



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: My College Planning
John J. Ruman, Vice President
315-440-0068 or Jjruman@mycollegeplanning.com**

How to Send Your Children to College Without Going Broke

In today's competitive work environment, a college degree is more important than ever before. If you're a parent you probably realize the cost of a college education now far exceeds the cost of the living. A single year of tuition and expenses at some institutions now costs more than \$40,000. Tuition for state colleges is rising at a higher rate than that of private institutions. Since many of us tend to live above our means, paying cash for four years of college per child is not an option.

Financial experts say with a little knowledge and a lot of planning, just about any family can prepare for college without going broke. The key is to start early and plan for you and your children's future. If your child is already in college or close to attending, there are still ways you can minimize your financial burden. So what should you do to prepare for your upcoming financial challenges?

Michael Zoli is president of My College Planning. He says most parents are probably unaware of the many solutions available to minimize their out-of-pocket college costs. "There are several practical and effective measures for parents to save money and increase their children's eligibility for financial aid, grants and scholarships. There are several tax benefits they can tap into as well. All of those things can reduce the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which is usually a small fortune." said Zoli.

Zoli and his partner John Ruman, are certified college planning specialists and will host a two free seminars on college planning in June. They will speak about several money saving measures that will allow students to attend the college of their choice.

Parents of college-bound students should attend because:

- State schools' costs are increasing 8-12% and private schools increasing 6-8% annually respectively.
- There are more students graduating high school and going into college than any time in history. This means it's becoming a challenge to get accepted at the college of your choice and a greater challenge to get through the process.
- The average cost of attending a state (public) university is \$15,000.
- The average cost of attending a private university is \$30,000.
- Marketing student athletes can help them get financial assistance from schools.
- In 2006, Federal student loan interest rates will rise to their highest rate ever and remain fixed.

Dates: Tues., 6/28 @ 6:30pm at East Syracuse Free Library
Weds., 6/29 @ 6:30pm at Manlius Public Library

For more information call: 315.440.0068 or visit www.mycollegeplanning.com

www.MyCollegePlanning.com