



# CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

JANUARY 2019

## WELCOME TO 2019

And so begins the start of another year. I am always amazed at how quickly the New Year comes around and every year it seems to present a little shock to the system. It is a great time to slow down and refocus. It is the time of the year that reminds me what my priorities are at work and home, which I am sure rings true with many of you reading this.

My priorities at school remain student-centered. In each decision I make, lesson I plan, and student I meet with, what is best for the individual student is always a constant in my mind. As the economy and job market continue to shift, it is as important as ever for all students to leave high school with a plan to obtain some kind of further education and skillset post high school. Students have a plethora of options after high school and it is critical to explore the pros and cons of each option. The 4-year college or university path is not a one-size-fits-all plan and it is critical that students examine what will be the best fit for them individually. I am ready to meet students where they are at and work with them to create and implement a plan and am here to help in all areas of post-secondary planning.

So, as we move into 2019, I am genuinely looking forward to continuing to build relationships, work with, and support Simley students to the best of my ability! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as we move forward!

All the best,  
Megan Kimble  
*Licensed School Counselor*  
*Simley High School College and Career Counselor*



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## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN



Each month, I put together a scholarship bulletin that includes around a dozen highlighted scholarship opportunities. Anything that comes to us locally is included in this bulletin, as well as some national scholarships. Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help pay for college. Typically, the more local the scholarship, the higher the likelihood of receiving a scholarship,

so students are highly encouraged to focus on regional opportunities. On that note, please keep in mind that the Inver Grove Heights BEST Foundation scholarship application will open next month, which provides scholarships for only Simley students. Please watch for more information on this excellent opportunity in the coming weeks! While most scholarships tend to be geared for seniors, there are sometimes a few for underclassmen. **The bulletin can be picked up in Ms.**

**Kimble's office or can be found on the Simley College and Career website under the *Financing Your Education* tab.**

*Simley High School Career Center*

## SENIORS- COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA



Reminder to seniors to make sure you have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), if you have not already done so. This is the one application required to be considered for any state or federal loans, grants, or work study. To get started, the student and one parent must create an FSA ID ([www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov)). Once created, the application can be completed at: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Please note, once your FAFSA has been submitted, you will receive a Student Aid Report via email within a few days. This is simply a summary of your application but should be reviewed for accuracy. From there, the next piece of information you can expect to receive is the student financial aid award letter directly from the college(s) that was provided on the application. Schools will typically put an award letter together after a student has been admitted. Students are encouraged to compare financial aid award letters before making a final decision on which school to commit to.

## STUDENTS SHOULD PICK UP THEIR PSAT SCORE REPORTS



Students who took the PSAT and were unable to attend the interpretation session in December should see Ms. Kimble to pick up their score report and test booklet. Students should also create their College Board account, if they have not done so already. Here, they will be able to access more in depth interpretation material as well as next steps. Students taking AP courses will use this same account to check and later send their AP scores to colleges. This account can be created by visiting: [www.psat.org/myscore](http://www.psat.org/myscore).

## POWER OF YOU AT ST. PAUL COLLEGE

The Power of YOU is a program that makes college available tuition-free. It covers the cost tuition and fees for two years at Saint Paul College through state and federal grants and private scholarships. Students participating in the program also receive additional academic support and opportunities as they move through their two years at St. Paul College.

The program is only available to students graduating from St. Paul and Minneapolis public high schools or specific suburban high schools, which includes Simley High School! Students must also qualify for federal financial aid, have a combined parent and student adjusted gross income less than \$75,000, and satisfy college admission requirements. Students interested in pursuing the program should first complete the St. Paul College application and then also complete the Power of YOU application, both of which can be found on the St. Paul College website.



Students can see Ms. Kimble in the Student Center for more information. There will also be a parent and student Power of YOU information session & FAFSA workshop held at the college on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Families can learn about the program over dinner followed by a financial aid workshop. Those interested can RSVP here:

<https://saintpaul.askadmissions.net/Portal/EI/Registration?gid=6235772328aa5f0ef44bada8d69d88e4530ee4>

## TUTORING AT SIMLEY

If you haven't heard, we have some exciting tutoring opportunities happening at Simley. We continue to expand our Peer Tutoring program, where students can receive academic help from an upperclassman. In addition, there are 5 hours throughout the day when math teachers are available for drop-in help for any student. This is an amazing opportunity to receive small group or 1:1 math help from the people who know the material the best!

Students interested in taking advantage of the math lab should talk to their current math teacher for a pass. Those interested in peer tutoring should see Ms. Kimble or their counselor. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent opportunity!

## JUNIOR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

### ALL JUNIORS WILL BE MEETING WITH MS. KIMBLE

Starting Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, students will be meeting with Ms. Kimble in small groups of 8-10 students each. In these important meetings, students will learn about all of their post-secondary options, college admission requirements, entrance testing, financial aid, and more. In addition, we will go over what students should be doing now and they will also be provided with a planning timeline. Students will be given a plethora of materials to take with them so be sure to ask that they share all of the information with you!

This is an extremely important time in the post-secondary planning process and I am so excited to be able to offer these meetings to students. If you are wondering what your junior student should be doing now to stay on track with post-secondary planning please refer to the handy list below.

- ✓ Research and explore your post-secondary options
  - Remember, it doesn't matter which path you choose but everyone needs some kind of further education, training, or skillset for their future!
- ✓ Make your long list of college and university options
  - Students should having a range of schools they are considering- a reach, a match, and a safety are recommended.
- ✓ Consider what factors are important to you in a college
  - 2-year vs. 4-year
  - Public vs. private
  - Cost and financial aid package
  - Size (small vs. medium vs. large)
  - Setting (urban vs. suburban vs. rural)
  - Distance from home
  - Specific programs of study
  - Extracurricular or athletics
  - Special services
- ✓ Attend college representative visits at Simley- visits will pick-up again in the spring- take advantage of this great learning opportunity!
- ✓ Visit campus! One of the best ways to figure out if a college is going to be a good fit is by setting foot on campus and exploring all that they have to offer.
- ✓ Plan your testing calendar.
  - You will need to take the ASVAB if you plan on going into the military. Work with a recruiter to set this up.
  - Everyone will take the ACT with writing in April (for free!) at Simley.
  - Remember that even if you plan to attend a technical or community college they can use your ACT scores to make sure you are college-ready, so always do the best you can!
  - Most students will take the ACT 2 or 3 times. Every college will always take your highest score.
  - The ACT is now offered 7 times a year. Go to: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for more info and to register.
  - If you plan on taking the SAT, check out [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) for testing dates.
- ✓ Registration for senior year happens in February. Work with your family and counselor to plan a rigorous senior year schedule.
- ✓ Start applying for scholarships and learn about loans, grants, and other funding available to help pay for college.



# TRENDING CAREERS

## PARALEGALS AND LEGAL ASSISTANTS



### What Paralegals Do

*Paralegals research and investigate facts for lawyers.*

Paralegals help lawyers manage their caseloads. They are often called legal assistants. They do almost everything that lawyers do, except give legal advice or present cases in court. They help lawyers prepare for hearings, trials, and corporate meetings. *They maintain and organize files, conduct legal research, and draft documents.*

Paralegals prepare and organize the information they collect. They write rough summaries and arguments for lawyers to review. They prepare legal documents such as briefs and pleadings. They file pleadings with court clerks. They may send requests to witnesses so they will testify at hearings.

### Work Environment

The majority of paralegals and legal assistants work in law offices. Most have a set schedule and work full time.

### How to Become a Paralegal or Legal Assistant

There are several paths a person can take to become a paralegal. A common path is for candidates to earn an associate's degree in paralegal studies from a postsecondary institution.

However, many employers may prefer, or even require, applicants to have a bachelor's degree. Because only a small number of schools offer bachelor's degrees in paralegal studies, applicants will typically have a bachelor's degree in another subject and earn a certificate in paralegal studies from a paralegal education program approved by the American Bar Association.

Associate's and bachelor's degree programs in legal or paralegal studies usually offer paralegal training courses in legal research, legal writing, and the legal applications of computers, along with courses in other academic subjects, such as corporate law and international law. Most certificate programs provide intensive paralegal training for people who already hold college degrees.

### Local Colleges Offering Paralegal Studies

- Alexandria Technical and Community College - AAS Associate of Applied Science
- Hamline University - Certificate, Graduate Certificate
- Inver Hills Community College - Certificate, AS Associate in Science
- Lake Superior College - Certificate, AAS Associate of Applied Science, AS Associate in Science
- Minnesota State University, Moorhead - BS Bachelor of Science
- North Hennepin Community College - Certificate, AS Associate in Science
- St. Cloud Technical & Community College - AS Associate in Science
- Winona State University - BS Bachelor of Science

### Salary

The median annual wage for paralegals and legal assistants was \$50,410 in May 2017.

### Job Outlook

Employment of paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow 15 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.



## COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

### COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT/ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

*Distinctly Separate. Uniquely Together.*

[www.twocolleges.com](http://www.twocolleges.com)

College of St. Ben's and St. John's University each have proud histories and strong traditions of over 100 years. CSB (for women) and SJU (for men) share a partnership unlike any in higher education, committed to the development of the whole person—meeting the unique needs of both women and men in single-gender and coeducational experiences. CSB and SJU share a combined curriculum, with students taking classes together on both campuses. By combining academically, these two small colleges create one of the nation's largest liberal arts schools. It's a seamless and powerful connection that allows students at both colleges access to the resources and amenities of two colleges.



#### **Student demographics:**

3,657 undergraduate students

39 U.S. states represented with 21% of students coming from outside of MN

17% students of color

55% of students are Catholic (all faiths welcome)

**Tuition (2019-2020):** \$46,848 + \$11,176 (room and board) + \$1,000 (books) = \$59,024 (total cost of attendance)

**Degrees offered:** Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral

**Retention rate:** 88% of students return to CSB/SJU for their sophomore year.

**Graduation rate:** 90% of graduates earn a degree within 4 years.

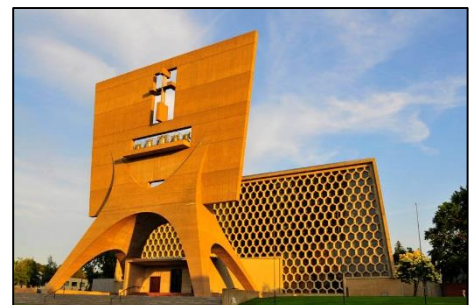
**Room & Board:** CSB/SJU is a residential campus, meaning students are required to live on-campus all four years. First year students all live in the dorms and then living becomes more independent as you become an upperclassman, with apartment and house options.

**Admissions:** Average ACT score of incoming freshmen class is 23-28 and average GPA is 3.34-3.9.

**Financial Aid:** More than 95% of CSB/SJU students receive assistance in financing their education. Financial comes in two forms: merit scholarships and need-based aid.

**Academic Programs:** CSB/SJU offers 60 areas of study and 37 majors. Every Bennie and Johnnie takes on an experiential learning component while attending—study abroad, internship, service learning, or scientific research. There is always a focus on global perspective and learning outside of the classroom. Average class size is 19 students and there is a 12:1 student to faculty ratio.

**Campus Life:** CSB/SJU offers 23 NCAA DIII athletic teams. In addition, they offer club and intramural opportunities. With 3,000 acres to explore, the Outdoor Leadership Center offers great opportunities to get out and be active. Students can rent all the gear they need right from the office. Over 100 clubs and organizations are available for any student to join, so it is easy to get involved and connected on campus.



## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- ✓ **January, 2019:** All juniors will meet with Ms. Kimble in the Career Center via small group meetings to talk about post-secondary planning.
- ✓ **January 30, 2019:** Parent and Student Power of YOU information session and FAFSA workshop at St. Paul College. Dinner provided. Starts at 6:00 PM.
- ✓ **February, 2018:** Registration for the 2019-2020 school year takes place.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### COLLEGE TRIVIA:

Of the 1,914,817 ACT test takers for the class of 2018, what percentage received a perfect composite score of 36?

- a. .195%
- b. .783%
- c. 1.4%
- d. 2.1%

**Check out the answer in next month's issue of Career Center Connection!**

#### ***Last Month's Answer:***

This was the first US College to grant degrees to women:

**Mount Holyoke College**  
(South Hadley, MA est. 1837)