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## Tip<sup>of</sup> the Week

Consider starting a systemic default aversion program on your campus, involving staff and faculty across the institution to help students avoid default. Call TG default prevention at (800) 338-4752 for more information about how to get started.

## Federal updates

### ***Student Aid on the Web* provides new campus tour feature**

ED recently issued Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) GEN-03-11 on the office of Federal Student Aid's (FSA's) launch of the latest version of its students portal, now entitled *Student Aid on the Web*. New features of the portal include the option for students to take "campus tours" and, if appropriate, begin the college admissions process directly from *Student Aid on the Web*.

#### **Virtual campus tours**

The new "campus tour" feature allows students to visit school profile pages of postsecondary institutions across the country. Students can search for "campuses" either based on criteria that matches their preferences, or by selecting an individual school by name. Once a school is selected, the school's profile page provides such information as school population, degrees conferred, endowment resources, admission application statistics, and more.

#### **How to participate**

If your school is not profiled on *Student Aid on the Web*, you will need to provide information on how you want to be represented in the school profile and how the school's admissions application process will be featured on the site. More details on this opportunity are provided in the DCL.

## For more information

To survey the portal's new features, visit FSA's *Student Aid on the Web* at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). To access DCL GEN-03-11, visit the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site at [www.ifap.ed.gov](http://www.ifap.ed.gov).

## TG updates

### Key reauthorization bills now available on *TG Online*

With autumn almost here, congressional action on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is starting to pick up. If you haven't been keeping track of key reauthorization legislation filed in the Congress, don't worry – TG's got you covered.

Visit TG's Higher Education Act Reauthorization page on *TG Online* to access the new "Key Reauthorization Bills" section. It's an easy way to keep track of the text, summaries, and statuses of important reauthorization bills as they work their way through Congress. And as the action heats up on Capitol Hill, don't forget to check back regularly – TG will continue to post new versions of key bills as they're filed.

To access the page, go to [www.tgslc.org/reauth/index.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/reauth/index.cfm).

### NTHESC awards computer to winner of FAFSA Teleconference drawing

When David Torres prepared for his freshman year this fall at Houston Community College, he was a step ahead in his studies because he had his very own computer, thanks to the North Texas Higher Education Servicing Corporation (NTHESC). David was selected as the recipient after participating in TG's annual FAFSA Teleconference, "Applying for Financial Aid: The FAFSA Process."

The FAFSA sets the financial aid process in motion. "Completing the FAFSA, which includes approximately 100 questions, can be a lengthy and sometimes intimidating process," said Richard Sapp, TG's director of awareness programs. "However, the teleconference is designed to help remove some of the frustration by taking students and their parents step-by-step through the entire application."

David can tell you that preparation, along with the luck of the draw, can help a student get closer to achieving his or her educational dreams. In a recent interview with Richard, David shared his dreams of becoming an architect. "I love to draw, so



Michael Ward of the North Texas Higher Education Authority (left) and Richard Sapp (right) pose with new computer owner David Torres and his mother, Rosa.

I think it is important to work in a career where I can do what I love to do. Working towards a degree in architecture is my goal."

David, a graduate from John H. Reagan High School in Houston, has already demonstrated a passion for drawing, design, and the arts. In 2002, he won first prize in the art competition at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, one of the largest and most highly competitive events in the state.

After Houston Community College, David plans to continue his studies at the University of Houston.

The Ninth Annual FAFSA Teleconference is set for February 5, 2004. Watch future issues of *Shoptalk Online* for details, or contact Richard Sapp at ext. 2865 or at richard.sapp@tgsllc.org for more information.

## **This, that, and the other**

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige is participating in an online chat event tomorrow, Wednesday, September 24, from 2 to 3 p.m. CDT. Secretary Paige will discuss implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act and its effect on schools, as well as the Bush administration's philosophy for raising student achievement. The chat event is part of the TalkBack Live forum offered by *Education Week on the Web* at [www.edweek-chat.org](http://www.edweek-chat.org). You can ask questions ahead of time, and then join in the chat tomorrow, by going to [www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a86381a130485888a0](http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a86381a130485888a0).



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