

**May 2014**

# News To Know

## **OSFA's Bureau Chief, Levis Hughes Elected to the NCHER 2014-2015 Board of Directors**

The National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER) announced its 2014-15 Board of Directors for the membership year which begins on July 1, 2014. Included in the election were two new officers and seven new At-Large Directors. The seven new At-Large Directors will serve two-year terms.

We are proud to announce that Levis Hughes, Chief of Student Financial Assistance, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), was one of those elected to serve in this capacity.

## **Webinar Recording - New Direct Consolidation Loan Process**

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the availability of the recorded version of the webinar presented on March 25, 2014, by the federal student aid staff. That webinar provided information on the new Direct Consolidation Loan process, including detailed information of the application process available on the StudentLoans.gov website. The online session was intended for professionals in the financial aid community interested in learning more about the new process for Direct Consolidation Loans.

For more information about the webinar, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter ANN-14-06](#). No registration is required to view the recorded training session. To view the session, including the presentation slides and transcript, click on this link:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/ifapMedia.jsp#NewDirectConsolidationLoan>

Please contact Rosa Wright at [rosalizes.wright@ed.gov](mailto:rosalizes.wright@ed.gov) with questions regarding this training.

# Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

## CampusWall

CampusWall's virtual bulletin board allows your students and administrative staff to buy, sell, swap and share resources exclusively within your campus community. This self-contained online marketplace is available only to users with an .edu email address from your school. Spring is a great time to make potential users aware of CampusWall by featuring this service to your existing students as they prepare to pack up dorms and apartments and to let incoming students and parents know of this great option to obtain reusable student-specific items.

Join colleges and universities across the country who have found how CampusWall can provide an easy and safe way for students to share goods and services and enjoy savings benefits while supporting efforts toward a greener campus.

Learn more about CampusWall at <http://campuswall.com>.

## Free Resources Provided by Mapping Your Future

### **Direct Loan entrance, exit counseling presentations available**

Because your school and your students are unique, one method of student loan counseling may not fit all your needs.

### **Mapping Your Future offers solutions for sponsors**

The financial aid industry and the business world today is much different than it was a few years ago.

### **Reliable, secure resource for counseling**

For students and parents, financial aid can be overwhelming and confusing.

# State Scholarship & Grant Programs

## May

The Grade and Hour Report is open for all institutions to report student data for renewal evaluation. Notifications are posted to students' Financial Aid Recipient History screens.

**May 15** – Processing Deadline to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund and the José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant for initial and renewal students via [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**May 30** – Deadline for current year Bright Futures reinstatement/restoration applicants to apply.

## June

State scholarship and grant applicants' notifications of initial and renewal eligibility are viewable on students' Financial Aid Recipient History screens for:

- o Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund
- o José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant
- o Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

Students may check the status of their financial aid programs and notifications on the website.

## Important Announcements

### **2014-2015 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix**

Author: Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation, Federal Student Aid

Attached to this Electronic Announcement is the *2014-2015 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix*. The matrix will help financial aid administrators map 2013 IRS Tax Return Transcript information to FAFSA/ISIR data, as the IRS Transcript does not have line or item numbers and uses wording that may be different from what is used on the FAFSA.

Similar to the matrix we provided for 2013-2014, the first column of the matrix lists the seven FAFSA information items that may need to be verified for a student or parent who indicated that they did or will file a 2013 IRS tax return. The second column includes the student FAFSA question number for each item followed by the relevant parent FAFSA question number. The third column displays the student ISIR item number followed by the parent ISIR item number. ISIR numbers are from the 2014-2015 Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) specifications.

The fourth column of the matrix identifies the item name as reported on the IRS Tax Return Transcript. Note that for some items the transcript may report two or three values. This is because the IRS calculates or recalculates the amount reported by the tax filer for some items. If only one value is reported on the transcript, that value must be used for verification. If more than one value is reported on the transcript, the value associated with the item name that includes the words “Per Computer” must be used for verification. The “Per Computer” line should be used for verification even if it is different than what was reported by the tax filer.

The last three columns show the corresponding line item numbers from the three 2013 IRS tax returns (IRS Form 1040, IRS Form 1040A, and IRS Form 1040EZ).

If you have any questions about the attached matrix, please contact our Research and Customer Care Center staff. Staff are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM (Eastern Time) at 1-800-433-7327. After hours calls will be accepted by an automated voice response system. Callers leaving their names and phone numbers will receive a return call the next business day. Alternatively, you may email the Care Center at [fsa.customer.support@ed.gov](mailto:fsa.customer.support@ed.gov).

Attachments/Enclosures:

[2014–2015 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix in Excel Format, 37 KB](#)

## **Program Deadlines for PSI Certification**

**May 15, 2014:** This is the suggested timeframe to submit institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) certification (**as of the end of the spring 2014 term**) for the three programs below which allows earlier evaluations so students may plan for their financial needs for the upcoming academic year.

1. José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund (José Martí)
2. Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund (RFS)
3. Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV)

**June 30, 2014:** Program submission deadline for above

## **Default Prevention and Management Services**

Did you know that your dedicated OSFA Outreach Representative is available to assist you with creating a default prevention and management plan specific to your institution's needs?

Tip – Create a Default Prevention Team that is comprised of one Vice President, one Director of Financial Aid, one District Student Loan Representative, one Academic Advising Representative, one Faculty Representative and the SGA President. This team will be charged with creating a communication plan to ensure that all involved parties understand their role and how it impacts a student's financial aid package (current and future).

Please [contact](#) your local Outreach Representative today for detailed information.

## 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.