

September 2011

News To Know

Florida Department of Education

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is pleased to announce the upcoming 2012-13 National Training for Counselors & Mentors (NT4CM).

Initially launched in the fall of 2007, 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 educate their students about the financial challenges associated with pursuing a postsecondary education. After the initial training, participants continue to receive ongoing information and support.

NT4CM is available for any individual who advises students and their families on how to fund education beyond high school.

Registration is open for the following confirmed locations:

Ave Maria, Doral, Naples, Sanford, Tampa, and Weston. Please visit our training [website](#) to register.

Additional dates and will be announced on the training website.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Student Loans Have Grown 511% Since 1999

"The growth in student loans over the past decade has been truly staggering," quotes [*The Atlantic*](#). Included in the report is a chart based on New York Federal Reserve data for household debt. "The red line shows the cumulative growth in student loans since 1999. The blue line shows the growth of all other household debt except for student loans over the same period. This chart looks like a mistake, but it is correct. Student loan debt has grown by 511% over this period. In the first quarter of 1999, just \$90 billion in student loans were outstanding. As of the second quarter of 2011, that balance had ballooned to \$550 billion." The viewable chart is striking for another reason. "See that blue line for all other debt but student loans? This wasn't just any average period in history for household debt. This period included the inflation of a housing bubble so gigantic that it caused the financial sector to collapse and led to the worst recession since the Great Depression. But that other debt growth? It is dwarfed by student loan growth."

"Obviously the number of students did not grow by 511%. So why are education loans growing so rapidly? One reason could be availability. The government's backing lets credit to students flow very freely. Universities are raising tuition aggressively since students are willing to pay more through those loans."

Now we can understand the need for Financial Literacy. Contact your Outreach Representative to schedule your onsite training or visit the NyFF [website](#) for online sessions.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

October

Term 1 Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER) is due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

November

Bright Futures Academic Top Scholars awardees are notified via their financial aid history web pages of initial eligibility. Eligible students are listed on the Master Eligibility List.

Important Announcements

President Signs Budget Control Act of 2011 Into Law

President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act of 2011. How does The Budget Control Act affect Title IV Programs?

- Provides \$17 billion in mandatory funds over two years to help fill the funding gap in the Federal Pell Grant Program.
- Eliminates interest subsidies on loans to graduate and professional students for periods of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 2012.
- Eliminates repayment incentives for the Direct Loan Program for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2012, except for the interest rate reduction for borrowers who sign up for automatic withdrawal to repay their loans.

These changes will save an estimated \$21.6 billion between 2012 and 2021.

For more information

View the text of [Budget Control Act](#) .

Help Improve College Financial Aid Award Letters

As part of the 2008 reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is working to improve Financial Aid Offer Forms. ED will host a [public meeting](#) in Washington, D.C. on September 13 and request [public comment](#) on Financial Aid Offer Forms before then. The Florida College Access Network (CAN) encourages you to submit your comments to ED on “Model Financial Aid Offer Forms” before September 13. You may submit a formal comment by [clicking here](#). For more information about this project, visit this ED [webpage](#).

Submitting An Explanation of Missing/Incomplete Gainful Employment (GE) Data

The purpose of this [announcement](#) is to provide institutions with helpful information on submitting explanations for unusual situations (such as natural disaster) which may prevent them from providing required student information needed for GE Program eligibility.

OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-292-6002, office/fax
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

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

Pedro 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

Reyonna Parrish
Outreach Representative
850-410-6830, office
850-488-3612, fax
Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
727-738-6498, office/fax
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org

Isabel Acevedo
Outreach Representative
305-542-3800, office
Isabel.acevedo@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, better 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.