

News to Know

Florida Department of Education

August 2010

Office of Student Financial Assistance Sends Appreciation to Higher Education and Lender Partners

Dear Higher Education and Lender Partners,

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) appreciates you for the many years of dedicated service you provided to the students we serve, in pursuit of higher education, and thanks you for your loyal partnership with us in offering Federal Family Education Loans. OSFA will assist your postsecondary institution as we strive to fulfill our mission to facilitate higher education access and services. We are forever grateful to work with such caring and professional staff and wish you the best during this time of transition.

Thank you again for years of wonderful service!"

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Stay, Stop or Drop

Many institutions experience the highest number of student withdrawals during a student's first and second semesters enrolled. This student decision to stay or not stay in school may depend on balancing academics and finances. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has provided the brochure "Stay, Stop or Drop" to help students recognize various unpredicted situations which may arise. The brochure also provides recommendations for dealing with these situations. "Stay, Stop, or Drop" is available free of charge and can be ordered directly from our website:

www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org. This site provides many other financial literacy brochures as well.

Navigating Your Financial Future

Our very own website, www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org, is designed to provide guidance for students. Topics include: seeking financial aid, budgeting for college life, and managing credit. These FREE resources are available 24/7 to assist students in making good financial decisions.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

August

- State scholarship and grant financial aid programs begin funding in the fall and end in the spring.
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial 8th semester evaluations and award notifications sent.
- August 31 – The *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* closes. By this date, all school districts have completed graduation (including summer session) for the prior academic year.

September

- Grade and Hours Report deadline is September 30 for current summer term Bright Futures re-evaluation of renewal eligibility.

September/October

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

Important Announcements

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), is proud to offer the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM): Funding Education Beyond High School workshops throughout the state of Florida.

NT4CM workshops are designed for guidance counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Participants learn how to access free resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations.

All workshop sessions are free and include up-to-date information regarding federal and state student financial aid programs, college early awareness/planning, the FAFSA4caster, financial literacy resources, and financial aid nights for students and their families.

NT4CM workshops will be offered throughout the state. Dates and locations are soon to follow.

Income-Based Repayment Plan Request and Alternative Documentation of Income Forms

View the [notification](#) which announces approval of a new Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan Request form and new IBR Plan Alternative Documentation of Income form for use in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.

Remaining 2010-11 Interest Rates

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced two categories of interest rates on Federal Stafford, Federal PLUS, Federal Supplemental Loan for Students (SLS) loans, and Federal Consolidation Interest Rate Calculations for the period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. Interest rates for older PLUS and SLS loans are based on the weekly average of the one-year constant-maturity Treasury yield for the last calendar week ending on or before June 26. Interest rates for the Healthy Eating Active Living portion of Federal Consolidation loans are based on the 91-day Treasury bill auctioned for the quarter ending June 30. These rates do not affect Federal Stafford or Federal PLUS loans made on or after July 1, 2006 that are subject to fixed-rates. The entire announcement is available [online](#).

2011 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year

Cheryl Conley, a fourth grade teacher at Osceola Magnet Elementary School in Indian River County, was named the 2011 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year. Conley was chosen from among five state finalists for recognition of her tremendous dedication to her students, her goal-oriented teaching style, and her proven ability to inspire students beyond their own expectations. She will serve for one year as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education and visit schools throughout the state to share information about educational opportunities and challenges in Florida.

Conley received a cash prize of \$10,000 from Macy's, a customized trophy, and an all-expenses paid trip to New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Macy's awarded each of the other four finalists — Kelly Burnette, Yulee High School, Nassau County; Zachary Champagne, Mandarin Oaks Elementary School, Duval County; Cristine O'Hara, Palmetto Middle School, Miami-Dade County; and Allan Phipps, South Plantation High School, Broward County — a \$5,000 check, a \$500 Macy's gift card, and \$1,000 cash to their respective schools for educational programs.

For more information about the 2011 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year, visit www.fldoe.org/profdev/yeartch.asp.

OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
561-292-6002, office/fax
Lori.Auxier@fldoe.org

Robin Blank
Outreach Representative
561-357-4837, office/fax
Robin.Blank@fldoe.org

Pedro Hernandez
Outreach Representative
850-245-1821, office
850-488-3612, fax
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org

Gerri McCormick
Outreach Representative
407-207-4944, office/fax
Gerri.McCormick@fldoe.org

Reyonna Parrish
Outreach Representative
850-410-6830, office
850-488-3612, fax
Reyonna.Parrish@fldoe.org

Stephanie Rosh
Outreach Representative
727-738-6498, office
N/A, fax
Stephanie.Rosh@fldoe.org

Armando Salas-Amaro
Outreach Representative
305-265-8665, office/fax
Armando.Salas-Amaro@fldoe.org

Jan Smith
Manager of Outreach Services
850-245-1822, office
850-488-3612, fax
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org