



# Student Service Updates

## Letter from the Director

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I am back and we have a lot of information to share regarding Student Service. It was an honor for me to serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, and I am happy to be transitioning back to my role as Senior Director for the Office of Student Service. I applaud Ms. Eileen Bland and the other directors and staff for managing the office during my temporary reassignment.

This is also an exciting time for the TRIO community as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs* that begin in 1964 with the Upward Bound Program. We are planning a symposium late summer and will share more information about that event once details have been finalized. We will offer technological support so that you will be able to share in the symposium via the internet. We also encourage each of you to plan an activity at your host site to celebrate this milestone sometime during the year.

We have also included a new section in this edition called “**Sharing Student Service**” to provide each of you with updated information on some of our activities in the field. This update highlights relevant information about various grant competitions within the Department of Education and other updates on the annual performance reports as well as OMB’s new Uniform Guidance for Federal awards. During the first quarter of 2014, the staff has worked tirelessly to follow up with each of you regarding monitoring activities and to address any issues or concerns that you may have.

We hope you will find this edition of Student Service Updates very helpful and we look forward to continuing our service of working successfully with each of you.

Thank you again for all that you do to provide hope and opportunity for success to the participants that we serve.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.  
Senior Director  
Student Service

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*Updates? Please send an  
email to*

[ReShone.Moore@ed.gov](mailto:ReShone.Moore@ed.gov)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs

*“TRIO: Celebrating 50 Years of Promoting Excellence by Providing Hope and Opportunity for Success”*

**“We are trying to build a great society that will make your children and your grandchildren and the people three or four generations from today proud of what we are doing.”**

**-President Lyndon B. Johnson, 8th January, 1964. State of the Union Address.**

The Office of Postsecondary Education, Higher Education Programs, Student Service Area, will sponsor a one-day symposium to celebrate the achievements and discuss the future of the Federal TRIO Programs in continuing to promote excellence by providing hope and opportunity for success to low-income and first generation college students and individuals with disabilities. As we look back to the inception of the TRIO Programs, the mission remains relevant today. This one day symposium will include current students and alumni of TRIO, project directors, educators, organizational affiliates, Congressional representatives and Federal officials. Additional information about this exciting event will be forthcoming.

In honor of the celebration of our 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs, we are pleased to announce our first ever logo design contest. Projects will have the opportunity to design an original logo and claim their place in history. More information to follow.

## SHARING STUDENT SERVICE

- ∞ February 13, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, served as the keynote speaker for the National TRIO Day Program at Wichita State University
- ∞ March 5, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, and each of the Division Directors, made a presentation via conference call during the annual meeting of the Texas Association of Student Special Services Programs (TASSSP). The purpose of TASSSP is to serve as a professional clearing-house, service organization, and cooperative agency for professional personnel and related individuals regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, age, or creed.
- ∞ March 5, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, and each of the Division Directors, made a presentation via conference call during the annual meeting of the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP). WESTOP is one of ten regional associations dedicated to furthering educational opportunities for low income, first generation and disabled students from the States of California (northern, central and southern) and Nevada and the Pacific Islands.
- ∞ March 26, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, was the featured speaker at the Council for Opportunity in Education’s 34th Annual Policy Seminar.\* Members of the Student Service staff also participated in the seminar on relations.
- ∞ April 7, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, and each of the Division Directors made a presentation via conference call during the annual meeting of the Tri-State Conference of TRIO professionals from the following three state organizations: the Florida Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (FAEOPP), the Georgia Association of Special Programs Personnel (GASPP) and the South Carolina Council of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SCCEOPP). The purpose of each association is to provide effective and innovative opportunities for its members and students.
- ∞ April 7, 2014: Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service, and each of the Division Directors made a presentation via conference call during the annual meeting of the Illinois State TRIO Conference.

\*Note: Department of Education staff did not participate in the lobbying portion of the event.

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## Update on new 2012-13 Annual Performance Reports (APRs)

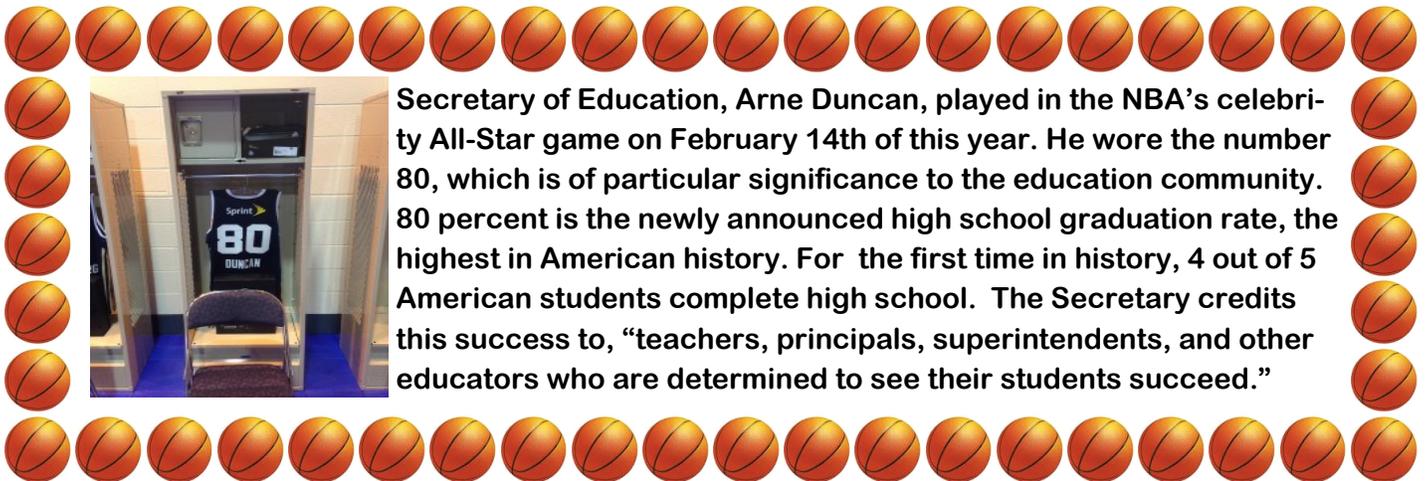
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The Department has finished two rounds of testing for the 2012-13 UB and UBMS Annual Performance Reports (APRs) Web applications. The UB and UBMS APR Web applications became available March 24th; and the due date for the grantees to submit the APR is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program's APR: The online Web application that McNair grantees use to submit their APRs for the 2012-13 reporting year was available April 16, 2014; the due date for submitting the APRs is May 16, 2014.

The second notice requesting public comments on the revised APR for the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program was published in the Federal Register and comments were due April 16, 2014. The VUB APR is still on schedule to be approved by OMB in late spring 2014. VUB projects will not be able to submit their APR for 2012-13 until mid-summer 2014.

The 60-day public comment notice for the SSS APR was published in the Federal Register on March 31, 2014. An additional 30-day comment period will follow. We do not anticipate any change to the regular due date for submission of the SSS APRs for 2013-14 of November 30, 2014.



**Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, played in the NBA's celebrity All-Star game on February 14th of this year. He wore the number 80, which is of particular significance to the education community. 80 percent is the newly announced high school graduation rate, the highest in American history. For the first time in history, 4 out of 5 American students complete high school. The Secretary credits this success to, "teachers, principals, superintendents, and other educators who are determined to see their students succeed."**

### *University of Arkansas Opens Campus in Mexico*

On February 20th, more than 2,000 leaders in government, education and business gathered to celebrate the planned construction of a new Arkansas State University (ASU) campus in Mexico. The event was funded by the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Education, or AAME, which said it had acquired property for the new development near Queretaro that will also include commercial, residential and recreational components. Expected to be open for classes in 2015, the new campus will incorporate the ASU brand and logo as well as the university's curriculum. Teaching will be in English by faculty approved by Arkansas State. The first phase of academic space will accommodate up to 5,000 students, with a goal of 1,000 students in the first year.

# Uniform Guidance Update

On December 26, 2013, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published new guidance for Federal award programs, OMB Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ( Guidance). The Guidance supersedes and streamlines requirements from OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-110, A-122, A-89, A-102 and A-133 and the guidance in Circular A-50 on Single Audit Act follow-up. It is a key component of a larger Federal effort to more effectively focus Federal grant resources on improving performance and outcomes while ensuring the financial integrity of taxpayer dollars.

Please note that the Guidance will not apply to grants made by the Department of Education (ED) until adopted by ED through a Federal Register Notice. That Notice, which will be published in 2014, will indicate the date on which the Guidance applies to ED grant funds. Until that time ED grantees must comply with the requirements in the current circulars listed above.

To prepare for full implementation of the Guidance, ED staff are undertaking a comprehensive review of all policies, procedures, non-regulatory guidance and the relevant sections of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations to determine areas where conforming changes need to be made. In addition, plans are underway to develop and deliver training on the new requirements for both ED staff and ED grantees as well as others impacted by the guidance. As technical assistance efforts and training are finalized and become available, you will be notified. OMB has also informed us that they are developing content-specific training and technical assistance that will be available throughout the year.

If you have questions about ED's implementation and training efforts related to the Guidance, you can submit them to: [UniformGrantGuidanceImplementation@ed.gov](mailto:UniformGrantGuidanceImplementation@ed.gov)

Following are some government-wide resources that may be useful in understanding the content and impact of this effort:

The full text of the OMB Uniform Guidance can be viewed at: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants\\_docs](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_docs)

On Friday December 20, 2013, the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) and members of the grants community held a roundtable discussion on the Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. OMB offered additional training on the Uniform Grant Guidance on Monday, January 27, 2014. The following link will take you to the recorded webcasts and information on additional resources on the new OMB Uniform Guidance: <http://cfo.gov/cofar>

You are encouraged to submit technical questions to [cofar@omb.eop.gov](mailto:cofar@omb.eop.gov).

## 2011-2012 Civil Rights Data Collection

In March, Attorney General Eric Holder, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon, and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan released the 2011-2012 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). The CRDC is a vital resource that provides the public an opportunity to search for how our nation's schools serve all students, including our students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities. The troubling disparities these data reveal should remind us all of the importance of ensuring that all students have equal access to educational opportunities. Some takeaways from the 2011-2012 CRDC include:

Access to preschool is not a reality for much of the country. About 40% of public school districts do not offer preschool.

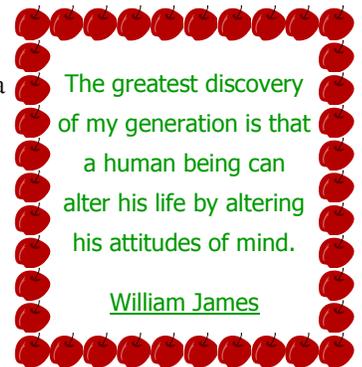
Suspension of preschool children. Black students represent 18% of preschool enrollment but 42% of preschool students suspended once, and 48% of the preschool students suspended more than once.

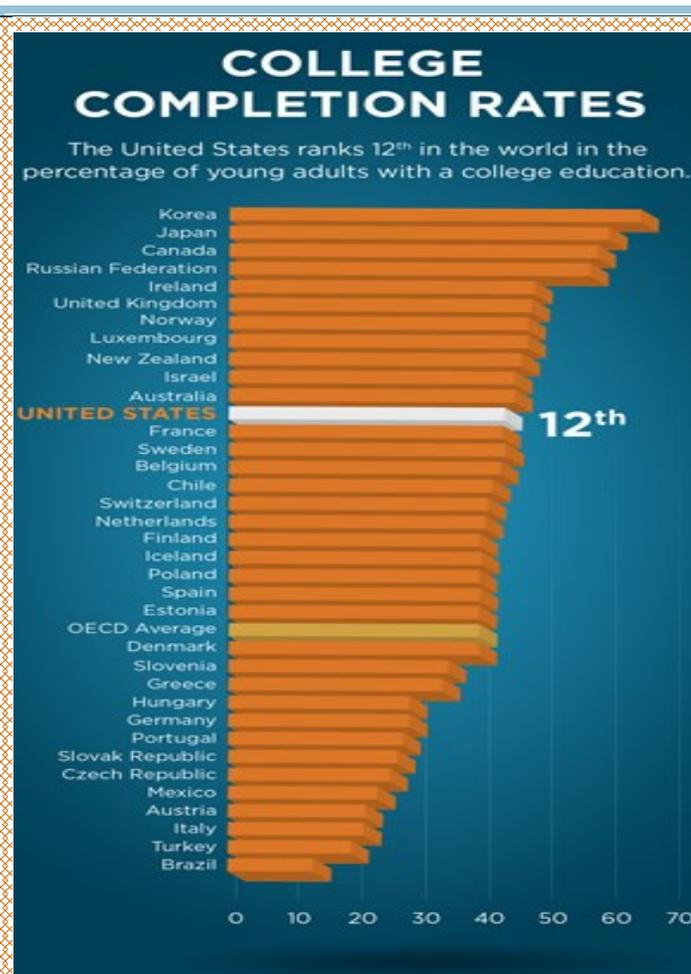
Access to courses necessary for college is inequitably distributed. 81% of Asian-American high school students and 71% of white high school students attend high schools where the full range of math and science courses is offered. Less than half of American Indian and Native Alaskan high school students have access to the full range of math and science courses in their high school. Black students (57%), Latino students (67%), students with disabilities (63%), and English learners (65%) also have diminished access to the full range of courses.

Access to school counselors. Nationwide, one in five high schools lacks a school counselor.

Disparities in high school retention. 12% of black students are retained in grade nine about double the rate that all students are retained (6%). Additionally, students with disabilities served by IDEA and English learners make up 12% and 5% of high school enrollment, respectively, but 19% and 11% of students held back or retained a year, respectively.

There are resources publicly available around the CRDC is available at <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/>.





**"The America we want for our kids—a rising America where honest work is plentiful and communities are strong; where prosperity is widely shared and opportunity for all lets us go as far as our dreams and toil will take us—none of it is easy. But if we work together, if we summon what is best in us, with our feet planted firmly in today, but our eyes cast towards tomorrow—I know it's within our reach."**

**– Barack Obama, January 28, 2014**

<http://www.ed.gov/priorities>

### COLLEGE SCORECARD UPDATED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH MORE TRANSPARENCY

In the summer of 2012, the Obama Administration introduced the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet so that families could have a clear, concise way to see the cost of a particular school. The Shopping Sheet provides a standardized award letter allowing students to easily compare financial aid packages and make informed decisions on where to attend college.

So far, nearly 2,000 institutions have committed to providing the Shopping Sheet to their prospective students. Those institutions represent over 43 percent of, or over 8.1 million, undergraduate students across the United States.

Since institutions started adopting the Shopping Sheet, we've received input from students, parents, guidance counselors, and financial aid administrators. The feedback suggests that institutions and students are becoming more familiar with the Shopping Sheet, so the

newest edition of the Shopping Sheet includes only modest changes. To improve clarity, ED has identified minor language changes and has added a glossary to better explain financial aid terms. Additionally, data used to populate college outcomes used on the Shopping Sheet (graduation rate, loan default rate, and median borrowing) have also been updated to be one year more current.

Through the release of college search and transparency tools, such as the College Scorecard, Financial Aid Toolkit, and the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet, the Obama Administration continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving transparency in the college selection process. Institutions interested in adopting the Shopping Sheet may contact the U.S. Department of Education at [ShoppingSheet@ed.gov](mailto:ShoppingSheet@ed.gov). For more information on the Shopping Sheet, including a list of participating institutions, visit [www.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet](http://www.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet).

### **Federal TRIO Training Program 2014 Competition**

The Department of Education, through the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs, will award \$1,400,000 to five grantees to provide training to TRIO Program personnel. This program is competed every two years and the training topics are divided among five absolute priorities, identified in the legislation. This year's competition key dates are as follows:

**February 19, 2014** – Training Program Information Collection published in the Federal Register for 30 day public comment period

**March 21, 2014** – Last day of public comment

**Late April** – Closing date notice to publish in the Federal Register and application will be available

**Late May 2014** – Application deadline

**Mid-June 2014** – Peer review

**Mid-July 2014** – Second peer review for funding band eligible applicants

**Late August 2014** – Awards made

For information about the Training Program grant competition, please contact Suzanne Ulmer at [Suzanne.Ulmer@ed.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Ulmer@ed.gov).

## My Brother's Keeper Initiative Launched

President Obama recently launched a new initiative aimed at empowering boys and young men of color called "My Brother's Keeper." This initiative was established for a segment of our society which too often faces disproportionate challenges and obstacles to success. President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum, establishing the My Brother's Keeper Task Force, an interagency effort that will help determine what public and private efforts are working and how to expand upon them. The President stated "When research clearly shows us a problem that needs fixing, it is our responsibility as leaders to band together to start implementing solutions. When we do – we will not only see better outcomes for boys and young men of color, we will see the entire country begin to fulfill its full potential."

### Please Note:

The Continuous Controls Monitoring System (CCMS) has been reestablished to provide daily analysis and monitoring of payments in FMSS-Oracle and G5. This system has a major impact in strengthening internal controls over payments and in adherence to the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA).

#### Specifically:

- The CCMS will automatically scan administrative and grant payments and identify potential improper payments.
- The CCMS will provide data for detailed analysis.

### Tell us about your notable activities and shining stars!

We would love to hear about student or alumni accomplishments, interesting or notable project activities, or other project success stories.

Please send an email to

[ReShone.Moore@ed.gov](mailto:ReShone.Moore@ed.gov) with any submissions!

## Upcoming FY 2014 Competition

Department staff is currently developing guidelines and priorities for the FY 2014 competition for First in the World (FITW), among other competitions. We will announce dates and guidelines in the [Federal Register](#) and on the FIPSE website at [www.ed.gov/fipse](http://www.ed.gov/fipse). Application instructions and forms will be available at the time of announcement in [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Submission dates will be approximately 30 days after each program announcement and all funds will be awarded by the end of the current fiscal year on September 30, 2014.

### 2015 Budget Highlights

Proposed Highlights from the President's 2015 Budget, as you look to leverage available funds:

#### MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE:

- ◆ Fully funds the maximum of \$5,380 for Pell Grant awards

#### IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

- ◆ \$7 billion College Opportunity and Graduation Bonus program to reward colleges that enroll and graduate low-income students and encourage all colleges to improve
- ◆ \$4 billion to drive systemic reform through the competitive State Higher Education Performance Fund grant program

#### SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION:

- ◆ \$75 million for new College Success Grants competitive grants programs to HBCUs and MSIs to support innovations that reduce costs and improve outcomes for students
- ◆ \$100 million for FITW for innovative strategies and practices that improve affordability and outcomes for low-income students. All FITW funded projects will include a strong evaluation component.

## Did you know?

April is National Financial Literacy Month. This is an effort to highlight the importance of financial literacy and teach Americans how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits.