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

Are you looking for up-to-the-minute information about TG's electronic products and services? Do you have ideas you'd like to share?

Why not become active in the TG Users Group (TUG)?

Learn more and sign up at [www.tgslc.org/tug/index.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/tug/index.cfm).

## Federal updates

### Closed school corner

Following is a list of newly reported school closures and error corrections from the Postsecondary Educational Participants System (PEPS) and from the July 2006 Closed School Monthly Report supplied by the Department of Education:

#### Newly reported closures

OPE School ID	School Name and Address	Unofficial Closure Date	ED's Official Closure Date
00488600	<b>Electronic Institutes</b> 1519 W. Harrisburg Pike Middletown, PA 17057-9984	N/A	1/27/2006
02538901	<b>International Business College</b> 4107 N. Texoma Pkwy. Sherman, TX 75090-1937	N/A	6/15/2006
00754804	<b>Westwood College of Technology – Anaheim</b> 19700 S. Vermont Ave. Torrance, CA 90502-1148	N/A	3/12/2003

00549804	<b>Wichita Area Technical College - N/A</b> <b>Dunbar Campus</b> 923 Cleveland Wichita, KS 67214-3495	6/1/2006
00549806	<b>Wichita Area Technical College - N/A</b> <b>Cowley Campus</b> 125 S. 2nd St. Arkansas City, KS 67005-2662	6/1/2006
00549807	<b>Wichita Area Technical College N/A</b> <b>– Southside Education Center</b> 4507 E. 47th St. South Wichita, KS 67210-1651	6/1/2006

## TG updates

### TG launches redesigned college and career-planning Web site



*Adventures In Education*, TG's public-service Web site that offers information and resources to help students and families prepare and pay for college and explore career options, now has a new design, additional information, and interactive features. The site ([www.AIE.org](http://www.AIE.org)) focuses on specific content for students from middle school through college, and also offers sections for parents, guidance counselors, librarians and educators.

#### What is AIE?

AIE was originally launched in 1995 and was one of the first Internet sites to offer college and career-planning information. A few of AIE's most popular features include the following:

- **Scholarship search** – provides listings of scholarships for which students may qualify
- **Financial aid estimators** – enables families to see how much financial aid they may qualify for – even prior to completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- **FAFSA Information Center** – includes common questions and errors made when completing the form
- **Student/Parent Loan Inquiry** – allows students and parents with federal education loans to view the balance on their accounts
- **EFC calculator** – helps families determine how much they may be expected to pay toward the cost of a higher education based on income and other information they provide

## What's new about the site?

The redesigned site features a bolder look, smart graphics, and engaging and informative content. TG redesigned the popular site to better support its goal of helping students of all ages pursue and eventually achieve a higher education.

Redesigning AIE was a challenge because the site's audience ranges in age from around 13 to college age, and includes parents and counselors. Therefore, it is important that the site appeal visually to these various groups, and also contain relevant information for each group as well. As a result, the new design is focused on the users' experiences, and it will be easier for a visitor to the site to more quickly and easily identify the information he or she needs. In addition, users can more easily provide feedback about the content and features, which ultimately helps other users.

Some of the improvements to the AIE Web site include:

- **A new look** – bold, flexible design, Web trends, and best practices
- **Timely** – content frequently posted and updated
- **User-friendly** – more consistent and integrated navigational scheme and search capabilities
- **Audience-focused** – site sections are more “customized” to address the different needs of TG's different audiences
- **We're here to help** – emphasizes the fact that college is possible and ways that TG can help

“Historically, TG has been at the forefront of providing information and resources to students and families about the value of higher education and how to achieve educational goals,” said Sue McMillin, TG president and CEO. “We are pleased to demonstrate that commitment by providing resources like AIE that have the ability to positively affect the lives of so many students.”

## AIE in Spanish

A companion site is available in Spanish. The redesigned Spanish site will launch later this month. Until then, the current Spanish AIE site still will be available.

## More information

To experience the newly-designed *Adventures In Education* Web site for yourself, visit [www.AIE.org](http://www.AIE.org). If you have questions about the AIE Website, send an e-mail message to JD Hancock, AIE Website director, at [jd.hancock@tgslc.org](mailto:jd.hancock@tgslc.org).

## Trends and issues

### Question of the week

**Q: May a borrower who is more than 270 days past due on his or her loan and considered in default receive a deferment or forbearance?**

**A:** Possibly. When a borrower defaults, or is more than 270 days past due on his or her student loan, the borrower's lender files a claim with the guarantor requesting payment of the defaulted balance. Although the loan is technically in default, there is a short time (no more than 90 days) prior to claim payment by the guarantor during which a borrower can still make arrangements with his or her lender that could require the lender to recall the claim from the guarantor. During this time period, the loan is referred to as being in a "claim pending" status.

While the loan is in this "claim pending" status, if the borrower requests a deferment or mandatory forbearance and submits all necessary documentation indicating that the borrower's eligibility began prior to the date of default, then the lender must grant the request and recall the claim. A lender may also grant a discretionary forbearance if it is accompanied by a signed agreement to repay the debt. Additional information about claim recalls can be found in the *Common Manual* subsection 13.2.B.

Once a guarantor pays the lender's claim, the borrower loses eligibility for deferments and forbearances. However, the borrower can reestablish deferment and forbearance eligibility after rehabilitating or consolidating his or her loan out of default. For information regarding rehabilitation and consolidation of defaulted loans, see the *Common Manual* sections 13.7 and 15.2.

### Resources

The latest version of the *Integrated Common Manual* is available for download at [www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated\\_online\\_manual.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm).

### Do you have a question?

If you have a question that needs an answer, feel free to *Ask TG™*. *Ask TG* is TG's online query tool for borrowers, schools, and lenders. *Ask TG* includes a database of frequently asked questions about financial aid, student loan processing, and TG's products and services. To submit a question to *Ask TG*, visit <http://tgslc.custhelp.com>.

## TG sponsors chat event on managing student loans

Students and parents can learn about ways to manage their student loans, including repayment options, consolidation, and discharge during a live chat event on the *Mapping Your Future* Web site on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 6 p.m. (CDT). The event is interactive, allowing borrowers to ask questions — all from the privacy and convenience of a computer.

### Topics

Increasing tuition costs and limited financial aid resources have resulted in an increased reliance on student loans and other debt to pay for college. Borrowers will have the opportunity to ask questions about money and debt management, and student loan and financial experts from across the country will answer questions about:

- Avoiding student loan default,
- Using credit cards,
- Using credit reports,
- Budgeting, and
- Requesting student loan consolidation and discharge.

### How to participate

Anyone with Internet access can join in the chat event by visiting [www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org). At the time of the chat, follow the link to the chat at top of the page.

### Learn more

*Mapping Your Future* chat events are made possible because of the support of *Mapping Your Future's* Sponsors and Friends, including TG.

## This, that, and the other

Have a question about the new Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant programs (who doesn't)?

Well, you can ask your question (or maybe see the answer you need already posted) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) HERA page. Just visit [www.ifap.ed.gov/IFAPWebApp/currentHERAPag.jsp?p1=c](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/IFAPWebApp/currentHERAPag.jsp?p1=c) and select the "Frequently Asked Questions on ACG and National SMART Grants." A drop-down box reveals several categories of questions ED has already answered, and if yours isn't there, the last option in the drop-down box allows you to inquire directly to ED.



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