

September 2013

News To Know

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

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.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) Website Updates Regional Financial Literacy Meetings

OSFA is pleased to announce the debut of regional financial literacy meetings. These meetings will provide an opportunity for school personnel to meet and network with fellow peers from schools in surrounding geographical areas.

Sample Agenda

The Need for Financial Literacy: This session reviews the components of an effective financial literacy program and strategies to increase program recognition on campuses. The session also provides current statistics and research clarifying the need for financial literacy.

Default Management and Financial Literacy Overview: This session, presented by school personnel, outlines the correlation between establishing good financial literacy programs and the effects on schools' default rates.

Round Table/ Best Practices: This session is one of the most beneficial sessions of the training. Schools convey the specifics of their financial literacy programs and share their observations and successes.

If you are interested in hosting a meeting in your area, please contact your local OSFA Outreach Representative.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

OSFA Announcement

The Office of Student Financial Assistance wishes to announce Theresa Antworth's retirement from the State of Florida and her position as State Scholarship and Grants Director with the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as of September 30, 2013. During her 35 years in higher education, half of those years at Florida State University, Troy University, and Gulf Coast Community College, and the last 17 years at OSFA, her passion for assisting students through their education has flourished.

She has stated that it is the people who make the process successful, and she thanks each of you for your friendship and guidance while collaborating with her as you did your jobs to serve the students. In October, she will begin a new chapter with the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) as Vice President of Special Programs and External Relations.

As always, OSFA staff continues to work with you to fund Florida's students. Feel free to contact me or any OSFA staff to assist you.

Sincerely,

Levis Hughes,

Chief of Student Financial Assistance

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.

September

Grade and Hours Report deadline for current summer term Bright Futures restoration eligibility.

October

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

Important Announcements

Mapping Your Future

FAFSA Verification information added

The verification process can be a confusing process for students and parents. To help educate students and parents on the verification process, the Mapping Your Future site was recently up-dated.

Enhance your impact on students and families

Students, schools, and families benefit from a wide variety of resources on Mapping Your Future. Those services are now outlined in a downloadable document.

Online Counseling continues to educate

Mapping Your Future's Online Counseling continues to provide schools with a counseling alternative that educates students, fulfills regulatory requirements, and is user friendly.

Important Announcements

Federal Student Loan Interest Rates

Effective July 1, 2013

For undergraduates, the Direct Loan interest rate for subsidized and unsubsidized loans is 3.86 per-cent.

For graduate/professional students who borrow a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, the interest rate is 5.41 percent.

For parents or graduate/professional students who borrow a Direct PLUS Loan, the interest rate is 6.41 percent.

Direct Consolidation Loans will continue to have a weighted average interest rate, but the cap of 8.25 percent was removed.

Legislation Reminder

SB 1076 — Effective July 1, 2013. Signed by Governor Scott on April 22, 2013.

- Repeals FAFSA requirement for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program funding.

SB 1720 — Effective July 1, 2013. Signed by Governor Scott on May 20, 2013.

- Repeals the FAFSA requirement for the Florida Resident Access Grant Program, and the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program.

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.