

Mustang Spirit

Hear our voice.

February, 2022

Debate Wins Again Making FAFSA Mandatory

By Tyler Kent
Staff Writer

Thanks to senior Qurat-Ul-Ain Farooq (Ani) and junior Nneoma Olumba, all seniors may have to apply for their FAFSA in order to graduate.

The new bill, which they wrote as part of the Democracy in Action competition, was presented to Florida officials in the hopes that it will become a law. It makes FAFSA applications mandatory. Seniors



who don't want to apply can choose to opt out. Making the FAFSA applications mandatory means more and more students could get grants and funds for further education.

"We saw that not enough kids were applying, and we understand how expensive college and further education can get. But, there's FAFSA money being left over and not used by students. We want these students to take advantage," said Ani.

The bill will make college more readily available to those who thought they could never make it there. This is an important and beneficial bill that will impact the lives of many students.

"People have the option to opt out of applying if they don't see fit but requiring it to graduate is making the numbers for FAFSA increase. All the other states who made FAFSA mandatory as well, have seen a huge skyrocket in their

numbers," said Nneoma.



Financial help is always an issue for college kids, housing is an even bigger stressor. FAFSA has all the best options.

"Balancing college, social status, and bills is already enough on any young adult's plate, let alone trying to find suitable and cheap housing. FAFSA allows scholarships, grants, housing options, and so much more," said Ani.

This is the second win for debate students. In their first bill,

they had the suicide prevention hotline numbers printed on the back of student identification cards.

"It feels good winning two years in a row, I definitely feel good about myself and that we're bringing changes to students around us. The previous legislature that was passed was also useful and important to students, so it feels good to know I am making a difference in my school's community," said Annie.

"This is actually my first year winning and I feel very proud of myself and honored to fight for my fellow peers. I am glad that our bill is going about for change and reconstruction. I want our peers to have a good chance at going to an ivy league or a school of their dreams," said Nneoma.

The bill is now on its way to Washington DC where they are hoping it will pass.

Students Have Sweet Time

By Danyel Nieves & Alejandra Pinarete
Staff Writers

The agricultural students went on a field trip to the Clewiston Sugar Cane field in West Palm Beach and had the opportunity to participate in multiple activities.

They got to see how sugar cane is grown and manufactured.

"I didn't know that to have a finished product of sugar and brown sugar made from sugar cane it had to go through like such a complicated process," said Diana Henry.

One of the first things they discovered what happens to left over sugar cane. As the students arrived at the fields there were clouds of smoke. they found out that the left overs were burned and used as fertilizer.

When the students got to the sugar factory, they saw the mountains of sugar that are used to make sweets and how it is processed in enormous machines.

"That seems like a lot of sugar, too much sugar if anything, to be completely honest I was kind

of concerned. It was like the fields stretched across the world, like they never ended. It was really interesting to see," said Anthony Nelson.

A part from being the largest sugar cane field in America with well over 230,000 acres, the trip into the fields also included a tour of the mills located on the farms, which helped process and produce the sugarcane.

In the Clewiston Museum the students had a tour which included prehistoric items, an explanation of how sugar cane was processed before any machine came



to the field, and images of how the area looked before.

"The tour was pretty cool we were able to see fossil fuels and how the field look before, oh and we got to experience the new version of the museum," said Anthony.

