

February 2013

News To Know

State Board of Education Names Dr. Tony Bennett as Commissioner of Education

http://www.fldoe.org/news/2012/2012_12_12-3.asp

"We are excited that the State Board of Education chose Dr. Tony Bennett as Florida's new Commissioner of Education," quoted Governor Scott.

State Board Chair Gary Chartrand said, "Florida has made a great deal of educational progress over the past decade as yesterday's announcement of the international assessment results clearly showed. We still have more work to do as we continue our transition to Common Core State Standards and ensure we offer a world-class education to Florida's students. Tony has had a tremendous impact on education in Indiana and we are delighted to have him lead Florida into the future."

Dr. Bennett was elected Superintendent of Indiana's public schools in 2009, promising to increase student performance, reward great teachers, increase options for parents, and strengthen school autonomy. He was instrumental in increasing the state's graduation rate beyond 85 percent, implementing the Indiana Growth Model detailing the amount of progress each student made, and instigating A-F school grades similar to Florida's grading system.

Dr. Bennett was named 2011 Education Reform Idol by the Fordham Institute and 2010 Government Leader of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Bennett holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in secondary education and a doctorate in education. He began his career in education as a high school biology teacher, while coaching several sports including baseball, and track and field.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Money for College 2013-14 Florida Scholarships and Grants

NyFF is proud to offer a new publication entitled *Money for College 2013-14 State Scholarships and Grants*. Click [here](#) to preview this new publication. If you would like to sign up as a partner to access all of the financial literacy information that NyFF has to offer and order FREE publications, please contact your local [OSFA Outreach Representative](#) today!

Take Charge of Your Future

The U.S. Department of Education prepared the *Take Charge of Your Future* manual in July 2012. This report is geared toward adult learners and addresses all needs for college and career readiness. The manual can be used as a guide when starting a curriculum. Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/take-charge-your-future.pdf> for additional information.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

Postsecondary Institution Contact and Participation Information

It is very important that postsecondary institution's contact information be current.

To update contact information, visit the OSFA website at

<http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org> and select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**. Under **Postsecondary Institutions, Institution Information**, select **Update Contact Information** and log in.

If you need assistance with this process, you may contact your local [OSFA Outreach Representative](#).

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 Legislative Session begins. Follow session activities via **Online Sunshine** at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/>

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

Important Announcements

Gainful Employment - Frequently Asked Questions

<http://ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/2011GEFAQ.html>

Gainful Employment — Frequently Asked Questions provides information and operational guidance on the requirements of the new gainful employment (GE) regulations. Institutions must review the final regulations as published in the Federal Register on October 29, 2010, to ensure that they are in compliance with all of the GE Program requirements. The listing of Frequently Asked Questions will be updated periodically and include the date of the update. New and/or updated questions and answers will be marked NEW and appear in red font. If you have questions that have not been addressed, please submit them to the GE Questions mailbox at GE-Questions@ed.gov and include the name of the postsecondary institution.

Approval of Income-Based/Pay As You Earn/Income-Contingent Repayment Plan Request Form

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN1222.html>

This Dear Colleague Letter announces the approval of the form Direct Loan and FFEL borrowers will use to request an income-driven repayment plan. The U.S. Department of Education also provides guidance on the implementation of the form.

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) University Testing Center

http://www.nasfaa.org/mkt/training/university/NASFAA_University_Testing_Center.aspx

Once you have completed an approved NASFAA University learning activity, you qualify to sit for an examination in one or more topics. If you pass the exam, you earn a nationally recognized credential!

Tests currently available include:

- Student Eligibility Pre-test (*No charge & no credential*)
- Student Eligibility (*Fee, credential test*)
- Return of Title IV Pre-test (*No charge & no credential*)

- Return of Title IV (*Fee, credential test*)

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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.