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### Smart Solutions

TG's [Income-Based Repayment calculator](#), available through the *Adventures In Education* (AIE™) website, has been updated to use 2011 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines in its calculations.

## TG Report

### TG to co-host sixth annual College Access and Affordability Telethons

TG and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will host the sixth annual College Access and Affordability Telethons. The telethons offer viewers information about student financial aid, including help with understanding and applying for federal and state financial aid.

Starting February 8, representatives from TG, THECB, and other organizations will be on-hand to answer questions related to filling out the Free Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). Students must fill out the FAFSA to apply for federal, most state, and some college financial aid. The TASFA is required for undocumented students who have lived in Texas for three years prior to graduating from high school. These students are not eligible for federal financial aid, but may qualify for certain types of state financial aid.

“Our goal with the College Access and Affordability Telethons is to let students and families know that aid is available to help pay for college and to encourage students to apply,” said Richard Sapp, TG’s director of pre-college success.

The College Access and Affordability Telethons will be broadcast in nine Texas cities. Dates and participating broadcast stations include:

- February 8 — San Antonio, KWEX
- February 10 — Dallas/Fort Worth, KUVN
- February 15 — Austin, KTBC
- February 16 — San Antonio, KSAT
- February 17 — Beaumont, KFDM
- February 22 — Lubbock, KCBD
- February 23 — Tyler/Longview/Lufkin/Nacogdoches, KLTN and KTRE
- February 24 — Midland/Odessa, KWES, English and Spanish
- March 1 — Houston, KXLN
- March 2 — El Paso, KINT

### **Learn more**

For more information about the College Access and Affordability Telethons, contact the Texas Financial Aid Information Center at (888) 311-8881. The [College For All Texans](#) website also offers resources and information on applying for federal and state financial aid.

## **TG's February industry webinars to focus on cohort default rates**

ED is preparing to release draft, 2-year FY 2009 cohort default rates (CDRs) on February 14. Draft rates are distributed only to the respective school, guarantor, lender, or servicer, not the general public. No eligibility sanctions or benefits apply with the draft release. However, the same data used to calculate a draft rate will be

used to calculate an official CDR in September, when school sanctions and benefits do apply — unless the data is successfully challenged or changed.

To help schools understand, manage, or review their CDRs, TG offers information and resources, including an upcoming webinar — “Challenging Your Cohort Default Rate.” The webinar outlines the process for challenging a CDR, emphasizes the importance of an effective default management plan, and considers the 3-year CDR, which was introduced by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

Beginning with the FY 2009 CDR, schools wishing to submit certain types of challenges or appeals must use ED’s Electronic Cohort Default Rate (eCDR) system, a Web-based application available to schools, third-party school servicers, and data managers exchanging CDR data and documentation. TG’s webinar will describe this system in terms of filing an incorrect data challenge.

The webinar will also include information concerning the dual calculation of 2-year and 3-year CDRs for the next several years, and what the calculation change means with regard to challenges, appeals, and eligibility sanctions and benefits.

### **To register**

To accommodate the schedules of TG’s coast-to-coast customers, the one-hour webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, at 3 p.m. and repeated on Friday, February 11, at 10 a.m. Central Time. [Registration is available online](#). If you are unable to attend the scheduled broadcast, a recording will be available for viewing shortly after the event through [TG’s archived webinars](#).

## **Sharpen your leadership skills with TG’s 2011 Student Services Leadership Symposium**

In conjunction with the upcoming TG Annual Training Conference, TG offers a one-of-a-kind training opportunity geared specifically for student services professionals. TG will host the TG Student Services Leadership Symposium (SSLS) at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin from April 25 – 27.

Designed for a broad audience, including mid-level managers in college and university admissions, business, registrar, and financial aid offices, the symposium focuses on the building blocks of leadership — vision, values, teamwork, trust, motivation, managing change — within the context of the student services community.

According to TG’s vice president of Customer Focus Kim Alexander, the symposium was developed to help fill a void in leadership trainings. “There are few workshops targeted specifically for industry professionals who want to advance in the profession,” said Alexander.

## Training foundation

Graduates of the training (formerly known as the Financial Aid Leadership Symposium) hail from every sector of higher education, including 2- and 4-year, public and private, career and community colleges. Participation is limited to promote the amount and quality of class interaction.



Tom Rebstock, TG assistant manager of Corporate Learning and Development, facilitates a group discussion during TG's first Financial Aid Leadership Symposium

"Our goal is to provide a unique learning experience within the student services arena that will give participants a holistic understanding of leadership," said TG's senior corporate trainer and symposium liaison Lisa Pierce-Jones.

To enable that understanding, participants must gather feedback about their performance from subordinates, peers, and supervisors. This assessment helps participants examine their leadership strengths, focus on areas for improvement, and lay the foundation for a better learning experience at the symposium.

## Workshop benefits

According to symposium graduates, the workshop offers the motivation to grow along with insight about leadership. "It helped me to view the workplace in a new way," said Patricia Hinds, associate director of financial aid at Tulane University. "[I received] encouragement to change the assumptions I have about staff and processes."

Financial aid officer Rhonda Beauchamp of Texas State Technical College (TSTC) said that the symposium helped her to develop and manage a major project for her campus — a complete financial literacy program. "I feel the symposium gave me the confidence to challenge myself," said Beauchamp. "I have taken on more responsibility, and I love every minute of it."

## To register

Online registration for the [2011 Student Services Leadership Symposium \(SSLS\)](#) is available through *TG Online*. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 18. The fee for the symposium is \$399 per participant and includes classes (from Monday, 1 p.m. Central Time through Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Central Time), a 360-degree assessment, materials, and selected meals.

## To learn more

For more information regarding the symposium, contact Lisa Pierce-Jones at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4578, or by send an e-mail message to [lisa.pierce-jones@tgsic.org](mailto:lisa.pierce-jones@tgsic.org).

## New webinar series to highlight research, successful practices in student persistence and completion

As the student population grows and changes, institutions look for better ways to serve their students, strengthen their programs, and meet challenges. To do that, they often engage in an industry dialogue with other institutions, sharing information about successful practices.

TG's Student and Institutional Success team supports this dialogue, offering collaborative opportunities such as the Student Success Symposia. Formerly presented in-person and by video conference, the Symposia will now be provided as the Student Success Webinar Series.

The webinar series, which will feature authors from the *Enrollment Management Journal* (EMJ), will address issues of student persistence and success from a variety of perspectives. Offered at no-cost, these 90-minute sessions will allow presenters to explain their research and lead a discussion with participants on the topic.

### Valuable content and insight

Webinar presenters will describe challenges and solutions in student persistence and success, and highlight results so far. Participants will then consider how to apply this information to the most pressing issues facing students, staff, and faculty.

TG encourages individuals from a diverse range of institutions to participate, including professionals in institutional research, academic affairs, enrollment management, academic instruction, recruitment, admission, financial assistance, student advising, retention, and student affairs.

### Scheduled programs

A variety of programs for the series have been announced, including:

- Thursday, February 24  
2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Time  
*An Examination of Selected Predictive Variables and First-to-Second-Year Persistence at a Public Liberal Arts University*  
Dr. Matt Stillman  
Southern Oregon University
- Wednesday, March 9

2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Time  
*Influence of Orientation Coursework on Enrollment Persistence*  
Dr. Tracy Harris  
Prince George's Community College

- Tuesday, March 29  
2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Time  
*The Effects of Merit-Based Aid on the Enrollment Decisions of Needy Students*  
Dr. Bradley Curs  
University of Missouri
- Tuesday, April 19  
2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Time  
*Institutional Characteristics and the College Choice Process for Texas Hispanics*  
Dr. R. Michael Haynes  
Tarleton State University
- Thursday, June 16  
2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Central Time  
*Access in U.S. Higher Education: What Does the For-Profit Sector Contribute?*  
Dr. Kevin Kinser  
University of Albany

### **To register**

Find out more and sign up for [the Student Success Webinar Series](#) today. Participants who register will receive further information and instructions on how to participate in the webinar approximately one to two business days prior to the event.

## **TG supports Financial Aid Awareness Month events throughout Texas**

Throughout February, a.k.a. Financial Aid Awareness Month, TG will meet with students and families at key awareness events, offering information and resources for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and planning for college. A partial list of events follows. Note that these events are open to all interested families and students, including students already enrolled, and those interested in enrolling in a higher education institution.

### **Financial Aid Saturdays**

TG representatives will attend "Financial Aid Saturdays," hosted by 15 Austin-area independent school districts (ISDs). Offered on Saturdays from February 5 to March

26, these workshops provide help in submitting the FAFSA. Tax professionals from Foundation Community Tax Centers will also be available at select locations to help complete tax forms.

### **Houston Hispanic Forum**

On February 19, TG representatives will attend the Houston Hispanic Forum at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Team members will provide college awareness material and answer questions on how to prepare and pay for college.

### **College Goal Sunday**

On February 27, Texas' College Goal Sunday will bring together colleges, high schools, families, and students at 39 locations throughout the state. Students and families will be able to ask questions about the FAFSA as well as learn how to complete and submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). (The TASFA was created for undocumented students applying for certain types of state financial aid.)

### **To learn more**

For details on these events, please contact TG's assistant director of pre-college success Bonita Peebles at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4784, or send an e-mail message to [bonita.peebles@tgslc.org](mailto:bonita.peebles@tgslc.org).

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## **News Briefs**

Anxiety about job prospects and potential school debt is weighing on the minds of freshmen, according to the most recent college survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI). *The American Freshman: National Norms Fall 2010*, a survey of some 200,000 entering college students, reports that only about 50 percent of respondents ranked their emotional well-being high, a drop from last year's number. More than half of students continue to rely on college loans, and about five percent said that their fathers were unemployed while nine percent said their mothers were not working. On the other hand, more than three-quarters of respondents said they had a high drive to succeed and felt strongly about their academic abilities. Read more about the [HERI survey findings](#).



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