

# OSFA News For School Counselors July thru September 2014

## 2014 Legislative Summary

The 2014 Florida Legislative Session ended May 2, 2014 and passed bills that affect state-funded financial aid programs administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

- The Rosewood Family Scholarship was amended to increase the number of awarded students from 25 to 50 and to increase the award amount from a maximum of \$4,000 to \$6,100.
- The 2014-15 Florida Bright Futures award amounts remain the same as the 2013-14 award year. Click to review the [chart](#).
- New Florida Incentive Scholarship instituted. (See page 2)
- The Florida Resident Access Grant award maximum is \$3,000.
- The Access for Better Learning Education Grant award maximum is \$1,500.

# Florida Incentive Scholarship Program

As a result of **HB 5101 Conforming Bill**, the Florida Department of Education is excited to announce the implementation of a new merit based scholarship for high school graduates! Qualifying students must have received the National Merit or National Achievement Scholars designation along with the following:

## Enrollment Requirements

- Be a Florida resident. (*Residency status is determined by the institution.*)
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalency, complete a home education program, or earn a non-Florida diploma while living outside of Florida with a parent on public service assignment.
- Enroll in an eligible, regionally-accredited\*, public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Enroll full-time (*minimum 12 credit hours per term or quarter equivalency*) in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Initially enroll during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

## Scholarship Renewal

- An application is not required to renew the award.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester, third quarter, or the equivalent of each academic year.
- A student must earn credit for hours enrolled each term.
- A student must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

## **NyFF is Getting a New Look!!**

Be on the lookout for changes on the *Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)* website. The first of three phases will go into production in July.

One important update is that you will no longer need a *NyFF* account to order literature. Our vision is to streamline the website for easier access for students, schools and community-based organizations.

***The Office of Student Financial Assistance is always looking for ways to better serve you!***

## **Look for the new State Scholarships and Grants Programs website changes!**

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has a new look for the 2014-15 academic year that we are sure will:

- Provide clarity
- Simplify language
- Make things quick and easy to find
- Allow your students to navigate the web more easily
- Provide a more user-friendly site for parents, students and counselors

Be sure to visit

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm>

to become familiar with the new, exciting look!

# National Training for Counselors and Mentors 2015-16

Free Training Coming Soon to Your Area

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) provides **free** training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Professional trainers provide comprehensive up-to-date information regarding federal and state student aid programs, scholarship searches, and financial aid fraud. Participants learn how to access **free** resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations to help them help their students. After the training, participants will receive ongoing information and support.

Watch for more details available via our listserv and on our training [website](#). If you are not on the counselor listserv contact your [Outreach Representative](#) for assistance.

## EVENTS

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR STUDENTS' EVALUATIONS!

- August 2014 – 2014-15 mid-year graduates must apply for Bright Futures by August 31.
- September 2014 – National Training For Counselors and Mentors registration opens.

Contact an OSFA [Outreach Representative](#) about your high school's needs. We'll be glad to help!

The June 2014 NyFF E-News is available for your students.

Visit [June 2014 NyFF E-News](#)

Topics include:

- Rent The Runway
- Summer Jobs
- Refinancing Your Student Loan Debt Update

Students may visit [www.NavigatingYourFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFuture.org) and select "Resource" to access this vital information.

Have you missed an issue of the OSFA News for Counselors?

You may visit the [archives](#) for prior editions.

## OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

Lori Auxier  
Director of Outreach Services  
561-389-6346, office  
404-393-6340, fax  
[Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org](mailto:Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org)

Isabel Acevedo  
Outreach Representative  
South Florida  
305-364-3062, office  
305-819-0652, fax  
[Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org](mailto:Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org)

Robin Blank  
Outreach Representative  
Greater Palm Beach/Broward  
561-357-4837, office/fax  
[Robin.Blank@fldoe.org](mailto:Robin.Blank@fldoe.org)

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez  
Outreach Representative  
Northeast Florida  
850-245-1821, office  
850-488-3612, fax  
[Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org](mailto:Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org)

Gerri McCormick  
Outreach Representative  
Greater Orlando  
407-207-4944, office/fax  
[Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org](mailto:Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org)

Reyonna Parrish  
Outreach Representative  
Northwest Florida  
850-410-6830, office  
850-488-3612, fax  
[Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org](mailto:Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org)

Stephanie Rosh  
Outreach Representative  
Greater Tampa  
727-771-4397, office  
678-606-1445, fax  
[Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org](mailto:Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org)

Jan Smith  
Manager of Outreach Services  
850-245-1822, office  
850-488-3612, fax  
[Jan.Smith@fldoe.org](mailto:Jan.Smith@fldoe.org)