



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



NORM BEDFORD AND HELEN BENJAMIN ELECTED ACSFA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Washington DC— On September 13, 2011, the members of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance unanimously elected to one-year terms Norm Bedford as chair and Helen Benjamin as vice chair. The Advisory Committee was created by Congress to provide advice and counsel on student aid policy to Congress and the Secretary of Education and make recommendations that will result in the maintenance of access for low- and middle-income students. Its members are higher education and student aid policy experts and are appointed by Congress and the Secretary of Education.

Mr. Norm Bedford was appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 2008 to serve a term that expires in September 2012. Mr. Bedford currently serves as the Director of Financial Aid at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He has worked in the financial aid profession since 1989. Prior to joining UNLV, he worked for Bowling Green State University, Eastern Illinois University, and The Ohio State University. While living in the Midwest, Mr. Bedford remained active within the Ohio and Illinois Associations of Student Financial Aid Administrators. He has provided numerous training sessions at conferences on a variety of financial aid topics and has been a member, chair, or co-chair of many committees. He was also a two-time National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) trainer regarding the federal work study community service program, consortium agreements, and professional judgment. Mr. Bedford holds a BS in family resource management from The Ohio State University. He also holds a MEd in guidance and counseling from Eastern Illinois University for which he wrote a quantitative thesis entitled, "An exploration of the financial aid application errors committed by students diagnosed as learning disabled."

Dr. Helen Benjamin was appointed by the Speaker of the House in 2008 to serve a term that expires in September 2012. She is in her 7th year as Chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District, one of the largest multi-college districts in California, and is the first community college appointee to this committee. Dr. Benjamin enjoys the challenges of developing programs and policies that contribute to the 62-year tradition of education excellence in the Contra Costa Community College District, and the success of all community college students nationwide. She began her education career teaching English in the Dallas Independent School District, and is proud of her lifelong career in serving students. Her leadership also extends to community college issues at the state and federal levels including the convener of the Presidents' Round Table, a national network of African American community college CEOs, American Council on Education Commission on Effective Leadership, and the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges. Dr. Benjamin's commitment to the Contra Costa County community is evident through her civic involvement with the Mechanics Bank Community Development Corporation Advisory Board, Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board, John Muir Physician Network Board, and the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, LTD. Dr. Benjamin has a BS degree in English and Spanish from Bishop College in Texas where she graduated magna cum laude. She earned masters and doctoral degrees from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

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**An independent committee created by Congress to
advise on higher education and student aid policy**