

News to Know

**Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
October 2008**

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- OSFA is pleased to provide the second annual National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) throughout the state of Florida. This program is designed to 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 workshop dates are as follows:
 - October 17
 - Tallahassee Community College
 - Tallahassee, FL
 - October 20
 - Lake City Community College
 - Lake City, FL
 - October 27
 - Rasmussen College
 - Ocala, FL
 - October 28 & 29
 - St. Johns River Community College
 - Jacksonville, FL

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National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- November 18 & 19
 - Miami Dade College – North Campus
 - Miami, Florida
- November 20 & 21
 - Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus
 - Miami, FL
- December 3
 - Pensacola Junior College
 - Pensacola, FL
- December 4
 - Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
 - Chipley, FL
- December 9
 - Northwood University
 - West Palm Beach, FL
- December 10 & 11
 - American Intercontinental University
 - Weston, FL
- December 15
 - TBA
 - Tampa, FL

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National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)

- December 16
 - TBA
 - Clearwater, FL
- December 17 & 18
 - Valencia Community College, West Campus
 - Rolando, FL
- January 12
 - Brevard Community College, Cocoa Campus
 - Cocoa, FL
- January 13
 - Indian River Community College
 - Ft. Pierce, FL
- January 14
 - South Florida Community College
 - Sebring, FL
- January 15
 - Ave Maria University
 - Ave Maria, FL
- January 22
 - TBA
 - Key West, FL

Visit our Web site for more [details!](#)

State Scholarship and Grant Programs: October 2008 Calendar

- October
 - Term 1 Disbursement Eligibility Reports (DER) are due for many of our institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs. Don't delay. Florida Statute provides that this report be submitted no later than 30 days after the last day of drop/add at your institution.
 - One exception to this reporting requirement is the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG). DERs for the FRAG program are submitted through October 30, 2008. DERs may be submitted after that date and students will be posted to the FRAG Wait List. Those students will receive funding at the end of the academic year to the extent that funds are available.
- Do you want to know what other activities and important deadlines are on the calendar?

Visit our [Web site!](#)

State Programs Announcements

- On September 10, the Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP) Allocation Notice was sent to all participating FWEP institutions. All allocations must be used for the 2008-09 academic year or refunded to OSFA by June 1, 2009. Additional information is available on our [Web site](#).
- Several State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 6A-20, for state student financial aid have been revised and are available on our [Web site](#).
 - Refer to the September 23, 2008, memorandum for more specific rule change details.
- For additional State Grants and Scholarship contacts, please visit our [Web site](#).
 - You will need to log in using your SSFAD ID and Password.

Institutions Receiving Paper Checks Through State Programs May Now Set Up Electronic Funds Transfer with State of Florida

- To request that your institution begin receiving EFTs, please visit the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) Direct Deposit [Web site](#).
- You will need to obtain a signed letter on your bank's letterhead verifying your account information. This letter must verify that the person signing the Direct Deposit form is authorized to sign on the listed account. A sample copy of a letter accompanies the Direct Deposit form to assist you.
- Please follow the instructions and submit related paperwork to:
Florida Department of Financial Services
Direct Deposit Section
200 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0359
- Please Note: Only one financial institution's account information can be on file for each Social Security Number (SSN) or Federal Tax Identification Number (FEIN). Payments cannot be sent to two or more financial institutions and wire transfers are not directly deposited.
- For more information on Direct Deposits and receiving EFTs, please contact the DFS Direct Deposit Division at directdeposit@fldfs.com or (850) 413-5517.

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!

FASFAA Fall 2008 Regional Workshops!

- Do you want to learn more about what the current trends and news are in the financial aid industry? Register for one of the regional workshops.
- Region 1 – February 9, 2009 (Gulf Coast Community College)
- Region 2 – October 15, 2008 (Cancelled)
- Region 3 – October 23, 2008 (University of Central Florida, Rosen Center)
- Region 4 – Winter Workshop held in February 2009 (Date and Location TBA)
- Region 5 – October 13 -14, 2008 (Nova Southeastern University)

It's not too late- [Register today!](#)

Important Announcements

- The initial electronic 2009-2010 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools will be available November 1, 2008, on the Information for Financial Aid Professions (IFAP) [Web site](#) . It will also be posted on the National College Access Network (NCAN) [Web site](#).

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!

ED Requests Comments on the Draft FAFSA

- The Department of Education has issued a *Federal Register* [notice](#) that requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposes to use for the 2009-2010 award year. Interested parties can submit comments electronically through e-mail using FAFSA.Comments@ed.gov. All comments must be submitted on or before October 27, 2008.
- Provisions included in the recently approved Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 instructed the Department to simplify the Federal Student Aid application process, in part by reducing the number of questions on the FAFSA form to create a consumer-friendly, FAFSA-EZ Form.

House Extends ECASLA For Another Year

- On September 15, 2008, the House overwhelmingly passed a one-year extension of provisions in the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA) that allows the Department to purchase FFELP loans. In a letter to lawmakers before the vote, NASFAA President & CEO Dr. Phil Day urged Congress to extend the provisions "that have been vital in helping students and parents secure federal student loans." The vote came after a troubling day on Wall Street. With the capital markets in such terrible condition, lawmakers made short work of the student loan bill.

Private Student Loans Understanding the Cost of Borrowing

- The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in partnership with the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) has a new resource available to educate the student population and their families regarding responsible borrowing. If you are interested in ordering this informative brochure, please contact your [Outreach Representative](#).

Navigating Your Financial Future Spotlights School and Life Management!

- The School and Life Management [brochure](#) creates awareness of the challenges for both traditional and non-traditional students as they decide to attend school. Students need to seriously consider their decisions based on their current life situations when starting school for the first time, taking a break from school, or deciding to return to school. Many pressures and responsibilities weigh heavily on the decision to pursue education such as families, work, community involvement, or extracurricular activities. This brochure helps individuals examine values, goals, and expectations while making the decision to complete higher education.
- Do you want to learn more? Visit our [Web site](#)!

Dates to Remember

- October 24, 2008
- NASFAA is now accepting Interest Session Proposals for the 2009 National Conference. Do you have information relevant to the financial aid industry that you would like to share with your colleagues? NASFAA's Conference Committee is interested in your ideas. For more information on how to submit an Interest Session Proposal, go to the NASFAA [Web site](#).

KUDOS Announcement!

- OSFA recognizes the following Financial Aid Administrator for his contribution towards enhancing OSFA's products and services by offering valuable comments and suggestions:
 - Leon Burge, Everest 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.

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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

- 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](#).