



Student Service Updates

Letter from the Director

Greetings and Happy New Year!

As we move into 2013 and start the second term of President Obama's administration, we have a lot of new developments to share and look forward to working with you to fulfill the mission of our programs to support each participant. This year, we will provide even greater hands-on customer service, now that we have successfully completed six discretionary grant competitions, including a second review process for the TRIO Programs, and have finalized awarding for non-competing continuation awards. We look forward to the important task of providing more technical assistance Webinars, more effective and efficient monitoring to include remote reviews, and enhanced customer support to our project directors.

I am pleased with the number of registrants to date who will be attending the Higher Education Programs Project Directors' conference scheduled for March 26-28, 2013 here in Washington, DC. If you have not finalized your registration for this event, it is not too late. For additional conference details, please visit <http://hepmeetings.com>.

I would also like to note that Senior Education Program Specialist Deborah Walsh retired in December 2012 after over 35 years of faithful service. Her passion, dedication and tireless support of the Federal TRIO Programs are unparalleled.

Best wishes for a productive 2013!

Sincerely,
/signed/

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

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Higher Education Programs Project Directors' Meeting Update

We are excited to report that as of February 7, 2013, there are 1,531 Student Service grantees registered out of the 2,499 total conference registrants. The theme for this year's conference is *Strategies for Educating the 21st Century*

Student. Please visit the following Web site for additional conference registration information, updates and other logistical information: <http://hepmeetings.com> We look forward to seeing you in March for this event!

National Day of Service

On August 23, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act, a piece of federal legislation that transformed the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday into a national day of service. Since 2009, President Obama and his wife have celebrated this tradition by participating in different volunteer projects. This year, the couple participated in an elementary school makeover project along with about 500 other volunteers.

"This is really what America is about, this is what we celebrate," Obama said while speaking at Burrville Elementary. "This inauguration, it's a symbol of how our democracy works and how we peacefully transfer power, but it should also be an affirmation that we're all in this together, and we've got to look out for each other, and we've got to work hard on behalf of each other."

Many other initiatives took place across the nation. In Washington, D.C., volunteers prepared more than 10,000 care packages for soldiers, veterans and first responders and in New York City, Mayor Bloomberg engaged in service projects designed to assist communities affected by Superstorm Sandy.

To find out more about the national day of service, visit <http://mlkday.gov/>.

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

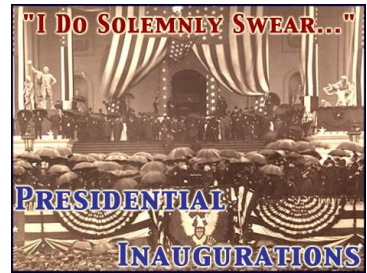
In July, the Obama Administration unveiled the [2013-14 version](#) of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet. The [Shopping Sheet](#) is a consumer tool that participating institutions use to notify students about their financial aid packages. It is a standardized form that is designed to simplify the information that prospective students receive about costs and financial aid so that they can easily compare institutions and make informed decisions about where to attend school. To develop the Shopping Sheet, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) partnered with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Coinciding with this announcement, Education Secretary Arne Duncan published an [open letter](#) to college and university presidents asking institutions to adopt the Shopping Sheet as part of their financial aid award packages starting for the 2013-14 school year. As of January 2013, approximately [six hundred institutions](#) have committed to adopting the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet.

The release of the Shopping Sheet complements other Departmental efforts that aim to make costs and institutional information more accessible to parents and students. Some of the existing efforts to aid families through their postsecondary decision making process include the [net price calculator](#) disclosure requirement, the [College Navigator](#), the [StudentAid.gov website](#), and the [College Scorecard](#) (soon to be released). These tools help make the costs and responsibilities of student loans clear upfront, outline the total estimated annual costs of college, highlight the institutional rates of college completion, and provide information on loan repayment options after graduation.

Did you know that the Department of Education has a wealth of free teaching and learning resources that anyone can access?

No matter your interest—from Arts and Music to U.S. Time Periods—visit <http://free.ed.gov/index.cfm> to find resources from across the Federal government on just about any topic. For example, “I Do Solemnly Swear...” (available at http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=228) provides access to Library of Congress digital files for about 400 items from 62 Presidential inaugurations.



Chris Beasley, a student at Illinois’ Lincoln Trail College (LTC), was inspired to change his life through his participation in the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program. Mr. Beasley spent most of his adolescence and young adulthood using drugs and spent a short time in prison. He was subsequently persuaded by his uncle to take a step toward changing his life by enrolling at LTC, where he became part of SSS. Regarding his experiences in SSS, Mr. Beasley states:



TRIO [SSS] provided a peer network and opportunities that showed me how I could be successful outside of the drug world. For example, I was able to mentor and tutor other students. The mentoring of other students helped me give back to society, and the tutoring provided validation for my academic progress – someone actually valued my academic potential enough to pay me for my services! It wasn’t until I participated in a TRIO [SSS] campus visit that I really opened myself up to the possibility of continuing my education. I decided that if I could excel at LTC, then I could succeed in an undergraduate program. I similarly excelled while pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree and decided to keep going and apply for a master’s program. I now have four publications, a research grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, several other smaller grants, and a number of professional conference presentations to show for my efforts. More importantly, I have grown personally and professionally since my time before LTC and TRIO [SSS]. I can only hope that, as a faculty member, I can inspire others the way that TRIO [SSS] inspired me.”

“No single person can train all the math and science teachers we’ll need to equip our children for the future, or build the roads and networks and research labs that will bring new jobs and businesses to our shores. Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation, and one people.” -President Barack Obama, 2013 Inaugural Address

FY 2013 CCAMPIS Competition Update

The fiscal year (FY) 2013 Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) competition is expected to take place in the Spring of 2013. A pre-application workshop is tentatively planned for the afternoon of March 15, 2013, to be held in conjunction with the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers conference that will take place in Williamsburg, VA from March 13-16.

DID YOU KNOW....

A recent report from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that **high school graduation rates are at their highest level in three decades**. Check out <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/01/high-school-graduation-rate-at-highest-level-in-three-decades/>

FY 2013 GEAR UP College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project Competition Update

The Department is pleased to announce that the Notice of final priorities and Notice inviting applications under the FY 2013 GEAR UP College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project were published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2013. The deadline for transmittal of applications is March 11, 2013. The Department would like to thank all of those who submitted comments on the Notice of proposed priorities. The feedback we received from the community strengthened the final priorities.

The Student Service staff conducted a **pre-application technical assistance workshop** for potential applicants under the competition in conjunction with the GEAR UP Capacity-Building Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 5, 2013.

Update on APRs for Reporting Period 2011-12

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)

The first notice requesting public comments on the revised annual performance report (APR) for the EOC Program was published in the Federal Register and comments were due January 22, 2013. There will be a second comment period in which the Department encourages EOC projects to review the updated draft APR and to submit additional comments. The EOC APR is still on schedule to be approved in spring 2013. EOC projects will not be able to submit their APR for 2011-12 until late spring/early summer 2013.

Student Support Services (SSS)

The Department is in the process of testing the 2011-12 SSS APR Web application. The SSS APR Web application will be available in mid-February 2013 with a due date of mid-March 2013. SSS grantees will receive their prior experience (PE) scores for the 2011-12 reporting year after successful submission of their 2011-12 APR.

Update on new 2012-13 APRs: Upward Bound Programs (UB, UBMS, VUB) and Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement (McNair) Program

The Department is currently redesigning the APRs for the Upward Bound (UB), Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS), Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), and McNair programs to address statutory changes to the programs and the new standardized objectives for the 2012-17 grant cycle. In addition, the new APRs are intended to improve transparency in calculating PE points and ultimately to provide grantees with their PE points at the time projects submit their APRs. The Department expects to be able to give UB and McNair grantees their PE scores annually beginning with the fall 2014 APR data collection (reporting year 2013-14).

The public will have opportunities to comment on these draft APRs at www.regulations.gov. The draft for UB and UBMS will be available in late winter or early spring 2013, with VUB appearing somewhat later. The public will be able to comment on the draft APR for McNair in spring 2013.

Training for Federal TRIO Program Personnel

The Department, through the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs (Training Program), awarded \$1,400,000 among six grants to provide training to at least 1,161 TRIO Program personnel for 2013. Our goal is to provide training opportunities and technical assistance for TRIO project directors and staff that will enhance their skills and expertise. It is anticipated that the training will translate knowledge into high standards of practice. If you have been a TRIO Director for two years or less, we strongly encourage you to take full advantage of these learning opportunities as you will have the opportunity to learn from TRIO colleagues with many years of experience.

During last year's competition, the Department took several steps to more strategically align the Training Program with overarching reform strategies for K-12 education to ensure that TRIO professionals receive training that will enhance the Administration's 2020 college completion goal. Among the steps was the introduction of the following competitive preference priorities. Training sessions will address at least one of the priorities.

- Turning Around Persistently Lowest-Achieving (PLA) Schools,
- Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making, and
- Improving Productivity.

If you register for one of the trainings, it is *extremely important* that you attend the training or cancel with the training provider *no later than one month prior* to the training to allow another to attend. Faced with a limited training budget, we can't afford to let one seat remain empty.

Please refer to the listing of the 2013 TRIO Training Schedule and Training Providers on the TRIO Web site at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotrain/opportunities.html> Contact the Training Program providers offering the training session to register and to inquire about their offerings of webinars and online training.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

recently released its congressionally mandated study, *Higher Education: Gaps in Access and Persistence*. This study analyzes 46 variables across seven main topic areas. The study's findings demonstrate persistent and, in some cases, growing gaps in educational participation and attainment across demographic and socioeconomic lines.

To view the full report please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012046>

E-Signatures for Grant Award Notification Documents

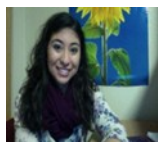
The Department program officers have the option of signing a Grant Award Notification (GAN) electronically in the Grants Management System (G5). Each time an electronically signed GAN is processed, an email will be automatically sent to the Department's Program Contact, the Project Director and the Certifying Official with a link directing them to log into G5 to view and/or print the GAN. Personally Identifiable Information, such as DUNS and Social Security numbers will remain secure.

Additional guidance for new G5 users may be found under the Help Menu, located under the Main tab of the G5 home page, or under the Frequently Asked Questions section.

Program Spotlight: McNair Program – Knox College

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair) awards grants to institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies. McNair is about the **students**, the **faculty** and the McNair **alumni** who are leaders in their field. It was on the Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois) campus that Abraham Lincoln chose to denounce slavery on moral terms for the first time, during the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The Knox College McNair Program exemplifies a commitment to a vibrant community of independent thinking students, engaged faculty and successful alumni.

STUDENT: Nicolette Brown, Senior



Nicolette became interested in her research area after her mother was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer and ultimately succumbed to her illness during Nicolette's first year of college. She began to ask herself how she could contribute to the body of knowledge that existed on cancer in order to improve the lives of other cancer sufferers. Her answer: research. Nicolette was able to use McNair funding to explore her love of science in the lab by working alongside Knox College faculty who were conducting research in her area of interest. Currently, Nicolette is doing senior research at Knox College knocking out genes that have been shown to be expressed after UV radiation.

FACULTY MEMBER: Dr. Frank McAndrew



Dr. Frank McAndrew, Cornelia H. Dudley Professor of Psychology, grew up as a first generation, low-income college student. He works tirelessly with McNair fellows to help them understand the process of research and to prepare them for the rigors of graduate school. During McNair Seminars, Dr. McAndrew often reflects on his experiences as a first generation college student and that has allowed students to explore their own fears and challenges and work to overcome them. He is particularly proud that 75 of his former students have gone on to complete a doctoral degree in psychology or a closely-related field.

ALUMNI: Dr. Norman Golar



Dr. Norman Golar '02 received the 2012 Young Alumni Achievement Award from the Alumni Council of the Knox College Alumni Association. Golar completed two McNair research projects analyzing the poetry of three contemporary African-American writers while also publishing his own poems. Key to Golar's success was the close attention he received from numerous faculty members. "I recall so vividly the close connection we students developed with faculty and other students during our matriculation at the institution and after we graduated," he said. Golar is now an assistant professor and chair of the Department of English at Stillman College, a historically black, liberal arts college in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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 with any submissions!

Important Dates

- **February 5, 2013:** Conducted a Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshop under the GEAR UP College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project (Las Vegas, NV)
- **March 11, 2013:** Deadline for the Submission of Applications under the GEAR UP College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project
- **March 15, 2013:** Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshop under Child Care Access Means Parents in School (Williamsburg, VA)
- **March 26 – 28, 2013:** HEP Project Directors' Meeting (Washington, DC)

Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS Updates? Please send an email to ReShone.Moore@ed.gov by March 31, 2013.