



## IN THIS EDITION:

### FEDERAL UPDATES

- **TEAM II NPRM RELEASED** ..... 1
- **THE E-COLLECTION HAS ARRIVED** ..... 2

### TG UPDATES

- **NEW RESOURCE HELPS EDUCATORS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION** ..... 2

### TRENDS AND ISSUES

- **STUDY TOUTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BENEFITS**..... 3

### COMMON MANUAL

- **COMMON MANUAL UPDATES**..... 4

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER ..... 5

## FEDERAL UPDATES

### Team II NPRM Released

The second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to result from this year's Negotiated Rulemaking (Neg Reg) was released in the *Federal Register* on August 8, 2002. Both Team I and Team II NPRMs are available on TG's web site at [www.tgslc.org/tgslc/resources/negreg02.htm](http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/resources/negreg02.htm).

Earlier this year, representatives from across the financial aid industry participated in Neg Reg. This NPRM is the result of the negotiations of Team II, which dealt with general student financial aid program issues (Team I dealt specifically with student loan issues).

Some of the issues addressed in this NPRM include:

- GEAR UP packaging requirements
- Return of Title IV Funds
- Federal Work-Study at for-profit schools
- The late disbursement timeframe
- Branch campuses
- Change of ownership
- Definition of "academic year"

Comments on both the Team I and Team II NPRMs are due to the Department of Education on or before October 7, 2002.

See *Shoptalk Online*, Edition 134 for more information on the Neg Reg process and Edition 153 for a wrap-up of this year's three Neg Reg sessions.

## The *e-Collection* Has Arrived

TG has recently received copies of the 2002 *Common Manual e-Collection* CD-ROM. The *e-Collection* is a complete electronic reference resource containing the *Electronic Common Manual* as well as the following additional features:

- National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) Topical Index
- NCHELP Integrated Regulations (Parts 600, 668, and 682)
- Higher Education Act (all parts)
- 2001-2002 *Student Financial Aid Handbook*
- Common Forms (loan origination forms, Return of Title IV Worksheets, deferment forms, claim forms, and loan discharge forms)
- Dear Colleague Letters and Announcements

The *e-Collection* is a valuable tool for those who need a portable, comprehensive, and user-friendly FFELP resource.

### ***Integrated Common Manual***

Another valuable tool is the *Integrated Common Manual* (ICM). At first glance, the ICM, available at [www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated\\_online\\_manual.htm](http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated_online_manual.htm), looks just like the *Electronic Common Manual* (ECM) featured on the *e-Collection*. However, the ECM reflects policy changes only through the last complete print cycle of the *Common Manual* (that is, July 2002). The ICM, on the other hand, is a fluid document that displays approved changes made throughout the year. The ICM is also portable, as users can download it to their PC/laptop each time it is updated. The most recent ICM update is included in this edition of *Shoptalk Online*.

### **Orders and Questions**

To order the *e-Collection* CD-ROM, contact TG Customer Services at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4546, or send an e-mail message to [customer.services@tgslc.org](mailto:customer.services@tgslc.org).

For questions about the *Integrated Common Manual*, contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267 or send an e-mail message to [cust.assist@tgslc.org](mailto:cust.assist@tgslc.org).

## TG UPDATES

### **New Resource Helps Educators Prepare Students for Higher Education**

As the academic year begins, you'll come across new opportunities to collaborate with educators and secondary school administrators. Many of them will be looking to you for new ways to help their students prepare for higher education.

Now you can point them to a free resource from TG that's designed to help middle school educators assure that their students have the information they need to make higher education a reality—while meeting teaching objectives at the same time.

## Scholars and Sense

“Scholars and Sense: Lesson Plans for Life” is a new, free resource offered through TG’s public service web site, *Adventures In Education* (AIE) ([www.AdventuresInEducation.org](http://www.AdventuresInEducation.org)). The resource includes a series of six teaching units for middle school students. Each unit offers activities and resources for several days of class. The series includes plans for math, home economics, social studies, language arts, and career exploration.

A college planning theme is central to each unit. The social studies unit, for instance, meets map skills objectives by having students explore and create maps of college campuses.

Each unit includes objectives, a lesson overview, procedures for each day’s lesson, and information about required materials. Some units include additional activities, printable activity sheets, and links to online resources.

The lessons are specific enough to be practical and flexible enough to be adapted for use in various grade levels in schools throughout the country. As an added benefit for Texas teachers, each lesson also includes a list of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills to help Texas teachers identify which essential skills the lessons can help them to meet.

## Sign Up

“Scholars and Sense” is available online at [www.adventuresineducation.org/ScholarsandSense/index.htm](http://www.adventuresineducation.org/ScholarsandSense/index.htm). For access to the series, simply visit the web site, click the “Sign Me Up!” button, and complete the simple online form. After you log in, you’ll find links to each of the printable units.

As part of its initial launch, TG is also conducting an online survey about the new resource. To participate in the survey, just click “Help us by taking the Scholars and Sense Survey,” complete the survey, and hit the “submit survey” button.

## Questions

For questions about “Scholars and Sense” or about AIE, contact Michelle Enriquez at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4588, or send an e-mail message to [michelle.enriquez@tgsllc.org](mailto:michelle.enriquez@tgsllc.org).

# TRENDS AND ISSUES

## Study Touts Community College Benefits

The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) recently released a study examining the effects of community colleges on the state’s economy.

The study, entitled “Community Colleges Working for Texas: The Socioeconomic Benefits Generated by 50 Community College Districts in Texas,” concludes that community colleges:

- Stimulate the state's economy,
- Generate a return on the government's investment, and
- Increase the earning potential of their students.

You can access a copy of the statewide report at the TACC web site ([www.tacc.org](http://www.tacc.org)).

# COMMON MANUAL

## ***Common Manual Updates***

**Note:** Current *Common Manual Updates* (Updates) and the *Integrated Common Manual* (ICM) are available on *TGWorks Online* at [www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated\\_online\\_manual.htm](http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated_online_manual.htm). By posting Updates and the ICM online, TG offers its customers access to new policies shortly after the *Common Manual* Governing Board approves them.

### **Delivery Restrictions**

The *Common Manual* has been updated to remove the prescriptive process for confirming borrower eligibility. The revised policy clarifies that a school may deliver the proceeds of any loan disbursement only if it determines that the student has maintained continuous eligibility for the loan period certified by the school.

---

<b>Affected Sections:</b>	6.3.E
<b>Effective Date:</b>	July 1, 2001
<b>Basis:</b>	§668.164(b); §682.604(b)(2)(i)—as published in Part V of the <i>Federal Register</i> dated November 1, 2000, pages 65615-65622.
<b>Policy Information:</b>	608/Batch 94
<b>Guarantor Comments:</b>	None.

---

### **CommonLine Network**

The *Common Manual* has been revised to reflect that all guarantors accept electronic data transmission in the CommonLine format and to provide updated information on the steps in the CommonLine process. In addition, revised policy adds a definition of “File Transfer Protocol (FTP)” to the glossary.

---

<b>Affected Sections:</b>	5.8.F, appendix G
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Acceptance of the CommonLine format is retroactive to the implementation of the <i>Common Manual</i> . The steps in the CommonLine process were effective on or after September 30, 1998.
<b>Basis:</b>	None.
<b>Policy Information:</b>	609/Batch 94
<b>Guarantor Comments:</b>	None.

---

## Delayed Delivery Requirements

The *Common Manual* has been updated to align text in subsections 6.3.E and 6.3.I and appendix G with text in subsection 6.3.H that states that the first disbursement of a Stafford loan subject to the delayed delivery requirement may not be made until the student completes the first 30 days of his or her program of study.

---

<b>Affected Sections:</b>	6.3.E, 6.3.I, appendix G
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Retroactive to the implementation of the <i>Common Manual</i> .
<b>Basis:</b>	None.
<b>Policy Information:</b>	610/Batch 94
<b>Guarantor Comments:</b>	None.

---

## THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER

We've all heard the phrase, "It's nice to put a face to the name." In the higher education industry, we see and hear a lot of names in news articles and press releases about the staff in the Department of Education (ED). Ever wonder what these staff members look like or wonder about their backgrounds?

ED's Office of Public Affairs offers a chance to satisfy our curiosity by providing the following page on its web site: [www.ed.gov/offices/OPA/bios.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPA/bios.html). The page provides biographies and photos of some of the people who shape higher education policy, including Secretary Rod Paige, Deputy Secretary William Hansen, and Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education Sally Stroup. Check out the site and you can put a face to each name!

---

<b>Contributors to this week's edition:</b>	Kristin Boyer	Kelly Kaelin	Art Martinez
	Brent Hay	Laura Lavergne	

---

*Shoptalk Online* is published by Texas Guaranteed (TG). Unless specifically noted, the policies and procedures outlined in *Shoptalk Online* apply only to loans made under TG's guarantee and not to loans underwritten by other guarantors.

To ask questions about the articles in *Shoptalk Online*, subscribe or order additional copies, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2878 or [communications@tgscl.org](mailto:communications@tgscl.org).

Edited by TG Communications and Policy and Regulatory Affairs.

Designed by TG Communications.

*Shoptalk Online* is a publication of Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. Copyright 2002.

---

