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FEDERAL UPDATES

Neal Combs to Participate in 2002 Neg Reg

The December 11, 2001, *Shoptalk Online* (Edition 134), contained an article regarding ED’s call for nominations for participation in the 2002 Negotiated Rulemaking sessions. TG is pleased to announce that Neal Combs, TG Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Operating Officer, has been selected to participate on the team that will negotiate program and other school issues.

Teams

Negotiated rulemaking, or Neg Reg, is broken down into “teams.” This year, there are two teams: Team I will negotiate student loan issues and Team II will negotiate program and other school issues.

- Representing 2-year public colleges on Team II will be Claire (Micki) Roemer from Tarrant County College

- Representing lenders, secondary markets, and loan servicers will be:
 - On Team I, Jane Stewart of the Southwest Student Services Corporation
 - On Team II, Francine Andrea of the New Jersey Higher Education Assistance Authority
- Representing guaranty agencies will be:
 - On Team I, Scott Miller of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Association
 - On Team II, Neal Combs of Texas Guaranteed, and as alternate, Carl Buck of the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation

Agenda

Most of the issues on the 2002 Neg Reg agenda for each team stem from the FED.UP Initiative, although there are some non-FED.UP issues. The FED.UP Initiative was developed by the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness of the Education and Workforce Committee to solicit ideas from those involved in federal student financial aid about federal regulations that should be revised or removed. For more information on the FED.UP Initiative, see *Shoptalk Online* (Edition 120) or visit the FED.UP web site at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/107th/education/fedup/index.htm>.

In addition, all of the issues on the agenda can be resolved within the bounds of regulations (i.e., Neg Reg does not address items that would require statutory change). Furthermore, ED chose issues for the agenda that are likely to be successfully negotiated—that is, that stand a good chance of reaching consensus. Specific issues on the agenda are available on ED’s Negotiated Rulemaking web site, at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/rulemaking/index2002.html>.

Sessions

There will be three Neg Reg sessions this year. Each team will meet during each of the sessions. The meeting dates are as follows:

- Session 1—week of January 14
- Session 2—week of March 4
- Session 3—week of April 22

Your Input

TG welcomes input from its customers on the issues to be negotiated at Neg Reg and encourages you to submit comments to Vickie Tanner, TG Assistant Vice President of Customer Services, at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4526 or to send an e-mail message to vickie.tanner@tgsllc.org. TG will keep its customers informed about the Neg Reg sessions via *Shoptalk Online* and via the Lender/School Advisory and TASFAA listservs and TASFAA and ATLE board meetings.

Current Special Allowance Rates

The following special allowance rates apply for the quarter ending December 31, 2001:

- The average of the bond equivalent rates of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned during the quarter ending December 31, 2001, is 1.97 percent.
- The average of the bond equivalent rates of the quotes of the three-month commercial paper (financial) rates in effect for each of the days in the quarter ending December 31, 2001, is 2.07 percent.

The FFELP special allowance rates for the most recent quarter are available at <http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/lenders/SA12312001.pdf>.

Questions

For questions about special allowance rates, contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267 or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

Veterans Benefits to Increase

On December 27, 2001, President Bush signed legislation that will increase higher-education benefits for veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill. The compromise legislation (HR 1291), known as the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, will mean incremental increases in benefits in January 2002, October 2002, and October 2003.

As a result of the legislation, a veteran with a minimum of three years of service would see benefits increase by more than 50 percent—from the current \$650 to \$985 per month by October 2003. Once the changes are fully implemented, total benefits for a veteran seeking a bachelor's degree would increase from the current \$23,400 to \$36,900.

The act is available for review online at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:h1291enr.txt.pdf.

Closed School Corner

NEWLY REPORTED CLOSURES

TG SCHOOL ID#	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL ADDRESS	UNOFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE	ED'S OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE
008431000	Casco Bay College	477 Congress St. Portland, ME 04101-3483	N/A	07/31/1999

Note: It appears that Casco's assets were purchased by Andover College (009292000). According to the accrediting agency, they are treating this as a closure. Therefore, the Department will treat it as a closure.

Student Arrangements: Students were allowed to transfer their credits into Andover College (009292000) to complete their programs of study.

TG UPDATES

“Take a Leading Role” at the TG 2002 Annual Conference

Plans are rapidly taking shape for the next TG Annual Conference. The 2002 Conference, scheduled for April 10-12 in Austin, Texas, will focus on “The Big Picture: Take a Leading Role.”

Sponsorship

Join TG in supporting the efforts of the FFELP community by becoming a TG 2002 Conference sponsor. Find out more about sponsorship opportunities online or register online to sponsor the conference at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/Conference/sp_entryform.cfm.

Conference Registration

Now's the time to mark your calendar and prepare to be part of this fun and informative event. You can register online at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/Conference/conf_entryform.cfm.

Reservations

To take advantage of the special rate from the conference hotel, the Austin Marriott at the Capitol, contact the hotel directly no later than March 20, 2002, at (800) 228-9290 (for toll-free reservations) or at the hotel's local number, (512) 478-1111.

Questions and More Information

For questions about the conference, contact Judy Cunningham at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2905, or send an e-mail message to judy.cunningham@tgslc.org.

Watch *TGWorks Online* (www.tgslc.org) for additional details, including a detailed agenda and a list of speakers and sessions, as they become available.

TG to Recognize Financial Aid Leaders

In keeping with the theme of the TG 2002 Annual Conference, "The Big Picture: Take a Leading Role," TG is planning some special awards to recognize those in the community who have demonstrated leadership in serving the education community through financial aid delivery. Three awards will be presented at the TG 2002 Annual Conference:

- Best Director—The Financial Aid Director, Assistant Financial Aid Director, or financial aid professional who has exhibited leadership and had the biggest positive impact on the financial aid community, on his or her school and financial aid office, and especially on students.
- Best Producer—The lender or servicer representative who has exhibited leadership and had the biggest positive impact on the financial aid community, on the schools, and especially on students.
- Best Production—The most innovative project undertaken and accomplished by a financial aid professional or team of financial aid professionals to assist students in achieving their higher education goals. (Projects initiated by TASFAA may qualify as candidates for TASFAA's submission to the NASFAA competition in 2003.)

TG is asking you to help identify those who deserve recognition and assist them in submitting their "screen test." Screen test submissions should include but are not limited to:

- Self-video (digital format preferred, but VHS is acceptable) or a storyboard with script and pictures.
- Interviews with financial aid community members on the individual's or project's accomplishments.
- Emphasis on those affected by the individual nominee or project, e.g., those they have mentored, financial aid community members, and especially students.

Remember that special effects can make a screen test more impressive!

To be considered for an award, submissions must be received by TG by midnight, January 31, 2002. All nine finalists (three per category) and the three award recipients (one per category) will be recognized during the conference. A release form that gives TG permission to show the video at the conference must be included with each submission.

Release Forms and More Information

For more information and/or copies of the release form, contact Judy Cunningham at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2905, or send an e-mail message to judy.cunningham@tgslc.org.

TG Schedules Winter Regional Training Series

TG is gearing up this season to provide its second annual Winter Regional Training Series. Each session is a valuable day filled with important information impacting the financial aid community. These sessions will cover such topics as:

- FFELP industry initiatives;
- Debt management;
- AdvanTG Web™, TG's Internet-based comprehensive student loan servicing solution; and
- Stress management.

Session attendees will also participate in a special industry brainstorming forum about Disaster Guidance and Business Recovery. This forum will provide you and your peers an opportunity to generate ideas about these timely topics.

Training Is Frequent and Free

You'll find a schedule of training dates and cities along with information about the session locations (including phone numbers for making hotel reservations) online at <http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/strategic/wintertrain.htm>. All sessions will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. All training is free of charge, and breakfast and lunch are provided.

Registration

To register for a Winter Regional Training session, send an e-mail message to tgnational@tgslc.org. For accommodations or directions to training locations, contact the applicable facility directly.

Questions and More Information

For questions or more information, contact Emily Yeager at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2857.

Chat, Hotline to Help Families and Students

Remember to encourage families and students to participate in the 2002 College Information Hotline and accompanying online chat. The two-day event is scheduled for the weekend of January 19-20, 2002, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Central Time). Read more about the event—sponsored by the Texas Association of College Admission Counseling (TACAC), TG's *Adventures In Education*, and LoanSTAR Educational Loans—at <http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/shoptalk/2001/st134/st13403.htm#tacac>.

TG's First 2002 Telephone Conference to Discuss Timely Topics

TG's popular telephone conferences are returning for 2002 with the first event to be held February 4, 2002. The topics planned for discussion during this conference, which will run from 2 to 3 p.m. CST, include distance education, e-signatures, and the Meteor Project.

TG's Sam Wilson, Assistant Vice President and Manager of Customer Assistance, and Steven Smith, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Planning, will facilitate the telephone conference and training. Time will be available for questions, answers, and conversation with participants.

Participation

Like all TG telephone conferences, the February 4 event is free of charge and you may enroll as many participants from your institution as you like. If you have particular questions relating to the topics, submit them to Emily Yeager at emily.yeager@tgslc.org before the session.

Registering

To register and/or receive further details about the telephone conference, contact Premiere Conferencing at (800) 289-0579 or send an e-mail message to theresa.schlaak@premconf.com. When registering, please provide confirmation number 676774.

What's Next?

TG's next telephone conference is scheduled for May 2002. During the event, participants will explore current issues relating to the PLUS Master Promissory Note.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

January 10, 2002, *Legislative Report*

The January 10 edition of TG's *Legislative Report* includes an announcement about the initial meeting of the Texas Legislature's Joint Interim Committee on Private Activity Bonds and an article about projections from Congressional analysts regarding reductions in the projected federal surplus. Read the articles online at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/publications/lege_report/2002/lr_020110.htm.

January 3, 2002, *Legislative Report*

The January 3 edition of TG's *Legislative Report* includes a preview of the second session of the 107th Congress and a copy of a letter about legislation relating to the interest rate issue from TG's President and CEO to the Majority Leader of the House. Read the articles online at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/publications/lege_report/2002/lr_020103.htm.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The legislation redefines the federal role in K-12 education and will help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers. It is based on four basic principles:

- Stronger accountability for results
- Increased flexibility and local control
- Expanded options for parents
- Emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work

To access the White House announcement on passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/>. To access the legislation, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c107:h.r.1.enr.>

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