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Tip^{of} the Week

Involve parents in entrance counseling for any students enrolling midyear. TG can provide a list of items to cover during entrance counseling sessions. Call (800) 338-4752 to find out more.

Federal updates

Staff director for Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance embarks on new journey

Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald, staff director for the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Aid (ACSFA), will be leaving his position to become the new executive director for the Business-Higher Education Forum. TG wishes Dr. Fitzgerald success in his new role.

Since 1988, Dr. Fitzgerald has been instrumental in leading ACSFA, which was established by Congress that year to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel on student financial aid. He has worked continuously to help ensure accessibility and simplification of the federal student aid programs.

His vast experience in higher education policy has played a critical role in assisting the ACSFA to evaluate and provide objective analysis on important issues affecting financial aid and higher education such as:

- Modernization of Title IV systems and processes
- Simplification of the Higher Education Act and the respective regulations
- Distance learning and its impact on higher education

- Student accessibility to financial aid information

For more information about the ACSFA, go to www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/acsfa/edlite-index.html.

TG updates

TG holiday schedule

Just a reminder — TG will be closed during the Christmas and New Year holidays:

- Thursday and Friday, December 23 and 24
- Friday, December 31

TG also will be closed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Tuesday, December 7, for a corporate-wide activity.

TG will not run batch schedules on December 23, 24, and 31.

If you have any questions, please contact your customer services consultant or national account representative at (800) 252-9743.

Trends and issues

MYF and Meteor™ default prevention project

Mapping Your Future (MYF) and Meteor invite you to join an online presentation and conference call to learn more about their joint default prevention project. This pilot project, a collaborative default aversion initiative, will display loan data obtained through Meteor in Mapping Your Future's Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC).

Schools interested in piloting this project, proposed for debut in the spring of 2005, are encouraged to join this presentation scheduled for this Thursday, December 9, 2004, at 3 p.m. EST, 2 p.m. CST, 1 p.m. MST, and noon PST.

This innovative project will benefit both schools and students by helping schools meet regulatory requirements to provide loan indebtedness information in Stafford exit counseling, while also providing students with real time information about their loan amounts.

Following is a basic outline of the proposed process:

- The student logs in and authenticates him or herself (that is, logs into an account or other system) on the school or guarantor Web site.
- The guarantor or school securely passes the student identifying information to the MYF OSLC process and links the student to the MYF exit counseling session.

- The student enters the exit counseling session.
- The student reads the text and answers questions.
- The student completes the first part of the student form.
- Meteor displays its loan data next to a calculator so the student can calculate his or her total loan indebtedness.

To join this presentation, RSVP by contacting Cathy Mueller at (940) 497-0741 or cathy.mueller@mapping-your-future.org, or CariAnne Behr at (573) 634-8641 or carianne.behr@mapping-your-future.org. Schools that are interested in piloting this project, but cannot join the presentation, are also encouraged to contact Cathy or CariAnne.

MYF offers six options for OSLC:

- Stafford entrance
- Spanish Stafford entrance
- Perkins entrance
- Stafford and Perkins combined entrance
- Stafford exit
- Perkins exit

Schools can meet federal loan counseling requirements and help students understand education loan obligations with the convenience of OSLC. In addition to enabling schools and students to meet federal loan counseling requirements conveniently, OSLC also enhances the loan management education of the student by actively involving them in the counseling—making OSLC an important default prevention tool. It also provides schools with an opportunity to spend more time with those students needing assistance in the loan process.

For more information about MYF, visit www.mapping-your-future.org. For more information on Meteor, visit <http://www.nchelp.org/pages/page.cfm?id=22>.

Legislative update

The November 30, 2004 issue of TG's *Legislative Report* includes highlights of the Senate Appropriations Committee majority staff report concerning the FY05 Omnibus Appropriations bill (HR 4818), which included funding for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education programs for the current fiscal year. Keep up with the latest developments by reading the full report on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/lege_report/index.cfm.

This, that, and the other

Looking for a campus-wide management training device? Visit www.virtual-u.org. According to the Web site, Virtual U is designed to foster better understanding of management practices in American colleges and universities. It provides students, teachers, and parents the unique opportunity to take on the virtual role of a university president. Players are responsible for establishing and monitoring all the major components of an institution — from faculty salaries to campus parking.

Virtual U is in its seventh semester of use and covers the five major areas of higher education management — spending and income, faculty and scheduling, admissions, student housing, and performance.



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To ask questions about *Shoptalk Online*, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4732 or communications@tgslc.org.

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