



WVASFAA NEWS

SUMMER 2008

Cover Story

-Letter from the President

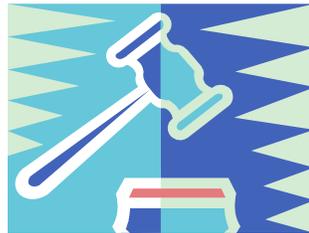


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Letter from the President



Those Summer Nights

When I first got out of college and started working in admissions, I would dread summer-time. I would get bored; you can only call a student who is coming in the fall so many times. After a while, they get tired of you calling them. But when I started in financial aid, I started to enjoy my summers again. It is amazing how much work you can get done when there are no students and faculty around.

Now my summers are filled with getting caught up on my work, working on projects that did not get done during the year, and preparing for when everyone returns in August. It is a slower pace of

life during the summer. My evenings at home when I would get through the rest of my e-mails because I did not have time during the day or working on reports that were requested today and due tomorrow are now replaced by sitting on my back porch, reading my newspaper, and drinking some cold ice tea. Now I can take walks with my family after dinner and enjoy our newest addition to our house, Lily Joy, who was born on June 5.

Summer is a time when you can take some time off and enjoy life, go camping in your backyard because gas is too expensive to go any farther. I only have a couple more weeks left. Then the phone will start ringing more, the e-mails will increase, students will drop into the office to make sure they will be receiving their refund, and then the beginning of the fall semester will be upon us. The rat race will commence. And then for the next 9 months I'll long for those cool summer nights. This article would be longer, but I need to get back to my newspaper and ice tea; I only have a couple weeks left. I hope you are enjoy-

ing your summer as much as I am.



Brian Weingart,
President

Financial Aid Training for High School Counselors

Washington, D.C. (July 2008) – National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) is a joint initiative launched last year by the U. S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid, NASFAA and the National Coalition of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) to provide free training, information, resources and tools on federal, state, and local financial aid programs for high school counselors and mentors working with students and their families.

In addition to the free training, NT4CM works to foster an ongoing dialogue with high school counselors and mentors to provide continuing support and updates. This ongoing communication is provided through monthly electronic communications that can be customized by participating states and sent to training attendees. NT4CM also works to foster continuing communication by providing e-mail and telephone contact information that provides counselors and mentors a way to get their questions answered.

“This program provides the perfect avenue for NASFAA to collaborate with others to increase students and families’ early awareness of college and financial aid,” NASFAA President and CEO Dr. Philip Day said. “NT4CM has the potential to dramatically increase college access by providing students and families with accurate and timely information.”

The Pilot Year

Seventeen states and Puerto Rico participated in NT4CM in 2007, the program’s pilot year. Participation ranged from partial participation - where states with existing counselor and mentor training programs used pieces of the NT4CM curriculum - to full participation - where states used the entire curriculum developed by NT4CM.

The pilot program was an overwhelming success with two-thirds of participants describing the training as “outstanding” and more than three-fourths of participants describing the material as “outstanding.”

The program is expanding rapidly. Federal Student Aid, NASFAA, and NCHELP are working to get other groups involved and other states to participate. The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) have joined the NT4CM steering committee this year.

NASFAA and others are working to expand the program to all 50 states in order to provide ongoing training and support for counselors and mentors and to keep them well-informed and up-to-date on federal, state, and local financial aid programs. In addition, the steering committee has plans to expand this program to train middle school counselors to raise students and families’ awareness of college and financial aid earlier.

NT4CM Resources

The NT4CM Steering Committee develops and ships materials to NT4CM state coordinators to distribute at the training sessions. These materials include:

- *A PowerPoint presentation
- *An Instructor Guide
- *A Participant Guide
- *Handouts and resource lists

In addition, NT4CM provides customizable outreach materials electronically to help states develop information about local and state aid. Training sessions cover federal aid programs (provided by NT4CM) and state aid programs (provided by states with template provided by NT4CM). NT4CM also works with states to provide training session attendees with additional customized resources.

Financial Aid Training for High School Counselors Continued

NT4CM provides trainers and coordinators volunteering for the program with comprehensive information on its Web site; www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/trainers. The site provides a downloadable version of the PowerPoint presentation and Instructor Guide, customizable outreach materials and a Train the Trainers Webinar.

In addition, NTC4M provides comprehensive information for counselors and mentors participating in the training through its Web site; www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/NT4CM. The site provides general information, including a fact sheet and FAQs, registration information, links to participating state sites, a downloadable participant guide, and links to resources.

Get Involved with NT4CM

Getting involved with NT4CM is more than volunteering; it is an investment to make financial aid administrators' jobs easier by enlisting the help of others to educate students and parents about financial aid programs.

There are two ways to get involved. Get your state and regional financial aid association involved at the state coordination level and/or volunteer to be a trainer at a session in your area.

State coordinators have several responsibilities, including:

- *Managing logistics
- *Securing trainers, dates, locations
- *Determining participation level
- *Ordering materials
- *Conducting outreach and publicity
- *Participating in bi-weekly conference calls with the Steering Committee during planning phase and as needed throughout

To learn more, visit www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/trainers. To find out how you can get involved contact Jennifer Martin, NASFAA's assistant director of professional assessment, training, and regulatory assistance and member of the NT4CM Steering Committee at martini@nasfaa.org.

"NT4CM is a great way to leverage our financial aid knowledge and experience to reach as many students and families as possible and educate them about the benefits of higher education and the financial aid available to them," Day said. "NASFAA will play an active role in promoting this vital program and encourages state and regional associations to join NASFAA by getting involved."

By Haley Chitty, Associate Director of Communications, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Comments may be addressed to the author at ChittyJ@NASFAA.org.

Changes Made During Transition Meeting for 2008-2009

Many things have changed over the past year. With the current economic climate, the executive committee at our July meeting took a hard look at the current state of our association. We currently are in good fiscal health and finished the past year with a budget surplus. However, the coming year is bringing challenges in that many of our exhibitors are uncertain if they will be able to continue to participate at our conferences like in the past. Our exhibitors provide a large source of revenue for our association.

Because of this, the executive committee has made some changes for the coming year based upon the survey given to members at our Spring Conference at Glade Spring. So the following changes have been made:

- ◆ The WVASFAA Scholarship has been eliminated. This was a drawing of high school students who attended a financial aid night conducted by a WVASFAA member.
- ◆ WVASFAA will reimburse up to \$100 for the Counselor Training that is provided to high school counselors in November. This is a decrease from \$500; it is encouraged that participants pay for their own lunch that day or the school can pick up the cost.
- ◆ The membership fee will increase from \$30 to \$50 for 2008-2009. The increase is to help pay for NASFAA training materials and to maintain the association's website.
- ◆ WVASFAA will be exploring additional training opportunities to provide members like training for new financial aid professionals.

We feel that these changes will help our association remain strong and re-focus our attention on enhancing the professional competency, assisting in the development of effective programs, facilitating communication and providing training opportunities in the delivery of student financial aid.

Survey Reveals Financial Aid Administrators' Views of the Student Loan Crunch

Washington, D.C. (July 22, 2008) – According to a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), the vast majority (90 percent) of student financial aid administrators said they are concerned about the student loan crunch and more than half (52 percent) believe that the recently enacted Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA) does not do enough to ensure future loan access for students. Key findings in the report include:

- Aid administrators believe that ECASLA will help ease the student loan crunch problem, but also feel that longer-term solutions are needed.
- Aid administrators are concerned about the loan crunch as well as provisions in ECASLA that would result in students have multiple servicers and multiple repayment obligations.
- Aid administrators are using a variety of methods to help students affected by the student loan crunch. However, only a quarter of aid administrators have a backup plan in place to handle any disruptions in federal or private loans. An additional 20 percent plan to have a backup plan in place before the beginning of the academic year, fall 2008.

Survey Reveals Financial Aid Administrators' Views of the Student Loan Crunch Cont'

- The majority of schools still offer some form of a preferred lender list (PLL), but 75 percent of schools that stopped offering a PLL have done so within the last.
- The leading reason that schools have stopped offering PLLs is new federal or state laws or regulations that make the lists too difficult to maintain or open the school up to too much legal risk.
- Nearly half of all schools that offer PLLs also link to an outside Web site that offers student loan comparison tools or a list of lenders.

New discriminatory lending practices by student loan providers was also a chief concern for the 1,078 survey respondents. Recently, some of the largest Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) lenders have indicated that they will no longer be lending to some community colleges, career schools, or other private schools that have higher default rates or students with lower than average loan amounts.

More than half (56 percent) of the student aid administrator respondents said a FFELP lender had notified them that the company would no longer offer loans to students at their institution even though the company would continue to lend to students at other institutions. Additionally, more than 60 percent of respondents said Congress should enact rules or incentives to ensure that lenders provide federal loans to all students no matter what institution they attend.

Unfortunately, these discriminatory lending practices have the greatest negative impact on colleges that serve the largest amount of low- and moderate-income students.

“Too many students rely on loans to pay for their education. I do not accept the premise that student loans are here to stay, especially for needy students,” said NASFAA President and CEO Dr. Philip Day. “If the student loan crunch has shown us anything, it is that our neediest students have no place in the student loan marketplace. We should help them find as many alternatives to borrowing as possible by providing them with grants and scholarships to meet their educational costs.”

The survey was performed over a 16-day period from Monday, June 9, 2008, to Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Surveys were sent to 2,626 member institutions; 1,078 surveys were completed and returned, with a well-balanced representation from each of region of the country. Respondents represent all types of institutions, including: 4-year public and private schools, 2-year public and private schools, vocational schools, and graduate and professional schools.

This survey is intended to give insight to policymakers, advocacy groups, and others with an interest in higher education on the perceptions of the aid administrators, who work most closely with our nation's students and parents to help them meet their educational expenses.

“I have every confidence in the commitment of student aid administrators to our nation's students and parents, and urge policymakers, advocacy groups, and others with a vested interest in our nation's students to carefully examine what aid administrators are seeing on their campuses,” Day said. “NASFAA members have practical knowledge of student aid programs and experience administering college aid. Their insights can help policy makers at the regional, state and federal levels develop student aid programs that are efficient and effective in accomplishing the nation's higher education goals.”

State-wide Textbook Taskforce

Earlier this year, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (CCTCE) approved a resolution that directs institutions to review their policies regarding bookstores and textbook costs with an intention of minimizing those costs to students. It was further resolved that I, along with Chancellor Skidmore, appoint a statewide task force on textbook affordability to study and recommend statewide initiatives and model rules for bookstore and textbook cost policies. As a result of this resolution, a nine-person statewide task force on textbook affordability has been created.

To learn more about the work of this task force and provide feedback on the issue of textbook affordability, please visit the following website: http://wvhepcnew.wvnet.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=78&Itemid=2.

Please pass this message along to faculty, staff, students, parents, and others that you feel should be involved in this important discussion.

Sincerely,

BN

Brian Noland, Ph.D.

Chancellor

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East Suite 1000

WVASFAA Meetings & Training

Fall 2008 Conference

October 29-31, 2008

Days Inn Flatwoods

Room Rate: \$65 Single & \$72 Double



WVASFAA Member News

The new Director at Davis and Elkins College is Matt Summerfield.

The new Director at WV Wesleyan College is Susan George.

Carol Weaver at Alderson-Broaddus College has received a promotion to Assistant Director.

Glenna Layne has retired from Southern WV Community and Technical College. Below is a message sent from Glenna on June 30:

'Today is my last day in financial aid. I am retiring to spend more time with my family. It has been my great pleasure to be a member of WVASFAA and to get to share time with you all. My best to everyone.'

Glenna Layne

Four people from WV attended MASFAA Summer Institute at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, OH this year. They were: Summer Cook—Ohio Valley University, Sara Davis—University of Charleston, Amanda Greene—Ohio Valley University., Deborah Smith—West Virginia University Institute of Technology. We also had three WVASFAA members participate in MASFAA Summer Institute on the Site and Faculty committees. They were: James Buchanan, Patricia King, and Kaye Widney.



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Please contact us with any information you would like to see in future newsletters.