Winter is done and Spring has sprung! This is not only a time of new beginnings, it’s also a time to get motivated and tackle unfinished business (Spring cleaning).

Hopefully, by now, you have already received your awards for the 21/22 school year. If you have not received financial aid for this school year, you should contact the financial aid office to understand what needs to be done to receive your awards. If you have received your awards and your bill has not been reconciled, now is the time to figure out how you plan to pay off your balance. In the event you cannot afford to pay your balance out of pocket, it may be time to consider your loan options. Although it is too late to take out a Federal Loan, private alternative loans are available through banks such as Sallie Mae, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank and College Avenue. Any remaining balance may generate an accounts receivable hold, preventing you from requesting transcripts, or registering for the upcoming Summer or Fall courses. There are also additional fees for non-payment as well as the possibility of going into collections. “Spring Cleaning” means it’s time for you to clean up your past due accounts and get ready for the future. If you plan on attending Summer, you will need to be aware of what aid is available to you. Now is a great time to contact a Financial Aid advisor so they can help you figure out where you stand. The Summer loan deadline is July 7th.

Now, let’s take a look at the 22/23 school year. If you have not completed your 22/23 FAFSA, you should do so immediately. Once submitted, check NEIUport for receipt of your FAFSA and look for any outstanding requirements (red flags). The sooner your outstanding requirements are submitted, the sooner you will be able to see your financial aid package for the 22/23 year. This is also the time to apply for scholarships for the 22/23 year. You can visit neiu.edu, select the Financial Aid tab, then click Scholarship Opportunities. Here you can see the scholarships that are offered through NEIU as well as some outside scholarships that are available. We also recommend you look at other outside resources through websites such as SallieMae.com/ ScholarshipSearch, fast-web.com, scholarshipowl.com and myscholly.com. Cleaning up your business with a little financial pre-planning now can make your Summer and the upcoming academic year less stressful and anxiety ridden!
PELL Grant: You may have heard that PELL grant is now available year round but might not understand what exactly that means to you. Students can receive up to 150% of their PELL award amount in an award year. The 21/22 award year includes Fall 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022. If you received 100% of your PELL award between Fall and Spring by attending full time both semesters, and still have future PELL eligibility, you can receive PELL grant for Summer if you attend at least 6 credit hours. PELL is available for up to 12 credit hours total. If you did not attend full time for both Fall and Spring, you may be eligible to use the remainder of the 100% (24 credit hours) that you did not use in Fall and Spring, up to the maximum of 12 credit hours.

Federal Loans: If you did not use the full amount of your loan eligibility between Fall and Spring and will enroll for at least 6 credit hours, you may qualify to apply for additional aid for the Summer semester. Keep in mind, if you are unsure, you can always contact us and ask!

Federal Work-Study: If you received Work-Study for Fall or Spring, you can qualify for Summer if you are enrolled in six or more credit hours.

FSEOG: Recipients of the Federal Supplemental Education Grant for Fall and Spring, who are enrolled in at least 6 credit hours, may be eligible in summer as well.

TEACH Grant: Teach grant recipients enrolled in 6 credit hours may be eligible for Summer as well.

Recipients of state aid such as: State Special Education Scholarship, State Veterans Grant, State National Guard Grant, and State Employee Waivers may also qualify for additional aid for the Summer semester. Keep in mind, if you are unsure, you can always contact us and ask!

Minimum Standards of Academic Progress
After grades are processed for Spring, the Financial Aid Office is required to evaluate the following criteria which includes all developmental coursework:

- ZERO GRADE points earned
- Never Attended coursework
- Cumulative Grade Point Average— UNDG for 2.0 GRAD for 3.0
- Completion Rate (pace) — 67%
- Maximum Timeframe— UNDG for 180; GRAD for 54

If you do not meet these minimum requirements, you will be required to complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal to be considered for financial aid in the future.