Hi, I’m Meredith Beeman, Director of Financial Aid at Pamlico Community College and I’m here today to share a bit about financial aid with you.

Financial aid offers the opportunity for students who need financial assistance to reach their educational goals. It is administered by the Financial Aid Office located in Student Services and offers a comprehensive program including grants, scholarships, and VA Education benefits. Pamlico Community College does not participate in the Federal Student Loan Program, so your award package here will not include loans.

Grants are funds that do not have to be paid back and are administered on the federal and state level. Federal grants that students may receive include the Pell Grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and work-study. State grants include the North Carolina Community College Grant, the North Carolina Education Lottery Scholarship, the Less-than-Half-Time Targeted Assistance Grant, and the North Carolina Childcare Grant.

Scholarships, like grants, are also funds that don’t have to be paid back. Our scholarships are funded by many different sources and a separate application is required for students to be eligible for consideration.

VA Education benefits can be used to take courses in eligible programs at Pamlico Community College. If you are a Veteran covered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation, or if you are the spouse or dependent child of a veteran who is receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer benefits or the Dependent’s Education benefit, then you can stop by the Financial Aid Office to discuss your options. We can also assist students who are enrolled in MyCAA and VA Tuition Assistance programs.

To be eligible for federal or state grant money, as well as any institutional scholarships, you must complete the FAFSA, to see if you meet the basic eligibility requirements determined by the US Department of Education. The FAFSA for each upcoming school year opens on October 1st and you must complete a FAFSA every year to see if you retain your financial aid eligibility. To complete a FAFSA, you would go to the website, fafsa.ed.gov, and fill out the form for the aid year in which you are seeking assistance. You will also have to create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) to electronically sign your FAFSA. You can do this by going to fsaid.ed.gov and completing the form to enroll. Once you have your FSA ID, you will need to use it each year to sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, your parent will need to have an FSA ID as well. Completing the FAFSA can be a simple process, but, if you need assistance, you can contact the Financial Aid Office to make an appointment.

Once your FAFSA is complete and has been processed by the Department of Ed, the schools you listed will contact you. This contact may be in the form of an award letter or a request for additional documentation called verification. DO NOT ignore any request made by any school for verification information as your final eligibility cannot be determined until all of that paperwork is received and processed by the Financial Aid Office.

For additional information about Financial Aid here, please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office by calling 252-249-1851 extension 3026.

I hope to see you on campus soon! Don’t forget, my door is always open if you have questions.