

December 2015

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New Security Login

The State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD) now requires a stronger password to protect student information online. A memorandum was recently sent by the State Programs Director, Brian Underhill, explaining the procedures for staff at your institution who use the SSFAD.

As a reminder, direct your staff to log in to their SSFAD account and create a secure password. Directions will be on the screen to assist with this process.

Should you have any questions or experience difficulties accessing the SSFAD system using the new login module, please contact:

Shawn Haskin
Shawn.Haskin@fldoe.org
850-245-1915
or
Matthew Hargreaves
Matthew.Hargreaves@fldoe.org
850-410-5175.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION OPENS DECEMBER 1

The Florida state grant and scholarship application is now available. Spread the word to your students and assist them with the application process. In addition to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the application gives students consideration for the following:

- Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant
- Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship
- Rosewood Family Scholarship
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans



Go to www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Select State Grants, Scholarships & Applications.

Looking for ways to get the word out about financial aid for your seniors and their families?

Consider offering the following activities at your school:

- Host a Financial Aid Night using the [FINANCIAL AID TOOLKIT](#)
- Host a FAFSA Lab using the [FAFSA LAB TOOLKIT](#)
- Provide the Online Audio Recording of [Financial Aid Overview](#) as a resource for parents who cannot attend your other events
- Advertise [College Goal events](#) in your area as a free resource for assistance with FAFSA completion

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



It's that time of year to say "thank you" to many of your staff and volunteers who help you along the way! Are you looking for a low-cost way to do that? Look no further. Here are some great ideas to stretch a dollar and still say how much you appreciate your co-workers:

- Gift cards: \$5 each—many of your staff love Chick Fil A, Starbucks, or Dunkin Donuts. Tuck the gift card in a small stocking from your local dollar store.
- Mason Jar gifts: Find small items to put in a mason jar and wrap a pretty holiday ribbon around the lid.



Ideas to try:

- * Spa theme: sample sized lotion, bubble bath, sugar scrub, small candle
- * Manicure: nail file, hand cream, nail polish
- * Baking theme: measuring spoons, cookie cutters, recipe cards
- * Make It: your favorite cookie-in-a-jar mix or hot cocoa mix
- * Hobby: small sewing supplies or scrapbooking supplies

NT4CM Wrap Up

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our National Training for Counselors and Mentors training this fall! Attendance was outstanding and we had a great time networking with other counselors and mentors in our designated regions. We are currently going through your evaluation comments to make next year's events even better.

Thank
You

We appreciate each and every one of you and the hard work you do to make a difference in the lives of students. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this important training about financial aid.

If you were not able to attend, you may download the presentations and handouts at our training site www.osfaffelp.org/osfatraining/ (Select "Documentation").

FAFSA Training

A link will be posted in January for the FAFSA Line by Line webinar.

The following webinar is available now to explain the FSA ID (username and password) process:



[Unlocking the Secrets of the FSA ID](#)

As you may know by now, the former FAFSA PIN has been replaced with the FSA ID (username and password) to strengthen the security of student information. The process involves several steps and setting up security questions.

Learn how the process works so you can better advise students and their parents on how to set up their own FSA ID.



ship program.

They will find useful information about test scores, service hours, grade point average and courses that count toward each Bright Futures Scholarship award.

Once the application has been submitted, students should check their Financial Aid Recipient History (FARH) accounts often for communication regarding their status.

Now that the Florida Financial Aid Application is open, this would be a great time to remind students and parents to visit the Bright Futures Handbook [Chapter 1](#) for basic information about this particular scholar-



COLLEGE

Monthly E-News for Students

The December issue of the monthly E-News for Students is now available.

Print, download or e-mail this financial well-being newsletter monthly as an additional resource for your students.

The E-News provides important information pertaining to preparing for college access:

- Scholarship Searches
- State Scholarships and Grants
- Money Management Tips

Visit www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select the **RESOURCES** tab to locate online publications available for you.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NT4CM final event for 2015:

Ave Maria University
Bob Thomas Student Union, Private Dining Room
5050 Ave Maria Boulevard
Ave Maria, Florida 34142
8:30 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.

Office closure for holidays:

12/25/15 Christmas Holiday
01/01/16 New Year's Day

OSFA'S OUTREACH TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-389-6346, office
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Isabel Acevedo
Outreach Representative
305-364-3062, office
305-819-0652, fax
Isabel.Acevedo@fldoe.org

Robin Blank-Pernice
Outreach Representative
561-357-4837, office/fax
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Pedro "Pete" Hernandez
Outreach Representative
850-245-1821, office
850-488-3612, fax
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Gerri McCormick
Outreach Representative
407-207-4944, office/fax
Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
727-771-4397, office/fax
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org

Jan Smith
Manager of Outreach Services
850-245-1822, office
850-488-3612, fax
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org



THE OSFA PHILOSOPHY



The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, prompt services for participants, and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.

The News to Know for Counselors is now available on the Counselors page of the website www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org. Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.

Contact OSFA

Tallahassee, FL

Toll-free State Programs: **1-888-827-2004**

E-mail: OSFA@fldoe.org

Toll-free Federal Loans: **1-800-366-3475**

Locally: **850-410-5200**

E-mail: OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org

Visit our website at

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

[Click here](#) to contact an OSFA Outreach Representative about your school's needs.