

News to Know
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
December 2008

National Training For Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- OSFA is pleased to offer the second annual National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) throughout the state of Florida. This program is designed to provide free training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Our professional trainers will not only provide comprehensive up-to-date information, materials, and resources regarding federal and state student financial aid programs, but participants will also receive ongoing information and support from NT4CM partners.
- The remaining workshop dates are as follows:
- December 3
 - Pensacola Junior College
 - Pensacola, FL
- December 4
 - Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
 - Chipley, FL

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National Training For Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- December 9
 - Northwood University
 - West Palm Beach, FL
- December 10 & 11
 - American Intercontinental University
 - Weston, FL
- December 15
 - Aparicio-Levy Technical Center/Auditorium
 - Tampa, FL
- December 16
 - St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
 - Seminole, FL
- December 17 & 18
 - Valencia Community College, West Campus
 - Orlando, FL

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National Training For Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- January 12
 - Brevard Community College, Cocoa Campus
 - Cocoa, FL
- January 13
 - Indian River Community College
 - Ft. Pierce, FL
- January 14
 - South Florida Community College
 - Avon Park, FL
- January 15
 - Ave Maria University
 - Ave Maria, FL
- January 22
 - TBA
 - Key West, FL

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) Pictures

Outstanding Commitment to the Community

- We cannot thank the following institutions enough for hosting the National Training For Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM):
 - Tallahassee Community College
 - Lake City Community College
 - Rasmussen College
 - St. Johns River Community College
 - Miami Dade College, North & West Campuses
 - Pensacola Junior College
 - Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
 - Northwood University
 - American Intercontinental University
 - Aparicio-Levy Technical Center
 - St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
 - Valencia Community College, West Campus
 - Brevard Community College, Cocoa Campus
 - Indian River State College
 - South Florida Community College
 - Ave Maria University

College Goal Sunday -- February 22, 2009

- More than 200 volunteers will help college-bound Florida students and their families complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) during statewide College Goal Sunday events on Sunday, February 22, 2009.
- College Goal Sunday is sponsored by Lumina Foundation and is a collaborative effort of The National YMCA Association in partnership with ENLACE FLORIDA. This national program is designed to increase the number of Florida residents who continue education beyond high school to earn postsecondary degrees. The FAFSA must be completed by students seeking financial aid, including grants, loans, and many scholarships.
- As more details become available, we will share them with you so that you can do your part to make this annual event a huge success!

State Scholarship and Grant Programs Calendar

- **December**
- The *2009-10 Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* opened online December 1. Using this single application, students may apply and be entered into the evaluation pool. During the application process, students are also guided to the OSFA Web site for program specific information and advised to communicate with their institution for information on other state grants administered by their chosen institution.
- Terms 2 and 3 program funds from OSFA will be sent this month to participating postsecondary institutions.
- **January**
- January 1 – The **Initial Teacher Florida Financial Aid Application** for next award year funding is available.
- Program applicants should continually check their application and certification statuses on this Web site before the program deadlines
- Do you want to know what other activities and important deadlines are on the calendar? Visit our [Web site!](#)

State Programs Announcements

- Please continue to review the Master Eligibility List (MEL) for eligible students who may be attending your institution but who are not listed on the Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER) for a specific program at your institution, such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Students listed as eligible on the MEL and verified as attending and enrolled at your institution may be funded.
- **Revised Contact Information**
 - Mike Bobroskie is your contact for the First Generation Matching Grant. His direct contact information is 850-245-1899 or Mike.Bobroskie@fldoe.org.
 - Nanette Smith is your contact for the Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship. Her direct contact information is 850-245-1913 or Nanette.Smith@fldoe.org.

Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs FAQs

- Do you have questions regarding the Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs? Visit our FAQs [Web site](#) today!

A Letter from the Student Loan Community

- November 21, 2008
- A letter to Financial Aid Administrators addresses the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury commitment to the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the students, families, and schools they serve. ED and the Department of the Treasury plan to assure funding for federal student loans through the 2009-2010 school year. This move ensures continued access to student loans for Stafford, PLUS, and Grad PLUS borrowers.
- The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance is committed to the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), providing exemplary customer attention, effective default prevention programs, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products and services.
- For assistance with OSFA products and services, please contact an [Outreach Representative](#) in your region.

SunTrust Education Loans Announcement

- November 17, 2008
- As a result of the Congressional changes that dramatically reduce financial returns for lenders, Sharon L. Payne-Hales, First Vice President and National Sales Manager of SunTrust Education Loans distributed a School Notification Letter. The letter expresses SunTrust's intentions to focus FFELP lending in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. In addition, SunTrust states that its decision will not impact any second disbursements already approved for institutions in the affected regions and that the final termination date for new applications will not be before December 1, 2008.

Important Announcements

- Federal Student Aid (FSA) announces the posting of the 2009-2010 ISIR Guide. The [2009-2010 ISIR Guide](#) is available in PDF format on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.
- As noted in the Fiscal Operations Report for 2007-2008 and the Application to Participate for 2009-2010 (FISAP), all corrections to FISAP data and edit errors must be submitted to ED by Monday, December 15, 2008. Read more in the Dear Colleague Letter ([DCL ID: CB-08-12](#)).
- Reminder: Active confirmation is required by December 15, 2008 for TG numbers and FAA access to CPS online users. Failure to complete this process may result in loss of access to FSA data systems. For more information, please read the October 17, 2008, [Electronic Announcement](#).
- FSA is preparing the Federal School Code List of Participating Schools quarterly update and would like to remind all institutions that information must be kept current. Please verify your Federal School Code (FSC) name, address, and contact information on the [Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs \(E-App\)](#) Web site at eligcert.ed.gov, and update necessary information *by Tuesday, December 30, 2008*.

OMB Review Comment Submission Deadlines are Quickly Approaching

- The U.S. Department of Education has issued a Federal Register [notice](#) that requests comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements associated with the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program Agreement to Serve.

Written comments should be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, LBJ
Washington, DC 20202-4537

You are encouraged to submit responses by e-mail to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov or via fax to 202-401-0920. All comments must be submitted on or before December 15, 2008.

OMB Review Comment Submission Deadlines are Quickly Approaching

- The U.S. Department of Education has issued a Federal Register [notice](#) that requests comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements associated with the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Written comments should be addressed to:
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Attention: Education Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW, Room 10222
Washington, DC 20503

You are encouraged to submit responses by e-mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov or via fax to 202-395-6974.
All comments must be submitted on or before
December 29, 2008.

Deadlines Quickly Approaching for Needed Comments for Submission for OMB Review

- The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management has issued a Federal Register [notice](#) that requests comments regarding the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Written comments should be addressed to:
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Attention: Education Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW, Room 10222
Washington, DC 20503

You are encouraged to submit comments by e-mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov or via fax to 202-395-6974. All comments must be submitted on or before January 2, 2009.

Join The Conversation: Using IRS Data To Simplify The FAFSA

- During NCI listening sessions, all aid administrators who addressed simplification agreed that we need to simplify the aid process for applicants. Some suggestions have referred to using IRS data in lieu of the FAFSA.
- Please share your thoughts in NASFAA'S [NCI Forum](#) regarding potential problems and benefits associated with using IRS data to replace some or all of the FAFSA. This is an opportunity to voice your opinion on restructuring the student aid system.

Conflict Resolution in the Workplace

- According to a recent article in *MSN Careers*, Lori Coruccini, CEO of Predix Link Inc., a work-force development consulting company, says variances usually arise because of the lack of communication and clarity on how to reach common work goals.

- Here are a few tips that can be used to resolve conflict at work:
 - **Choose your battles.** How important is the dispute? Does it truly affect you? Is it a chronic problem? If it's a one-time incident or mild transgression, let it pass.
 - **Expect conflict.** Friction will occasionally emerge in the course of human relationships -- it's natural. Don't fear it -- rather, learn to spot the symptoms early and see opportunity in the resolution.
 - **Use neutral language.** Avoid judgmental remarks or sweeping generalizations, such as "You never respond to my e-mails." Use calm, neutral language to describe what is bothering you. For example, "I get very frustrated when you don't return my messages because I never know if you've received important information." Be respectful and sincere, never sarcastic.

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Conflict Resolution in the Workplace

- **Practice preventive maintenance.** Avoid retreating to the safety of withdrawal, avoidance, or the simplistic view that your co-worker is a bad person. These are defense mechanisms that prevent the resolution of conflict. Instead, focus on the problem, not the person. Never attack or put the other person on the defensive.
- **Listen actively.** Never interrupt the other party. Listen and try to understand what the other person is saying. Let him know that you understand by restating or reframing his statement or position, so he knows you have indeed heard him.

FASFAA 2008 Regional Workshops

- FASFAA Regional Workshops are under way.
- If you have missed the workshops scheduled for October, you still have time to register for one of the following remaining FASFAA workshops:
 - Region 1 – February 13, 2009 (Gulf Coast Community College)
 - Region 4 – Winter Workshop held in February 2009 (Date and Location TBA)
 - Region 5 – December 16, 2008 (Nova Southeastern University)

OSFA Training

- With over 30 years of combined training, presentation, and facilitation experience, OSFA's Training and Development Section provides training on a variety of financial aid and professional development topics. Individual classes or entire curriculums can be customized to fit the needs of your organization or staff. We provide both online and on-site training to suit your needs and schedule. To learn more about OSFA Training, visit our [Web site](#) today!

Navigating Your Financial Future Spotlights

Managing Your Credit!

- The Managing Your Budget [brochure](#) is a tool for you to use to achieve your financial goals while maintaining your day-to-day living expenses. To attain financial success, mastering the skill of budgeting is the first step you can take. This will allow your money to work for you instead of feeling controlled by it. Budgeting also empowers you to be a better "money manager" and make better decisions on maximizing the power of your money to pay back your student loans either while you are in school or after you have completed school.
- Do you want to learn more? Visit our [Web site!](#)

Financial Literacy

- The economy demands it, you have requested it, and we teach it.
- Financial Literacy workshops are being conducted in an area near you.
- To view scheduled events, visit our [Web site](#).

Dates to Remember

- December 1, 2008
 - The terms and conditions of additional purchase of loans under the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act ([ECASLA](#)) of 2008 go into effect.

- December 25, 2008
 - Christmas Holiday

- December 30, 2008
 - Update your Federal School Code Information by December 30, 2008

- January 1, 2009
 - New Year's Day Holiday

KUDOS Announcement!

- OSFA recognizes the following Financial Aid Administrator for her contribution towards enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions:
 - Maria Vivier, Keiser University

Mission Statement

- The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) serves as a guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), and the administrator of Florida's scholarship and grant programs. The OSFA Mission is to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attention, comprehensive financial aid information, and convenient and efficient products.

Philosophy

- As a public agency, OSFA has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few guarantors can: the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs are used to provide financial aid workshops, publications, and better services for our participants, and to help fund scholarship and grant programs. When schools and students choose to use the OSFA guarantee for student loans, they are actually helping countless other needy and deserving students by investing in education programs. So, if a participant has a problem or suggestion, OSFA management listens and does whatever it takes to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve that kind of accountability in education finance.

OSFA Team Contact Information

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TBA	Default Prevention Representative, West	727-458-9718	
Eddie Serrano	Default Prevention Representative, East	407-334-9942	Eserrano@randbsolutions.net
Diego Perez	Default Prevention Representative, South	561-713-3122	Dperez@randbsolutions.net

And Finally...

- Confidence in the institution's ability to determine our integrity, character, and truthfulness is of the utmost importance to OSFA. The Office of Student Financial Assistance wants to know and deliver what you seek in a partner. You have the right to choose. Together, we have the power to make a difference. Trust the Office of Student Financial Assistance to help you help your students. They are our future.

News to Know Archives

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