">Diversity in Tech Scholarship for BIPOC - 10/10 Deadline</a> - <a href="#">Thurgood Marshall College Fund</a> - <a href="#">Shawn Carter Scholarship Fund</a> - <a href="#">Brown &amp; Caldwell Minority Scholarship</a> - <a href="#">A reminder about the Bell Tower Scholarship Deadlines (timelines/checklist)</a>