

## **The Planning Phase**

- 1. Determine Reasonable Parent Borrowing**
- 2. Determine Your Affordability Threshold**
- 3. Learn Your EFC number (fafsa4caster); test score; GPA**
- 4. Understand College Categories**
  - Flagship State Schools (in and out of state)**
  - Non-flagship State Schools (in and out of state)**
  - Highly Selective Privates**
  - Mid-Size Privates**
  - Traditional Privates**
  - Commuter options (back up)**
  - Community College (back up)**
- 5. Pick colleges in each category; use their net price calculators; compare the net price results**
- 6. Establish your:**
  - Financial reach schools**
  - Financial fit schools**
  - Financial back up schools**

