



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWENTY THOUSAND WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
INVITED TO COLLEGE FUNDING EXPO**

**PHOENIX, Ariz. – September 16, 2003**-The Community Church of Joy will be hosting a College Funding Expo on Monday, September 29, 2003 at 7 p.m. The College Funding Expo is a free workshop for West Valley high school students and their parents -- a step by step process on how to prepare and pay for college.

The College Funding Expo will feature a “Financial Aid 101” seminar. The information includes:

- How to find and apply for scholarships and grants
- What steps to take to qualify for no-cost and low-cost federal aid
- Dispelling the myths about financial aid and college funding
- Important dates and key financial terms every college-bound student should know

Often, students and parents miss both important forms and deadline dates because the process can seem overwhelming and, sometimes, intimidating. However, if parents and students prepare ahead of time, and get information before the application process starts, they are in many ways, ahead of the game.

“Filling out the necessary paperwork and submitting it as soon as possible is key for federal aid, as the department of education works on a first come, first serve basis,” said Mary Jo Lambert, senior vice president of educational lending for NextStudent. She continued, “Many students and parents miss this important point, which is often the difference between getting a federal student loan at a low interest rate and the alternative of having to scramble to figure out how to pay tuition and other costs.”

NextStudent, a federally authorized lender and a co-sponsor, will also be on hand to provide information about how to search and apply for grants and scholarships – money you don’t have to pay back. Additionally, information about about low-cost federal loans will also be available.

**About Community Church of Joy**

Community Church of Joy focuses on reaching out to the community with programs such as their pre-school, grade school (K-8), children's church, teen ministry, and over 30 support groups for members. Their membership is 10,000 strong and growing, with a philosophy of "all are welcome." For more information on the Community Church of Joy, visit their web site at [www.joyonline.org](http://www.joyonline.org).

**About NextStudent**

NextStudent is dedicated to helping students and their families find affordable ways to pay for college. NextStudent has a portfolio of education lending products and services including a scholarship search engine, low and no-cost federal student loans, parent loans, private and consolidation loans and college savings plans. For more information on NextStudent, visit their web site at [www.nextstudent.com](http://www.nextstudent.com).

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