

NEWS TO KNOW

March 2008

Welcome

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is pleased to announce the addition of Reyonna Parrish (Outreach Representative – Region 1) and Scott Krueger (Default Prevention Manager) to the OSFA Outreach Team. Please join us in welcoming them aboard!

State Programs Calendar

- February 1 – The *Reinstatement / Restoration Application for Students & Teachers* is available on our [website](#).
- March – Florida Legislative Session begins. Follow session activities at [Online Sunshine](#).
- March – Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial seventh semester evaluations and award notifications begin.

For additional information, visit our [website](#)!

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs FAQs

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

OSFA Training

With over 30 years of combined training/presentation and facilitation experience, the Training and Development section within the Office of Student Financial Assistance 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 [website](#) today!

OSFA Regional Workshops

We are in the process of finalizing dates, times, and locations for the Spring 2008 OSFA Regional Workshops. Stay tuned for registration information!

National Training for Counselors and Mentors

To date, we have completed eleven [National Training for Counselors and Mentors](#) workshops throughout the state of Florida. The workshops have been so successful, they will now be offered on an annual basis. Stay tuned for additional info!

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) - *My Story*

NT4CM is proud to include the Federal Student Aid Public Service Announcement (PSA) Campaign *My Story* as part of the NT4CM curriculum. The *My Story* campaign was launched

nationally in January 2008 and is designed to reach students across America by telling the stories of real students in a very real way. To view the Federal Student Aid Public Service Announcements (PSA), click [here](#).

Cohort Default Rate Tools & Resources

On February 11, 2008, schools received a copy of their FY 2006 Draft Cohort Default Rate. Institutions have 45 days in which to submit a challenge. For information on what steps to take during the draft cycle, please refer to the ED's [Cohort Default Rate Guide Quick Reference](#) or contact your OSFA [Outreach](#) or [Default Prevention](#) Representative for assistance.

AACRAO House Reauthorization Webinar

- If you did not have the opportunity to participate in *AACRAO's House Reauthorization Webinar* on February 14, 2008, the archive recording is now available at:
 - [House Reauthorization Webinar](#)
- You can also view the documents related to the legislation on the AACRAO [website](#).

Notice of Guarantees

Would you like to receive your Notice of Guarantees electronically, rather than on paper? Contact your [Outreach Representative](#) today to discuss the options that are available to you!

Dates to Remember

- [SASFAA](#) New Aid Workshop
 - May 28, 2008
- [SASFAA](#) Mid-Level Workshop
 - May 29-31, 2008
- [FASFAA](#) Pre-Conference Workshops
 - June 9-10, 2008
- [FASFAA](#) Conference
 - June 10-12, 2008
- [NASFAA](#) Conference
 - July 6-9, 2008

Need more info? Visit their websites!

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 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.

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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 website. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archive Page](#).