

# NEWS TO KNOW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MAY 2015



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## Loan Counseling Requirements and Flexibilities

On June 9, 2014, President Obama signed an Executive Memorandum that directed the U.S. Department of Education to take steps to help student loan borrowers better understand and manage their debt.

The April 6, 2015, *Dear Colleagues* letter discusses the statutory and regulatory requirements for entrance counseling as well as institutions' flexibility to augment that counseling.

The letter includes, in a Q&A format, information on loan counseling strategies that institutions can use to help ensure that students' borrowing decisions are well-informed and carefully considered.

The letter also serves as a reminder to institutions that, under the statute, they cannot deny or limit an otherwise eligible student's access to Direct Loans, except by using "professional judgment".

For more information, visit [GEN-15-06](#).

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2015 FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS (FAFSAA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The [2015 FASFAA Annual Conference](#) will be held May 19-22, 2015, at the Renaissance World Golf Village Re-

sort in St. Augustine, Florida. The deadline to receive the guaranteed FASFAA room rate of \$149 is May 3, 2015, so **reserve your room quickly**.

FAFSAA is excited to be joined by David Bartnicki and Wood Mason from the U.S.

Department of Education, Megan McClean from NASFAA, along with other special guests and presenters who will provide timely information. Attending the conference will provide an opportunity to learn something new and network with fellow FASFAA members.

## FASFAA LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

FASFAA will soon be opening applications for the FASFAA Leadership Experience to individuals from all FASFAA member institutions. The FASFAA Leadership Experience is an exceptional professional development opportunity for those seeking advancement and leadership training in the financial aid profession.

The Leadership Experience committee seeks representation from a cross-section of the association. Participants will be selected by the Leadership Experience committee based on diversity and balance in institution type, region and individual attributes. Visit <http://www.fasfaa.org/> for more information.

### MappingXpress®

The April edition of the *News to Know* announced that under the sponsorship of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, *Mapping Your Future* is offering [MappingXpress®](#) free to schools in Florida.

MappingXpress® is a secure document transfer service that allows students to quickly and easily upload documents with an electronic signature for retrieval by school professionals. School financial aid offices and business professionals can retrieve the documents securely from their Access Area on *Mapping Your Future*. Schools and other organizations using MappingXpress® have reported the service has saved them time and money as they securely collect documents needed for financial aid verification, scholarship forms, loan applications and other academic processes.

For more information about this offer, go to [Mapping Your Future](#). Register to attend the [May 12 webinar](#) to learn more about MappingXpress® and how it can help your students and your office. For questions, contact the *Mapping Your Future* staff at [feedback@mappingyourfuture.org](mailto:feedback@mappingyourfuture.org) or 800-374-4072.

# OF INTEREST

Dear Colleagues –

As you may know, I will be presenting at the 7th Annual Florida Prosperity Partnership's (FPP) Statewide Training Conference, "Oh, The Places We'll Go!"

This is a one-of-a-kind, asset-building conference being held May 27 – 29, 2015, at Portofino Bay Hotel, Universal Orlando. The FPP's goal is to convene individuals and organizations with the desire to leverage their talent, resources and passion to improve the prosperity of Florida's families. Our vision is that all Floridians will have equal opportunities to obtain financial stability.

The conference will:

- Disseminate state of the art information on asset building and asset preservation tools and education related to the diverse population of Florida, including the presentation of proven programs from across the country.
- Create a forum for facilitating the exchange of information among individuals, groups and institutions, as well as across professional disciplines, through dialogue and break-out sessions.
- Enlighten the attendees on multi-dimensional programs that address a spectrum of family issues, resulting in a more prosperous family.

If you have any questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 561-389-6346.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY

- Term 2 refunds of Bright Futures dropped/withdrawn hours are due within 30 days of the institution's last day of the term.
- Term 3 refunds and reconciliations are due to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) within 60 days after the last day of drop/add.
- Grade & Hours Reports for the previous summer, fall and spring terms are due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of classes or June 30, whichever comes first.

### **FSA ID/PIN Replacement**

The new FSA ID, comprised of a user-selected username and password, will be implemented on May 10, 2015. It will replace the Federal Student Aid PIN as the process by which students, parents and borrowers authenticate their identity to access their federal student aid information. For additional information, click [here](#).

### OSFA OUTREACH TEAM'S 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, prompt 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.

The News to Know is now available on the [Policy, Regulations, and Guidance](#) page of our website. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archives](#) page.

### **Contact OSFA**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004**

**E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)**

**Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475**

**Locally: 1-850-410-5200**

**[Click here](#) to contact  
an OSFA Outreach  
Representative about  
your institution's needs.**