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TSAC Road Show Training

TSAC is offering a training opportunity for financial aid administrators at multiple locations across Tennessee. The workshops are designed for all levels of financial aid administrators. Our preliminary agenda will include topics such as Bankruptcy, Cohort Default Rate, Verification and Dependency Questions, New Professional Judgment Guidance, state grants and TELS program updates and e*GRandS enhancements. The workshop will open at 8:30 am with a continental breakfast and the first session beginning at 9:00 am. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 am. The conference will conclude at 3:30 pm. Registration may be completed at www.TN.gov/collegepays

beginning June 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Darolyn Porter at 615-253-7472.

SCHEDULED DATES:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 14th | Knoxville, Tennessee
Johnson Bible College |
| July 15th | Morristown, Tennessee
Walter State Community College |
| July 16th | Chattanooga, Tennessee
Chattanooga State Community College |
| July 28th | Memphis, Tennessee
Memphis College of Art |
| July 29th | Jackson, Tennessee
Union University |
| July 30th | Nashville, Tennessee
Tennessee State University
(Avon Williams Campus) |



Dollar Sensei Printed Materials Available

On March 30, 2009, TSAC released Dollar Sensei, which is a web-based program connecting schools to realtime information on delinquent borrowers.



Dollar Sensei also offers online financial literacy-training program for students. Instructing students on financial literacy is the basis for a good foundation on personal responsibility. Dollar Sensei provides practical education that is presented in a style that will engage and encourage active participation of students.

Dollar Sensei provides borrowers with online training modules on: Budgeting, Loan Repayment, Credit Cards, Credit Reports, and Identity Theft. There are corresponding printed materials for each of these topics as well. Schools may order these materials from the TSAC website, www.tn.gov/CollegePays/, for use in their offices or with Entrance and Exit counseling.

For more information, printed materials, or to view a demonstration of Dollar Sensei, please contact Cathy Jones at: 615.428.5741 or cathy.l.jones@tn.gov.

Updated Loan Forms and Mapping Your Future Cards Ready to Order

As of April 24, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved revised versions of FFEL Program promissory notes and related documents. Included in this release were revised Master Promissory Notes (MPN), MPN Addenda, Plain Language Disclosures, School Certifications and related documents for Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program Stafford and PLUS loans.

Mapping Your Future also has new reminder cards available for Entrance and Exit Counseling for Stafford and GradPlus programs.

All of these forms will be available to order in early June from the TSAC website, www.tn.gov/CollegePays/, or by contacting Bill Heath at: 615.532.3497 or bill.heath@tn.gov.

Conversion to Electronic Refund Process

Effective with the 2009-10 academic year, TSAC will begin requiring all postsecondary institutions to return grant and scholarship funds electronically. All grant and scholarship funds that are disbursed to participating institutions are now being sent electronically; therefore, we are attempting to automate the receipt and return of funds.

Returning funds electronically provides a quicker and safer alternative than returning checks to TSAC. This notification will give institutions approximately 30 days to work with their business offices to make necessary adjustments to their refund processes.

Please remember that you may no longer mix payment and refunds adjustments on the same adjustment transaction. All refunds must be processed on a separate adjustment transaction.

To obtain more information and the account and routing numbers for the electronic return of funds, please contact Eric Creighton at (615) 253-7484. If you have questions regarding the conversion to an electronic refund process, please contact Tim Phelps at (615) 253-7441.

New Outreach Specialist for East Tennessee

Mr. Drew Freeman has been hired to serve as TSAC's new Outreach Specialist for East Tennessee. Drew comes to TSAC from the admissions office at Carson-Newman College. He will be TSAC's representative to the following counties: Blount, Knox, Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Union, Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, Sevier, Hancock, Carter, Hawkins, Hamblen, Greene, Washington, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Johnson. Drew enjoys working with high school students and their families in the college planning and counseling process.



Drew was born in Shelby, NC and lived there until he was 14. He and his family moved to Elizabethton, TN where he graduated from high school. Drew chose to attend Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, TN where he majored in Political Science. He graduated in 2004. He and his wife Elizabeth, who is a nurse at the East Tennessee Children's Hospital, have been married since 2005.

Drew is an avid traveler, having visited 40 US States; he has a goal to visit all 50 states. He enjoys sports, having played varsity basketball and soccer in high school. He loves to watch college football, basketball, and the NFL. He also plays guitar and loves skiing and hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Drew is a great addition to the TSAC Outreach team.

Tennessee Legislative Update

The House Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee of the 106th General Assembly faced a difficult task from the beginning of the session when both committees became aware that due to the economic situation affecting anticipated lottery revenues, funding for bills proposing new, or expansion to existing, postsecondary student financial aid programs would not be available.

However, several bills were passed by both committees, and will now be heard in other committees or the respective Houses. A few of these bills include:

HB0364 (SB0676) proposing the "Tennessee Math and Science Teacher Service Scholarship Program," a loan forgiveness program to be funded by private donations, for students seeking licensure to teach mathematics or science in a Tennessee public school, with the student agreeing to teach in a public school one year for each year the award is received;

SB0311 (HB0474) allowing a student with a documented medical disability that restricts the student's attendance to part-time to petition for an extension of time in which to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship

SB0037 (HB0839) expanding eligibility for the Helping Heroes Grant Scholarship to include current members of a reserve or Tennessee National Guard unit who have served on active military service of the United States, and meet all other eligibility requirements for the grant, and removing the limitation on the number of recipients, but retaining the limitation on the total annual amount to be expended for this program.