

January 2012

News To Know

**Happy New Year from
the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)**

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

OSFA has completed the 2012-13 NT4CM workshops with great success. Thank you to all the host sites for helping make this one our most successful years!

The workshops are designed for counselors, mentors, and new financial aid staff who advise students and their families on how to fund education beyond high school.

If you were unable to attend the NT4CM workshop the materials are available via the [online](#) OSFA training website.

Please share these materials with anyone you believe may benefit from this information.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) offers a series of *free* on-site workshops. Through *Navigating Your Financial Future* (NyFF), OSFA's Outreach Team is available to present to your students or staff on the following topics:

Financial Aid

Financial Literacy

Managing Your Budget

Managing Your Credit

Repayment of Your Student Loan

School and Life Management

Or feel free to suggest a topic of your choice.

These sessions last approximately one hour (including a Q&A session) and can fit perfectly into your classroom curriculum.

OSFA also encourages you to check out our websites

(www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org and www.navigatingyourfuture.org). Each website has helpful information for students, parents, schools, and guidance counselors.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

January

The 2012 Florida Legislative Session began early this year, on January 10. Follow session activities via **Online Sunshine** at www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/.

February

February 1 – The *Reinstatement/Restoration Application* is available to students on the website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org.

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Apply Here**
- Select **Reinstatement/Restoration Application**

March

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial 7th semester evaluations and award notifications are posted to students' financial aid history web pages.

Important Announcements

Annual SASFAA Conference

The 2012 Annual Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) Conference will be February 26-29, 2012, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Some of the General Session topics include presentations on federal updates, verifications, and fraud and abuse.

SASFAA members may wish to make their hotel reservations.

Hotel and Travel Information

Site: The Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel

Contact Information: The toll-free reservations number is 1-800-242-6556.

Cost: The conference room rate is \$124.

Make a Reservation: To reserve your room online, go to the Sheraton Greensboro Reservation [website](#) and select the “**Groups**” link near the top of the page. In the **Attendee Login** box that appears, enter **SAB23T** to receive SASFAA’s reduced room rate.

Transportation: The Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel offers a complimentary airport shuttle. The hotel has three vans available, which can transport four to six people, depending on the amount of luggage. Upon arrival at Piedmont Triad International Airport, go to ground transportation and pick up the phone that will automatically call the Sheraton. As an alternative, SASFAA members may also call the hotel operator at (336) 292-9161 to request the shuttle.

A taxi from Piedmont Triad International Airport to the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel will cost approximately \$30.

Conference registration information will be available soon on the [SASFFA website](#).

Important Announcements

Save the Date College Goal Sunday February 11 and 12

The Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is seeking College Goal Sunday volunteers to assist students and families with the financial aid process to provide access to higher education. The [College Goal Sunday website](#) lists locations throughout Florida. Each location will provide:

- Free, on-site professional assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Opportunities to speak with financial aid professionals regarding the process and resources to apply for and obtain financial aid

The [online volunteer form](#) is now available. Select your three preferred site locations and event activities. The site locations are listed as City-Site Location-Date. The deadline to submit your [volunteer form](#) is **Monday, January 30, 2012**.

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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.