

October 2012

News To Know

Broward and Santa Fe Colleges named as Finalists by The Aspen Institute

FOR PRESTIGIOUS APEN PRIZE

Florida is one of only two states in the nation to have multiple finalists in the top ten schools competing for the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Broward College and Santa Fe College were named finalists today by The Aspen Institute.

The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence seeks to recognize community colleges with outstanding academic and workforce outcomes in both absolute performance and improvements over time. By focusing on student success and promoting models that work, the Aspen Prize honors excellence, stimulates innovation, and creates benchmarks for measuring progress. The selected colleges must demonstrate that students in their schools gained essential knowledge and skills, completed degree or certificate programs, and obtained jobs with competitive wages. Valencia College in Orlando was the winner last year.

Florida led the nation with 14 of the 120 institutions deemed eligible to apply for the prize in the first round. Broward and Santa Fe Colleges were named in the second round of competition for a part of the \$1 million prize which rewards excellence at two-year institutions that have outstanding academic and workforce outcomes. The winner and finalists with distinction will be named in March 2013.

For more information about The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, visit [The Aspen Institute](#).

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Years after the financial crisis began, consumers are still struggling to make ends meet. More than ever, families need to take advantage of available financial assistance as a way to keep much-needed dollars in their pockets.

Consumer Action's new Financial Empowerment Resource Sheet, available in English and Spanish, provides information about money-saving resources ranging from food assistance programs and utility subsidies to discounted prescription sources and free or low-cost health care providers. This new resource, which was peer-reviewed by staff members from Feeding America-affiliated food banks across the country, is designed to help your students—and all consumers—close the gap between what they need and what they can afford.

English: http://www.consumer-action.org/english/articles/financial_empowerment_resource_sheet/

Spanish: http://www.consumer-action.org/spanish/articles/financial_empowerment_resource_sheet_sp

Created with support from Bank of America, the Financial Empowerment Resource Sheet can be downloaded free at the Consumer Action website. While you're at the site, check out our library of free, multilingual consumer and financial education training materials all designed to encourage and motivate students to improve their economic well being. Learn more about our outreach activities and training events, too.

If you have any questions, please email info@consumer-action.org or call (415) 777-9648.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

Reporting Requirement

October

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

November

Bright Futures Academic Top Scholars awardees are notified of initial eligibility via their online financial aid history pages.

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

Sponsored by the Florida Department of Education, OSFA, NT4CM provides **free** training and support for any individual who advises students and their families on how to fund education beyond high school. 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 assist their students.

Please register [here](#).

Important Announcements

Federal Perkins Loan Default Reduction Assistance Program (DRAP)

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/082312FederalPerkinsLoanDRAP.html>

The Default Reduction Assistance Program (DRAP) assists schools in bringing defaulted Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) borrowers back into repayment before their accounts are sent to collection agencies. A letter is sent from the Department of Education on official letterhead to defaulted Perkins Loan borrowers. The letter explains the serious consequences of default including the inability to obtain other federally supported financial assistance, withholding of federal and state income tax refunds, salary garnishment, and damage to credit history. It also encourages borrowers to contact the school to initiate repayment arrangements.

Participation in the DRAP process is voluntary. There is no cost to the postsecondary institution.

For additional information about DRAP, contact the Campus-Based Call Center at 877-801-7168. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (ET). You may also e-mail CBFOB@ed.gov.

Important Announcements

NCHERP Changes Name to NCHER

Recent industry changes prompted the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHERP) to change its name and embark on a new strategic planning initiative.

As part of the strategic planning process, membership approved a new organizational name to better describe the mission, goals, and objectives of members. The resources provided by the membership extend well beyond student loans. A key objective is to inform the public about the availability of higher education financing and promote cost effective methods to ensure open access to postsecondary education. The new name, the National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER), pronounced "N-share," embodies the evolution of the organization's new mission.

Please visit www.nchelp.org to review their new mission and for additional information.

Mapping Your Future Updates Servicers Webpage and Counseling Sessions

Mapping Your Future updated the [Learn more about student loan servicers](#) webpage on the Mapping Your Future website as well as the servicer chart in the counseling sessions to include the most recent federal student loan servicer EdManage.

Federal Student Aid recently announced that EdManage joined the federal student loan servicing team and will start receiving borrower accounts in August. With the addition of student loan servicers, some borrowers will experience a change in the servicers of their loans. In some instances, borrowers may also see some changes in their monthly payment amount or payment schedule. This is due to the different operating procedures at each servicer.

From the Mapping Your Future webpage, borrowers are able to get answers to their questions about student loan servicers and view a list that includes contact information for all federal student loan servicers. Postsecondary institutions can direct their students to the webpage and link to mappingyourfuture.org/Paying/loanservicers.htm to help answer their students' questions.

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.