



Student Service Updates

Letter from the Director

The Student Service staff has been unbelievably busy this year! We are in the midst of executing six new grant competitions to include Upward Bound (UB), Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS), Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), McNair, Training and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN). To date, we have completed: the field review process for UB; technical assistance workshops and the public comment period for McNair; the application and pre-screening requirements for GAANN; and the draft package for public comments for UBMS and VUB. We will make final awards for UB by the end of May. All other awards will be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The following new programs were recently added under the Student Service umbrella: the College Access Challenge Grant Program; the Demonstration Projects to Ensure Students With Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education Program; the Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities Program; the Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities-Coordinating Center Program; and the Teacher Quality Enhancement Program. We will feature each of the new programs in upcoming editions of our newsletter, or you may go the Department of Education's Web site for more information.

As we work to implement each of our programs, we have been fortunate to bring on several new staff members. They are assets to our office and are eager to learn more about our programs. We also lost 10 members of our staff in January to retirement (see page 5). We miss them and appreciate all they accomplished for low-income and first generation college students, college students with disabilities and adults.

Student Service's programmatic thrust is growing, and we remain committed to working with grantees to provide access to and completion of higher education to students served by each program.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.

Director, Student Service

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UB Competition Update

The Upward Bound (UB) Program competition is well underway! The first Notice Inviting Applications (Notice) for the FY 2012 UB Program was published in the Federal Register on Monday, December 19, 2011, with a deadline date of Monday, January 30, 2012 (extended to February 1, 2012). Subsequently, the Department of Education (Department) posted a Notice reopening the competition for certain applicants to submit

amended applications; this Notice was posted in the Federal Register on Friday, March 2, 2012, with a closing date of Friday, March 16, 2012.

The Department received approximately 1562 applications. All eligible applications were included in a peer review process, which began on February 27, 2012, and concluded on April 18, 2012. During the peer review process, each

eligible application was reviewed by a panel of three non-federal reviewers, who read and scored each assigned application individually.

The Department is currently in the process of developing the first award slate of successful applicants under the competition. Awards are expected to be made by the Secretary before May 31, 2012.

UBMS and VUB Competitions Update

A Notice of the Department's request to reinstate, with changes, the application packages for soliciting applications for new awards under the FY 2012 Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) Program and the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program were published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2012. The public comment period ends on May 9, 2012. We encourage all interested members of the TRIO community to review and submit comments on these documents.



Viola Davis, actress and former Upward Bound (UB) participant, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance in "The Help". She was nominated for an Oscar for her supporting role in 2008's "Doubt" and won Tony Awards for "King Hedley II" (2001) and "Fences" (2010). Ms. Davis studied theatre at Rhode Island College, and in 2002, she received an

honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the college. Ms. Davis credits the UB Program for contributing to her success and continues to support UB as a speaker and co-founder of an endowment fund. The endowment fund, established by Ms. Davis and her sister in 1988, supports the Rhode Island College UB Program. Recent Academy Award winner for Best Actress, Meryl Streep, donated \$10,000 to the fund in Ms. Davis' honor.

McNair Competition Update

A Notice of the Department's request to reinstate, with changes, the application package for soliciting applications for new awards under the FY 2012 Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program was published in the Federal Register on February 28, 2012. The public comment period ended on March 29, 2012. Approximately 94 comments

were received. The Department would like to thank everyone who submitting valuable feedback on this application. Once the final Notice inviting applications is finalized, it will be posted in the Federal Register. Please check the TRIO homepage for updates on the competition: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

The OPE Communications Team is proud to announce

OPE's Twitter Page is LIVE!

If you are on Twitter, please follow us!

Find us at - <https://twitter.com/edpostsecondary> or @EDPostsecondary.

In addition, here's a growing list of Twitter Pages at the Department of Education, in case you would like to see who is Tweeting and would like to follow them, too.

Collaboration between TS, GEAR UP, UB, CACG

Programs administered by the Department of Education's (Department) Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) are intended to address the national need to increase access to quality postsecondary education, strengthen the capacity of colleges and universities, and provide teacher and student development resources. As you are aware, several of these programs, including GEAR UP, Upward Bound, and Talent Search, are geared toward high school students, share a similar mission, and often serve the same high schools. The Department would like to take this opportunity to remind grantees of the need for coordination between these and other available programs serving disadvantaged students.

It is imperative that project directors ensure that procedures are in place at schools served by more than one program to promote collaborations and ensure that students are not being over-served to the detriment of other eligible students who could also benefit from these programs. The authorizing official for GEAR UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, and College Access Challenge grants included with their applications, assurances that they will collaborate if serving the same target schools or areas in order to minimize the duplication of services. The Department would also like to remind grantees that, in accordance with the applicable program regulations, any on-site review conducted by Department staff will include a review of records of the services provided to any participant by each program.

GAANN Competition Update

The Notice inviting applications under the FY 2012 Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program (GAANN) competition was posted in the Federal Register on Thursday, December 15, 2011. The deadline for transmittal of applications was Friday,

January 20, 2012. A total of 264 applications were received and are being pre-screened for review. The peer review process is scheduled for May 7-18, 2012. Final awards are expected to be made by the Secretary before July 30, 2012.

New TS APR

Student Service staff has developed a new Annual Performance Report (APR) form for the Talent Search (TS) Program that is now available for public comment. The Notice of Proposed Information Collection was published in the Federal Register (FR) on March 16, 2012; comments are due May 15, 2012. The link to the FR notice which includes instructions for accessing the draft form is on our Web site at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>.

Changes to the TS APR were necessitated by changes to the TS program resulting from the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, the amendments to the TS program regulations published on October 26, 2010, and the new standardized project objectives implemented under the FY 2011 competition for new grants.

In previous years, the same APR form was used for both the TS and Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) programs, because of similarities in the performance data collected for these two programs. However, statutory changes to the TS program, in particular, resulting from the HEOA and subsequent new regulations require the Department of Education (Department) to collect substantially different data for each of these programs. Therefore, the Department is developing separate APR forms for TS and EOC. The new APR form for the EOC program is not yet available for public comment.



Did you know the Department of Education has a blog? Check out the following video blog post from Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary

Arne Duncan, who have hosted conversations nationwide to address how we're paving the way toward increased college completion and, therefore, a better future for youth and our country.

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2012/01/making-college-more-affordable/>

College Board Resources

The College Board provides K-12 teachers, counselors, and administrators with professional development resources and services to engage students in high-level learning. The organization's aim is to ensure that every middle and high school student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts that are needed to succeed in college.

Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP Summer Institutes and school year workshops provide subject-specific professional development that equips K-12 teachers and administrators with content and resources to build an AP program and enhance the teaching of AP courses. Workshops and Summer Institutes also provide an opportunity for teachers to exchange ideas and information with peers worldwide, and to become a member of an extended learning community.

To learn more about the College Board's intensive workshops for education professionals as well as AP and Pre-AP Summer Institutes for K-12 teachers visit <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/prof-dev/workshops>

GEAR UP Update

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program recently announced new awards for fiscal year 2012. GEAR UP awarded seven new State grants totaling \$30,728,958 and four new partnership grants totaling \$4,855,813. The new awards will provide comprehensive mentoring, outreach and supportive services to over 48,000 students in ten states.

Join thousands of others nationwide
and get FAFSA help on Twitter!
Check out @FAFSA

@FAFSAWeekly Stats (week ending 3/16)

28	Tweets
238	Retweets
157	New Followers
283.3K	Impressions
3,106	Current Followers

Top Two Tweets:

- * You know you should be searching for #scholarships, but instead you're hanging out on Facebook. Here's a compromise: <http://t.co/TmheyCF2>
- * Think your family makes too much money to receive federal student aid? Think again: <http://t.co/Z2ayHTHx>

Student Service Staffing Update

This year included a lot of transitions. A total of **ten** people retired from Student Service in January 2012 (see box below). They provided the office with a tremendous amount of wisdom and experience. We wish each of them well as they move on to life after the Department. We applaud each of them for their contributions to our office, the Department, and to students around the country. By now, many of you should have been introduced to your new grants management specialist. The office was fortunate to bring on **eleven** talented new members to our team. If you don't have the name of your new grants management specialist, please contact the division director for that team for more information.

Student Service is also pleased to welcome a new division director, Dr. Katie E. Blanding, to our staff. Dr. Blanding joins us from another division in the Office of Postsecondary Education. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in higher education and government service.

The Department would like to recognize the following 10 Student Service retirees and commend them for their many years of dedication to the students served by our programs.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Loretta Brown • Shirley Johnson • Tommy Jordan • Dorothy Marshall • Virginia Pinkney • Brenda Shade • Joyce Thomas • Pariece Wilkins • Reginald Williams • Robert Zimmerman

Two Exciting New Tools from Federal Student Aid



START HERE
GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

As the cost of college continues to increase, financial aid becomes ever more important. While many factors are involved in the decision to attend college, there is a strong correlation between FAFSA completion and college enrollment.

Federal Student Aid (FSA) recently launched two new tools to help schools and access professionals promote FAFSA completion. The *FAFSA Completion Tool* provides school-specific FAFSA submission and completion data. It's updated every two weeks and is a great way to track completion progress. Additionally, FSA launched *@FAFSA on Twitter* to provide FAFSA information and financial aid tips.

Previously, high schools relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rate. FSA is now providing high schools with current data about their FAFSA submissions and com-

pletions so they can track their progress and help to ensure their students complete a FAFSA. The data includes applicants who are 18 years old or younger and who will have received their high school diploma by the start of the 2012-13 school year. To access the new *FAFSA Completion Tool* go to:

www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov/datacenter/fafsahs.html

The new *@FAFSA on Twitter* (3,000+ followers) was launched in late January to help students and families navigate the financial aid process. This is another great tool to provide helpful information and tips and for followers to interact with FSA. FSA holds monthly *@FAFSA* Twitter "Office Hours" with different guests to answer specific financial aid questions from students, schools, access professionals and others. Follow [@FAFSA](https://twitter.com/FAFSA) on Twitter to join the conversation. If your organization is on Twitter and is interested in some sample tweets to post on your sites, email the FSA New Media Team at fsanewmedia@ed.gov.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submitting comments on the UBMS application for new awards: **May 9, 2012**
- Deadline for submitting comments on the VUB application for new awards: **May 9, 2012**
- Deadline for submitting comments on the TS APR: **May 15, 2012**

Tell us about your strategies for success!

We would like to call the Student Service community's attention to a Request for Information (RFI) announced by Secretary Duncan on January 30, 2012. The RFI formally invites public feedback on efforts to increase postsecondary success, and positive results will be shared and potentially replicated across the country. For more information, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/01/30/2012-1963/promising-and-practical-strategies-to-increase-postsecondary-success>

Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS Updates? Please send an email to ReShone.Moore@ed.gov