

## **Alternative Loans**

The Henry Ford Community College Office of Financial Aid supports the **College Loan Code of Conduct**. We are committed to providing our students and parents with unbiased loan and financial information. We do not encourage students to borrow more than is absolutely necessary during an academic year. On a regular basis, students should be monitoring their total indebtedness and how that translates to a monthly payment once repayment begins.

If you are thinking about attending college, think **Federal Aid First!!!** Federal loans usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources.

However, there are times when the Federal Loan Program requirements and annual/aggregate limits do not allow students to borrow enough funding to meet the “cost of attendance.” In these instances, students may want to consider alternative loans as an option to meet their needs.

Alternative loans are offered by banks or lending institutions to assist students and/or parents in bridging the gap between college costs and traditional funding sources. The terms and conditions of these loans can vary depending on specific lender guidelines. We strongly recommend that students research alternative loan programs carefully before beginning the application process to insure that they understand the eligibility requirements, interest rates, loan fees, grace/repayment periods and terms, as well as any borrower benefits. Students may research alternative loan opportunities online by performing a general search via their web browser.