A Note About Community Colleges

Many community colleges, **including Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC)**, are not on the list of Smart Option Student Loan eligible schools. The reason is that Sallie Mae requires each school to certify the loans and, for a variety of reasons, SVCC, along with many similar schools, no longer certify student loans of any type.

To those of you wishing to attend SVCC or any other non-eligible school, we suggest the following:

- First, contact the school's financial aid office and inquire about possible help through grants, gift aid, and scholarships. The numbers for SVCC are:
    - Alberta campus: 434-949-1094
    - Keysville campus: 434-736-2091
- After determining the amount of free money you may have access to, contact the Benchmark branch nearest you and make an appointment with a relationship banker. We will go over your situation with you and help you determine if another type of loan is possible.