

**October 2013**

# News To Know

## **College Goal Sunday 2014**

Save the Date!

Join us for CGS! Florida the weekend of February 22-23, 2014. Students will receive personalized FAFSA completion assistance and the opportunity to learn about other financial aid resources! Volunteer your time and expertise to help Florida's students fund their education.

Click [here](#) for additional details and directions.

# Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

## Financial Literacy Update Newsletter

The U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)'s **Financial Literacy Update** is a bimonthly e-newsletter that reports upcoming financial literacy events, new initiatives, and related resources of the OCC and other government agencies and organizations.

**Financial Literacy Update** provides brief descriptions and web links for upcoming events in chronological order and new initiatives and resources (with web links) in alphabetical order.

Have an upcoming literacy event, new tool, or product? You may e-mail OCC at [communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov](mailto:communityaffairs@occ.treas.gov). Online versions of **Financial Literacy Update** are available at [www.occ.gov/flu](http://www.occ.gov/flu).

## Remedial Coursework

by David Bartnicki, Federal Training Officer

The below information is taken, in part, from information Mr. Bartnicki shared with participants at the 2013 NASFAA conference in July.

I have been getting lots of questions from schools in Florida regarding a school's ability to pay Title IV (TIV) aid for remedial coursework due to some recent changes in Florida state regulation with respect to remedial coursework. In working with policy and several schools, policy confirmed the following guidance regarding a student's eligibility to be paid TIV aid for remedial coursework. Though this has been an issue primarily with my Florida schools it may prove beneficial to other schools as well.

As long as a student is officially admitted into a TIV eligible program of study and considered a regular student, that student can be paid TIV aid for remedial coursework up to the aggregate limits allowed (30 semester hours, 45 quarter hours, and 900 clock hours) regardless if the school required the student to take remedial coursework, recommended the student take remedial coursework, or if the student themselves simply decided to take remedial coursework. Since remedial coursework will never be a formal part of the student's program of study (not part of the hour requirements of the program since no credit or reduced credit), by definition they are not a part of the program of study and are an exception to our normal rule that TIV will only pay for coursework that is part of a student's program of study for the purposes of seeking a degree/certificate.

If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact David Bartnicki at [david.bartnicki@ed.gov](mailto:david.bartnicki@ed.gov).

# State Scholarship & Grant Programs

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Students and State Programs Eligibility

For state grants and scholarship purposes, students must be Florida residents and U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens. Non-U.S. citizens who have been granted withholding of deportation status shall also be considered eligible to establish Florida residency for tuition purposes. However, these students will not qualify for state grants and scholarships until they meet residency and citizenship requirements set forth in State Board of Education Rules 6A-20.03 and 6A-10.044.

An excellent resource for residency and citizenship issues is available on the Florida Virtual Campus website at [www.flvc.org](http://www.flvc.org). Select **Advising Manuals** and then **Residency Guidelines**.

## NEW SECURITY RESOURCE MAILBOX

Effective Immediately! Please use OSFASecurity@fldoe.org, manned by Donna Nugent and Shawn Haskin, for all State Student Financial Aid Data-base (SSFAD) requests and institution-al contact/activation changes.

### October

Institutions send reports of disbursement activity to the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance. Disbursement Eligibility Reports (DER) are due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

### November

Bright Futures Academic Top Scholars awardees are notified of their eligibility via their online Financial Aid Recipient History. Academic Top Scholars will receive a cost per credit hour award in addition to the Florida Academic Scholars award.

# Important Announcements

## **Florida College Access Network (FCAN)**

Florida College Access Network just released a useful tool that has the ability to calculate FAFSA completion rates of graduating seniors from their high schools. Current statistics show that more than half of Florida's graduates complete a FAFSA. OSFA's goal is to increase access to higher education and this tool is extremely beneficial in helping to identify secondary education institutions that may need additional support and services.

Click on the [Florida FAFSA Finish Line](#) to access this valuable data.

## **The Florida C.A.N.! Mission**

To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students.

**Florida College Access Network** empowers communities to work constructively alongside our schools and builds partnerships with universities, colleges, schools, community organizations, businesses, parents, and students.

# Important Announcements

## Distribution of FY 2010 3-Year Official Default Rates

On September 23, 2013, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) distributed the FY 2010 3-Year official cohort default rate (CDR) notification packages to all eligible domestic and foreign schools enrolled in the Electronic Cohort Default Rate (eCDR) process, via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG). ED previously distributed the 2-Year Official Cohort Default Rates separately on September 16, 2013 to schools only.

This information was sent to the SAIG mailbox for the destination point designated by the school. Each eCDR package contained the following:

- Cover Letter (message class SHDRLROP),
- Reader-Friendly Loan Record Detail Report (message class SHCDRROP), and
- Extract-Type Loan Record Detail Report (message class SHCDREOP).

ED did not send eCDR notification packages to any school not enrolled in eCDR. Enrolled schools may download their cohort default rate and accompanying Loan Record Detail Reports from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) via the [NSLDS Professional Access Web site](#).

**Note:** Any school that did not have a borrower in repayment, during the current or any of the past cohort default rate periods, will **not** receive a FY 2010 3-Year official cohort default rate notification package. These schools are considered to have no cohort default rate data and no cohort default rate. Guaranty agency rates were provided via e-mail. Lender rates were provided via postal service.

The time period for **appealing** the FY 2010 3-Year Official Cohort Default Rates under 34 C.F.R Part 668, Subpart M began October 1, 2013 for all schools. For specific information (including user guides) regarding eCDR Appeals, visit the [eCDR Appeals Web site](#).

**Additional information:** contact ED at 202-377-4259 or e-mail [fsa.schools.default.management@ed.gov](mailto:fsa.schools.default.management@ed.gov).

## OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

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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.