Before you start the **2015-2016 FAFSA**, please gather the information below which is needed to complete the FAFSA!

- **Name and Social Security Information. NO nicknames** — use name as printed on Social Security Card. If parents do not have a Social Security Number, use 000-00-0000. Make sure you include your SSN on your Butte College application or we will not receive your FAFSA.
- **Your driver’s license number** if you have one
- **Your Alien Registration Number** if you are not a U.S. citizen. If you are an undocumented noncitizen, or a student who has completed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process and has been given a Social Security Number, you may be considered for California state aid-only. Do not complete the FAFSA. Please use the California Dream Act Application instead.
- **2014 Federal tax information or tax returns including IRS W-2 information, for you and parents (or spouse) as applicable.**
  - If you have not yet filed an income tax return, complete and submit the FAFSA using estimated tax information or use the 2013 tax information. Once you or parents have filed 2014 taxes, you will need to make corrections on your 2015-2016 FAFSA.
- **Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, veterans non-education benefits, etc. for you, and for your parents (or spouse).**
- **Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including real estate but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents (or spouse), as applicable.**

### THE MOST COMMON ERRORS!

- **LEGAL NAME:** Make sure you list your name on the FAFSA exactly as it is listed on your Social Security Card. Students who list nicknames on their FAFSA will have processing problems.
- **FAFSA Legal Guardianship Question:** “As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?” Many students incorrectly answer “yes” here. For this question, the definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardian. You are also not considered a legal guardian of yourself.
- **FAFSA Income Tax Question:** Income tax is not the same as income. It is the amount of tax paid on your income earned from work. Your income tax amount should not be the same as your adjusted gross income (AGI). Where you find the amount of your income tax depends on which IRS form you filed. Read FAFSA “Help and Hints” located on the right side of the online FAFSA.
- **Parent Info:** If parents are divorced/separated, use income of parent with whom the student lives most of the time. If parent is remarried, you must include stepparent information and income. If your parents are not married but live together, you will have to provided both parents’ information and incomes.
- **FSA ID (FAFSA FEDERAL PIN):** When completing the online FAFSA, it is important to make sure to apply FSA ID (previously known as the PIN). Currently you can go to the PIN website @ www.pin.ed.gov to apply but starting in January it will change. Please refer to FAFSA instructions at that time. You will need to apply for a FSA ID for yourself and one for your parent. Your FSA ID PIN is your electronic signature. When possible try to avoid submitting your FAFSA without your FSA ID. If necessary, you can also print the signature page, sign it, and send it in. (Takes longer to process).
- **Am I a Dependent or Independent?** If you are not sure whether you will need to put your parents’ information on the FAFSA, check out “Independent or Dependent Status” on the Butte College Financial Aid webpage (http://www.butte.edu/financialaid/) under the “Apply Here” tab.