

**SCARLETT FAMILY FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER***PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE STUDENTS OF ALL AGES***Summer
Melt****Revisited****A Unique
Perspective,
and an
Opportunity...**

In our previous newsletter ([April 2014 NL #7](#)), we referred to an NPR news story from last summer called "[Why Poor Students' College Plans 'Melt' Over The Summer](#)." We also highlighted a valuable resource offered by the Harvard University Center for Education Policy Research (the [Strategic Data Project Summer Melt Handbook: A Guide to Investigating and Responding to Summer Melt](#)).

We talked about Summer Melt and what it meant for low-income and minority students, specifically, those who are qualified, have been accepted, who have committed to attending college, and may even have been granted financial aid. During the summer before registration, many of these upcoming freshmen are confronted with lots of reasons NOT to go, get discouraged, and just don't show up.

This month we wanted to touch on another perspective. When Summer Melt takes its toll on qualified students who have secured financial aid, other qualified students who follow through and register could stand to benefit.

For many applicants, securing college funding is a game of numbers where grades, test scores, extracurricular activities, athletic abilities, and socio-economic factors can mean the difference between going to school or not. And the cost of a college education has grown at an alarming rate—check out the recent piece by Paul Caron, [Rising College Costs, Politics, and Tax Reform](#)—so every dollar counts.

This "flip-side" is something Kathryn Knight Randolph, writing for [fastweb.com](#), talks about in her article [Summer Melt: The Financial Aid Secret that Can Earn You Big Bucks](#). She points out that while Summer Melt means some potential college students—qualified, committed, and funded—get discouraged and bail, many more could capitalize on that unfortunate choice and go on to fulfill their own college and career dreams.

June Checklist for Soon-To-Be College Freshman

Here are the top 10 things you should do

It's June, which means that school is finally out for the summer! If it's not yet, it will be very soon.

Now that you're no longer in high school but not yet in college, we know that the excitement of your freshman year is greater than ever before.

As a soon-to-be college freshman, the rest of the summer is going to be an exciting time! It's your last summer at home with all of your high school friends and you've got a lot of arrangements to make, whether you're staying local or traveling far for school.

[The Top 10 things you need to do!](#) (from FastWeb)

5 reasons the college student loan debt crisis could top subprime mortgages

Avoid student loans entirely: aggressively search for scholarships!

As the U.S. higher ed student loan debt continues its ascent, more warnings are sounding about the consequences.

Student debt currently amounts to \$1.08 trillion owed by nearly 37 million borrowers. Richard Cordray, president of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, has warned that the student loan problem is comparable to the home mortgage market prior to the Great Recession that began in 2008.

Could the economic impact of the student debt crisis one day match (or even exceed) the credit crunch created by subprime mortgages? [Here are five reasons for concern.](#)

**Featured
Resource**

There's something special about being first...

...especially being the first in your family to attend and graduate from college. [I'm First](#) is an online community for first-generation college students and their supporters. Hear inspiring stories and share your own, discover colleges that care about first-gen students, find answers to your questions about college, and receive guidance on the road to and through college.

**Guidance Counselors -
Tips for Preventing
Summer Melt**

(from [uAspire.org](#))

A great way to help 2014 high school graduates is to implement a personalized student outreach for those most at risk of not moving on to college this fall.

1. Check-in using email, phone, text, or social media.
2. Ask questions about any paperwork they need to complete, such as financial aid forms, or any other required follow up.

For rising 2015 high school seniors, create a peer mentor model.

1. Recruit current college students and ask them to engage with your high school seniors and share their freshman year experiences.
2. Coach your mentors to ask questions about schools of interest, school size, geography, how they intend to pay for school and whether they have started searching for scholarships.

Spring Deadlines

ACT: Register by September 13th for the August 8th test.

SAT: Expected test date is October 11th.

Our Newsletter Archives

Check out previous newsletters.

