



Student Service Updates

Letter from the Director

Greetings,

As we move forward in the first year of President Obama's second term, we have a lot of leadership transitions to report here at the U.S. Department of Education (Department). In this edition, we have information about the upcoming Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program competition; the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Program national conference; programmatic updates; a two-page special insert on the 2013 Higher Education Programs (HEP) Project Directors' Meeting; as well as introductions of Departmental officials and several other changes that will be of interest to each of you.

I am pleased to announce that Eileen Bland, Division Director, Student Support Services and the CCAMPIS programs, will serve as the acting Senior Director of Student Service while I serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for HEP. As the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, I am now responsible for managing the day-to-day operations for all higher education programs. During this transition, Ms. Bland is available to assist you with any questions and/or issues that you may have that normally would require my attention. Dr. Debra Saunders-White served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for HEP until May 3, 2013. We applaud her support in particular of the Student Service area and wish her much success in her new position as Chancellor of North Carolina Central University. We are pleased to share a message from Dr. Saunders-White to the Student Service community on page 2.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the storm in Oklahoma. (Please see page 5 for more information from the Department.)

Please continue to forward articles and photos highlighting your programs. This information has been very useful to us in profiling success stories.

Thank you all for your continued faithful service in supporting our students! Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

/signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
Higher Education Programs

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Farewell to the Student Service Community:



By the time you receive this edition of the *Student Service Updates*, I will have left my position as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Higher Education Programs, and my recently appointed position to serve in an acting capacity as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education to begin my dream job as Chancellor of North Carolina Central University. During my tenure at the Department, I hope that I demonstrated my appreciation, awareness, and support of each program administered by Student Service. I feel blessed to have met many of you and seen first-hand the important work you are doing to help all students access and succeed in postsecondary education. I travelled extensively; attended many conferences with Federal TRIO Programs and GEAR UP grantees; participated in the Javits Board Meeting; collaborated with the Council of Graduate Schools regarding the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program; presented at a College Access Challenge Grant Program Project Directors' Meeting; collaborated with Federal Student Aid colleagues to disseminate changes in student aid to the Student Service community; and had the pleasure of hosting the first-ever Higher Education Programs Project Directors' Meeting in March. In these and many other ways, I had the privilege to touch every program administered by Student Service, and I have nothing but gratitude and admiration for the work you do every day to advocate for students and families. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you for the past two years. I know that each of you will remain a strong advocate for the students you serve, and best wishes on your future journeys.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Debra Saunders-White, Ed.D.

Noteworthy Leadership Transitions at the Department of Education



On May 6th, **Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier** was delegated the authority to serve as OPE's Acting Assistant Secretary.

Brenda Dann-Messier began her official duties as assistant secretary for vocational and adult education on Oct. 13, 2009.

As the first assistant secretary who is also an adult educator, Dr. Dann-Messier leads the Department's efforts in adult education and career and technical education, as well as efforts supporting community colleges and correctional education. She leads the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), which oversees the administration of seven grant programs in these areas, totaling approximately \$1.7 billion annually.

Previously, Dr. Dann-Messier served for a decade as president of the Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, a community-based adult education agency based in Providence, R.I., as well as in many other leadership capacities in government and the community.



On April 16th, the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) welcomed **Mr. Clay Pell** as the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE). Prior to joining the OPE team, Mr. Pell was the Director for Strategic Planning at the National Security Staff.

Mr. Pell is responsible for leading our postsecondary agenda for international and foreign language education in accordance with ED's International Strategy. Mr. Pell oversees policy and

programmatic efforts to encourage and promote the study of foreign languages and cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels in the United States and will oversee the administration of IFLE's domestic and overseas grant programs.

Mr. Pell is a Term Member of the Council of Foreign Relations; a member of the Bars of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and the United States Supreme Court; and the Department of Education's Representative on the National Security Education Board.

Mr. Pell, who recently married his wife, Michelle, also continues to serve as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

On April 22th, **Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson** was delegated the authority to serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs.

On May 16th, **Ms. Eileen Bland** was appointed to serve as the acting Senior Director, Student Ser-

vice. Ms. Bland currently serves as the Division Director, TRIO Student Support Services and Child Care Access Means Parents In School programs of the Student Service area. She has worked for the Department of Education since its creation in 1980 as a cabinet-level agency and has over 37 years of program, administrative, policy, and grants management experience. She is a strong advocate and ally for all of the TRIO programs, but is especially committed to the mission of the Student Support Services Program, which aligns with the Administration's goal of making the United States first in the number of college graduates by 2020.

As Acting Student Service Director with a portfolio of over \$1 billion under her purview, Ms. Bland's programmatic and grants management expertise puts her in a prime position to overcome challenges to the continued growth and productivity of the Student Service programs with a positive manner and collegial spirit. She continues to champion the cause of the low-income, first-generation and disabled students served by the programs.

How is **Federal Student Aid (FSA)** changing in 2013? First, sequestration means that direct loan fees will increase as of July 1, 2013, affecting those loans with a first disbursement on or after that date. Additionally, Federal Work Study funds and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant funds have both received a 5.52 percent decrease in funding for the 2013-2014 school year. Another significant change to FSA is that Pell Grants may now only be awarded for up to 12 semesters. For more information, please visit the <http://www.studentaid.gov> Web site.

Are you taking advantage of the many available resources designed to help students increase their financial literacy? In addition to the FAFSA, there is the Financial Awareness Counseling Tool (FACT), an interactive tool which helps students understand loan obligations, manage personal finances, and learn about repayment plans: go to <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action>. The White House has provided a toolkit that includes helpful resources for financial literacy programs in communities, K-12, higher education, and the workplace: go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/financial-capability-toolkit-tell-us-what-you-think>. Visit <http://www.mymoney.gov> to see financial education help from over 20 Federal agencies organized in one place. There is also a financial literacy resource directory at <http://gwired.gwu.edu/finaid-g/FinancialLiteracy/>.

Did you know there are many easy ways to access information on Federal Student Aid? In addition to the Federal Student Aid Web site (<http://www.studentaid.gov>), check out:



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid>



Twitter <https://twitter.com/FAFSA>



YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/federalstudentaid>

Thank you for your participation in the 2013 Higher Education Programs Project Directors' Meeting!

The 2013 Higher Education Programs Project Directors' Meeting was an overwhelming success! We appreciate your taking the time to be a part of this important event. A total of 3,100 participants attended this meeting. The Student Service Area had over 1,900 participants to register. To date, we have received a lot of positive feedback and ways in which we can make this event better in the future.

Some of the highlights from the meeting included: Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama; The Honorable Chaka Fattah, U.S. House of Representatives; The Honorable Joaquin Castro, U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Martha Kanter, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation, Federal Student Aid; and project directors representing each of our programs.

Student Service would also like to say a special thank you to the project directors and students representing the Upward Bound projects from the University of the District of Columbia and Howard University. Your attendance enhanced the overall conference!

We hope you enjoy this sampling of pictures from the meeting, and we thank you again for your participation.



Student Service staff and leadership (from left: Mr. Chaz Gipson, Dr. Katie Blanding, Ms. Gaby Watts, Ms. Frances Bergeron, Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Mr. James Davis, Ms. Eileen Bland; and Ms. Monica Anderson)



Student attendees representing the Upward Bound project at Howard University with Project Director, Mr. Joe Hill (far left); Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson (fourth from left); Dr. Debra Saunders-White (sixth from left); and Dr. James Laws (at podium).



Student attendees representing the Upward Bound project at the University of the District of Columbia with Dr. Debra Saunders-White (second from left); Ms. Tonja Lark (third from left); Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson (far right); and Ms. Gaby Watts (second from right). Not pictured: Project Director, Ms. Sandra Majid Carter



Department staff and leadership with the speakers and moderator from the "Is Education the Great Equalizer?" plenary session (From left) Ms. Suzanne Ulmer, Ms. Tracy Lyons, Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Mr. Keylan Morgan, Mr. Robert Dais, and Ms. Blanca Rodriguez



Department staff and leadership with the presenter and moderator of the Federal Student Aid plenary session (From left) Mr. Chaz Gipson, Mr. Anthony Plonczynski, Mr. Jeff Baker, and Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson

“Face Your Fears: What would you do if you knew you could not fail? Learn to believe in yourself and your dreams.” -Dr. Pamela J. Maimer

On May 10, 2013, Pamela J. Maimer, Senior Program Officer, in the International Studies Division (ISD) of the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office of OPE, offered the keynote address at the Scholar Recognition and 40th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Kansas TRIO Supportive Educational Services (SES), a TRIO Student Support Services project. The event took place at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. Dr. Maimer, a former University of Kansas TRIO SES participant, spoke to the graduating scholars on her personal and educational experiences.



GEAR UP College Savings Update

The closing date for the GEAR UP College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project, as established by the Notice Inviting Applications, was May 1, 2013. The Department did not receive any eligible applications for this program.

CCAMPIS Competition Update

The Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program was published in the Federal Register on May 24, 2013. The deadline for transmittal of applications is June 24, 2013 and we expect to receive approximately 350 applications.

**An investment in knowledge always
pays the best interest.
-- Benjamin Franklin**

College Scorecard

Following President Obama’s State of the Union address, the Department released an interactive College Scorecard, which provides students and families the critical information they need to make smart decisions about where to enroll for higher education. The College Scorecard – as part of President Obama’s continued efforts to hold colleges accountable for cost, value and quality – highlights key indicators about the cost and value of institutions across the country to help students choose a school that is well-suited to meet their needs, priced affordably, and is consistent with their educational and career goals. After receiving comments on the prototype of the College Scorecard – and following many conversations with leaders of higher education institutions, college counselors, students and parents – the Department updated this tool to better meet families’ needs and provide them with the information they found most valuable in making decisions about where to enroll.

Check out the College Scorecard at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card>

GEAR UP Annual Conference

The GEAR UP Annual Conference will be held in San Francisco from July 14-17, 2013, with a special emphasis on GEAR UP's best program practices, refining our strategies, and assessing our performance. This year's theme is "The Dream Machine: Engaging Tomorrow's Workforce." Department staff will present on the new elements and changes for the required Performance Reports, Evaluation Advancements and Matching Contributions for GEAR UP grantees. We look forward to offering our GEAR UP grantee community the best technical assistance and public service while learning the latest developments within our college access community.

Resources for Parents Following the Tragedy in Oklahoma

Because of the disasters that have struck the communities in Oklahoma, many parents and family friends are having difficulties talking with children about such tragedies. With that in mind, the Department has prepared lists of resources specifically designed for parents and guardians to provide guidance on talking to children following events like those in Oklahoma and in the event of an emergency, how to prepare. For more information, please click these links to the Department's [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center](#), and [Helping Youth and Children Recover From Traumatic Events](#).

Update on New Awards, NCCs, and the Effect of Sequestration

UB NCCs Information

A total of 734 non-competing continuation (NCC) awards at a cost of \$225,528,330 under the regular Upward Bound (UB) Program have been approved and mailed out to grantees.

Several projects did not receive a NCC award due to the projects' inability to demonstrate that substantial progress had been achieved. Follow up information will be requested from each grantee at a later time. If the Department can verify that substantial progress has been made, awards will be mailed by mid-August.

UB New Awards Information

A total of 39 new awards at a cost of \$15,305,628 under the regular UB Program have been approved and mailed out to grantees. All of the grantees were notified by the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs and Student Service of their success under the FY 2012 regular UB competition in May of 2012. However, because each of these grantees had additional years remaining under their previous grant award, their new grant award cycles do not commence until June 1, 2013 or September 1, 2013 and will continue for five years ending May 31, 2017 or August 31, 2017.

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

A total of 35 NCCs and eight new awards totaling \$11,643,564 under the VUB Program have been approved and mailed.

Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS)

We are in the process of completing NCCs for the UBMS Program. We anticipate these awards being mailed out by June 19, 2013.

Student Service Programs

An update on FY 2013 new and NCC awards under other Student Service programs will be provided in the next edition of the Student Service Updates, pending these awards' approval.

Effect of Sequestration

Due to sequestration, the FY 2013 appropriation funding for the Federal TRIO Programs is approximately 5.23 percent less than the amount appropriated for FY 2012. Therefore, for FY 2013, all new and NCC grantees will receive a 5.23 percent reduction of their FY 2012 base award.

New EOC APR Approved; Dates of 2011-12 EOC APR Data Collection

The new APR for the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program, which was revised to address statutory changes to the program and the new standard objectives for the 2011-2016 grant cycle, was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on May 13, 2013. EOC grantees must use this new form beginning with the 2011-12 reporting year. The new Web application is available and the due date for submitting the 2011-12 APR will be July 12, 2013.

The Department takes this opportunity to acknowledge those grantees that provided constructive feedback during both public comment periods. Based on grantee feedback, the Department made several changes to the draft form to improve the data collection and reporting processes. As part of the clearance process, we summarized the comments received and provided written responses. By June 10th, we will have posted these summaries of comments and responses to the EOC Web pages at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioec/report.html>. We encourage you to review these documents, along with the approved APR form and instructions, to get a fuller understanding of the reasons for the changes to the APR and the impact of these changes on your project's reporting.

Newsletters on the Web

Did you know that you can access many other newsletters at our Web site? Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/news/newsletters/index.html> to find lots of options, including: *ED Review*, a bi-weekly update on ED activities; *PreventionED*, updates on substance abuse and violence prevention education issues, legislation, and funding opportunities; *Education Research News*, education research, evaluation, and statistics; *School Turnaround Newsletter*, resources for turning around low-performing schools; *Teaching Matters*, ED's bi-weekly newsletter celebrating teachers and teaching; *Touching Base*, a newsletter for the military community.

In addition, OPE has a brand new Web page highlighting the newsletters produced by various divisions within the office. Check out <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/newsletters.html> to see newsletters from the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program, the International and Foreign Language Education office, and those from here in Student Service. The homepage for the *Student Service Updates* can now be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ssnewsletters.html>, and interested parties can also visit this page to request to be added to the distribution list for the *Updates*.

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!

All our dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them.
-- Walt Disney

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