Have you seen the new Butte College Financial Aid website? It’s redesigned and better than ever! After nearly a year of research and development, our office launched the “new” Financial Aid website in early August. Our objective for redesigning our site was to create a presence on the web that is user friendly, informative, and accessible to all.

We believe our office is part of the entire educational process at Butte, and we attempt to teach students and their families about funding higher education. We have collected popular Financial Aid videos and tutorials to answer some of the most common questions we receive at the office. Students can get the most up-to-date information by checking our announcements and by following our Facebook Feed both located on the homepage.

Recognizing that our services are important to parents and High School counselors, we created webpages just for you! Located at the bottom of the home page, “High School Counselors Corner” features information that we feel is important for you to know! This includes: Updates regarding financial aid policy and procedures, electronic copies of our newsletters, and contact information for Financial Aid specialists in our office.

Our office understands that the transition to college can be stressful for parents. So in addition to the Counselor Corner, we have provided parents with an information page of their own. “Info for Parents” specifically addresses the basics in the Financial Aid process, some of the most confusing aspects of financial aid, as well as the policies regarding releasing confidential information.

Visit our beautiful new pages at: www.butte.edu/financialaid

Let us know what you think!

The Butte Foundation has been working hard to ease the scholarship application process for our students.

The newest feature to their website is a student scholarship account. It allows students to upload their letters of recommendations, statement of candidacy, and a generalized scholarship application to their account profile. A student may browse through the newly organized scholarships board and apply for as many as their hearts desire. The list is updated year-round and students should check back often!

Don’t have enough time to fill out the generalized scholarship application in one sitting? No problem! The student scholarship account allows students to save their place and return to the application at another time. This new straightforward method give student’s access to and information about scholarships they may have not otherwise had.

The student scholarship account can be accessed by students by visiting www.buttefoundation.org and clicking on “Scholarships” located in the navigation menu on the left-hand side.
The state of California has recognized the importance of the role Community Colleges play in students’ higher education. The Student Success Task Force has been created to formulate, create, and initiate recommendations aimed at improving the educational outcomes and the workforce preparedness of our students. By assisting students to create and set educational goals, and document the path and progression of these goals, students are given the tools and structure to build their education. This initiative works in hand with the recent financial aid eligibility regulations set in motion by the Department of Education. Along with setting limits on Pell Grant eligibility in 2012 (refer to our first newsletter, archived in High School Counselors Corner), the Department of Education has now implemented limitations to the Stafford Student Loan. Starting July 2013 all new borrowers are subject to the new loan eligibility components. The maximum time to receive loans is based on the length of the academic program in which the student is enrolled.

For our loan program, we have implemented a series of online steps which borrowers are required to complete when applying for a student loan. These online steps require students to think strategically when planning their education and borrowing money for it.

Students who create an Education Plan with an academic counselor within the first year of their attendance are better prepared to follow their path and budget educational expenses. Higher ed research also shows that students with viable educational plans are more likely to persist to the 2nd year.

Young people today don’t know how to turn off their phones, Facebook accounts, or iPods. Life without constant connection is a life unknown to anyone born after 1990.

Our office has recognized that our students prefer to get information on their handheld devices. Therefore, we are embracing social media and have tried to connect with students within their comfort zones.

The Butte College Financial Aid Office regularly posts on Facebook. Those who “Like” us receive alerts about the most up-to-date and relevant information available regarding disbursements, policy changes, or upcoming outreach events.

Students also have the opportunity to sign up for text alerts when their financial aid is disbursed to their account. This feature is available through our financial aid third-party distributor, Higher One.

We will continue to listen to the recommendations from students for the best means to connect with them.

We are in the process of creating a Twitter account!

As football games, prom, and graduation preoccupy students’ minds, Reg-2-Go Orientation can appear to be just another cool activity in their senior experience.

It’s important to remember that at the end of the day, Reg-2-Go is about the business of going to college.

Emphasize to students:

Incoming students are expected to know their Butte ID number and Butte College email address. Students are required to carry identification with them at all times. Students who do not have a state-issued photo ID can get a student ID card when they start school in the fall semester. Student IDs are available to all students, and the cost of the ID is included in their student fees.

The college has policies to maintain students’ privacy, to keep individuals’ information safe, and to ensure Butte College resources are utilized by Butte College students. Many of the offices and services on campus require students to provide photo ID when utilizing these resources. Assessment testing, checking out books from the Butte College library, and access to information regarding their financial aid. REQUIRES a photo ID.