



CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
KELLI LINVILLE

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the Bellingham Public Schools is one of 20 school districts across the country selected by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Project to raise awareness among Bellingham's students about college financing options and to increase the completion rate of applicants who fill out the FAFSA;

**WHEREAS** the City supports the efforts of Bellingham Public Schools and many others to connect residents with valuable resources that will help them fill out the FAFSA forms and reach their college attainment goals;

**WHEREAS** education leaders have seen in an increase in the number of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from 36% to 44% in the first year of the project, and wish to continue with that upward momentum;

**WHEREAS** 90% of students who complete a FAFSA with an Estimated Family Contribution will enroll in post-secondary education within 12 months of filing it;

**WHEREAS** the City applauds efforts by various agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, Bellingham Public Schools, Western Washington University, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Alliance for College Access, Advocates for Multicultural Student Achievement, Bellingham Schools Foundation, and NELA Center for Student Success, to host three citywide FAFSA Completion workshops in January to assist high school senior students who apply for federal financial aid;

**WHEREAS** the Class of 2012 College Bound Scholars program, which promises tuition and a small book allowance for income eligible students to choose a path that will lead to educational success after high school, requires students to file the FAFSA by February 1, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE, DO I** Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim January, 2012 to be

**“FAFSA COMPLETION MONTH”**

in the City of Bellingham.



Signed this 1st day of January, 2012

Kelli Linville, Mayor  
City of Bellingham