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SOLID FOUNDATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
2011 TG Annual Training Conference

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Smart Solutions

Internships offer the perfect way to explore careers and gain skill in a chosen field. TG’s [Adventures In Education](#) features a short primer on how to snag an internship and make the most of this professional learning opportunity.

TG Report

TG to hold credit report telethon for students and other consumers

Credit reports work like financial biographies, listing a consumer's activity related to borrowing, credit, and other financial matters. Many students start that biography when they borrow for college, and add more detail to it when they apply for and begin using a credit card. Consumers can use these "financial biographies" to monitor and manage credit. Next week, TG will host a call-in telethon designed to help consumers, including students, understand their credit report and make the most of the information it contains. Telethon operators will explain:

- How to obtain a free credit report
- How to read a credit report
- How to correct errors on a credit report

Telethon details

TG is holding a Financial Literacy Credit Report Telethon on Tuesday, April 12, from noon to 8 p.m. Central Time. The telethon will be broadcast on KSAT ABC 12, in San Antonio. Interested students can call in at (888) 311-8881.

Resources to promote the event

TG has developed two communication pieces — an email and a printable flyer — for promoting the Financial Literacy Credit Report Telethon to students and consumers. [Both are available online.](#)

To learn more

For questions about the telethon topics and format, contact TG's financial literacy consultant Nancy VanBoskirk at (800) 252-9743, ext. 6783, or send an email message to nancy.vanboskirk@tgsllc.org.

Five TG conference trainings that will sharpen your policy IQ

Building a brain trust of policy knowledge in your office starts with training. TG offers a varied and incisive set of trainings on policy and regulatory topics through the TG Annual Training Conference, offered from April 26-29 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Regulatory sessions at this year's event focus on some of the most pressing issues in the industry today, including the Program Integrity final rules and veterans

issues. As you plan your conference experience, consider the five sessions described below, all scheduled for Thursday, April 28.

- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): Positioning College Students for Success** — To be eligible for federal student aid funds, a student must make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) — that seems simple enough. However, the dual nature of SAP's quantitative and qualitative standards, and the related timing and communication requirements, can present challenges for schools. And don't forget that substantial changes to SAP requirements will be put in effect on July 1, 2011. This session unravels SAP's complexity, addresses special situations, highlights upcoming regulatory changes, and explains issues associated with a student's loss, appeal, or reinstatement of Title IV program eligibility.
- **New Rules for Verification** — Whether you are a new or experienced aid administrator, verification can be a difficult process without the right information. This session provides a review of basic requirements to validate student eligibility for Title IV grants and loans; offers a discussion on what information is mandatory and what is optional to verify; and addresses common questions and potential situations. The session will also preview upcoming changes to the verification process, based on Program Integrity final rules effective July 1, 2012.
- **Gainful employment** — Three separate final rules packages have been published that provide significant new requirements for schools offering educational programs that are intended to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. This topic most directly affects for-profit schools; however, many public and private nonprofit schools that offer certificate or other non-degree programs are also affected. This session will review the new reporting and disclosure rules, requirements for adding a new educational program, and program metrics on student debt levels and repayment success.
- **Updates on Veteran Issues and Servicemember Benefits** — Participants will examine some of the regulatory waivers and modifications available to students called to active duty during a war or other military operation. They will explore military service and post-active duty deferments. They will also learn about the maximum Pell Grant or Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant available to those who lose a parent or guardian while serving during a war or other military operation. As part of the session, Connie Cooper, assistant director of grants and special programs at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will provide a general update about servicemember benefits and issues in Texas.

- **Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) — Basics and Beyond** — The return of Title IV funds (R2T4) calculation is complex, and ED looks closely for R2T4 inaccuracies in its school program reviews. This session demystifies the R2T4 calculation, describing the principles of the R2T4 process, elements of an R2T4 calculation, and recommending ways to avoid some of the most common R2T4 findings in a program review. New changes that will become effective July 1, 2011, will also be highlighted.

Hotel details

TG's hotel room block reservation for the conference at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center expires today. Rooms may still be available at the conference hotel on Monday through Wednesday but not at the conference rate. The hotel is booked completely for Thursday, April 28. For alternative arrangements for Thursday, attendees are encouraged to contact the [Doubletree Austin Hotel – University Area](#) located at 1617 N I-35.

Register today!

Visit *TG Online* to [register](#). Early registration closes Friday, April 8. After that date, a \$25 late fee will be added to the registration fee.

The 2011 TG Annual Training Conference offers flexible registration choices, including options to attend half-day workshops, one or two full days at special discounted rates, or the full four-day agenda.

To speak with someone directly about the conference, contact TG's event planning coordinator Judith Cunningham at (800) 252-9743, ext. 2905, or send an email message to judith.cunningham@tgsdc.org.

TG financial literacy session focuses on the *Credit Basics: How Money Works*

Other people's money, also known as credit, can be a problematic source of financial support for students just beginning their lives away from home. Educating your students on how to use credit responsibly, i.e., don't charge your spring break vacation to a card with 20 percent interest, is critical in today's buy-now-pay-later culture. TG offers that education through the TG Financial Literacy Program, more specifically a session titled *Credit Basics: How Money Works*.

Presented in a fast-paced, easy-to-understand format, the *Credit Basics* session explains the many forms of credit, from simple borrowing and credit cards to mortgages and installment loans. The session helps demystify the fees attached to credit cards, detailing how costs can quickly escalate given late payments. Trainers also discuss how bad credit habits can damage a borrower's credit rating and affect his or her access to less costly forms of credit.

About the TG Financial Literacy Program

TG has released an expanded and enhanced financial literacy program, comprised of ten 15-minute presentations with accompanying activities, workbooks, and speaker's scripts. These modules cover a range of topics, such as solving debt problems and understanding employee benefits. Illustrations, content, and format for each module are tailored to appeal to students from high school through college. The entire TG Financial Literacy Program places a special emphasis on teaching by interaction, the better to gain and keep attention on such important topics as budgeting and saving. Modules and activities can be mixed and matched to suit need. Session participants will receive workbooks that contain glossaries, FAQs, suggested resources for further study, and information on key concepts.

To learn more

Browse a list of [TG Financial Literacy Program](#) modules to learn more about TG's program or to request a "Train-the-Trainer" session for your staff who can then train students on a given topic.

TG publishes spring 2011 *Enrollment Management Journal*

A typical edition of TG's *Enrollment Management Journal* (EMJ) features an eclectic array of studies on college access, retention, and graduation, particularly for underserved students. The spring 2011 EMJ is no exception, offering articles on the benefits of mentoring, college access for inner-city youths, and a transition program for community college transfers.

Inside this edition

The "Research and Scholarship" section of the EMJ provides blind, refereed, empirical or conceptual manuscripts written by academic researchers. This edition's articles consider college enrollment among low-income students of color in an urban setting; mentoring's effect on college retention at Hispanic-Serving Institutions; increasing graduation rates among students in computer science; and the experiences of students who graduated, worked for a short time, and returned to graduate-level studies.

The "From the Field" section highlights examples of campus practice or policy that have proven successful. This edition of the EMJ features an article on the experience of Virginia Wesleyan College as it works to enroll transfer students and provide financial aid to these students.



The final section of the journal, “Policy and Practice” (which replaces the former “Legislative Update”) focuses on the financial aid challenges Texas schools face in an era of straitened budgets.

About the journal

As a co-publisher of the EMJ, along with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, TG seeks to advance knowledge about successful student enrollment, retention, and graduation strategies, and to make new and relevant data available to practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. The EMJ is an initiative of the [Council for the Management of Educational Finance](#).

Industry Update

ED provides guidance related to helping students enrolled in study-abroad programs in Japan

On March 29, 2011, ED published *Dear Colleague Letter* (DCL) [GEN 11-09](#), which authorizes schools to rely on previously published information (provided in DCL GEN-10-16/FP-10-06) in cases where a student who was enrolled in a study-abroad program located in Japan was affected by the recent earthquake and related events.

On August 23, 2010, ED published DCL [GEN-10-16](#) that provided guidance to schools on helping Title IV participants, including students, affected by a major disaster. While the information provided in that letter specifically refers to federally declared major disasters, this new letter extends the previous guidance to students who were enrolled in study-abroad programs in Japan at the time of the March 10, 2011 earthquake.

While any of the relief provided in the attachment to DCL GEN-10-16/FP-10-6, [General Guidance for Disasters](#), may be necessary, ED draws special attention to the provisions on page 3 related to “Institutional Charges, Refunds, and Return of Title IV Funds Calculations,” as well as the provision on “Reporting Student Enrollment Status” on page 8.

More information

Questions on this letter or on any of the provisions of GEN-10-16 should be directed to the home institution’s School Participation Team. If you are not sure how to contact your School Participation Team, visit the [IFAP website](#) for a complete listing.

Current special allowance rates: quarter ending March 31, 2011

For the quarter ending March 31, 2011, the average rate for three-month commercial paper (financial) was 0.25 percent. This rate is also used to compute the Participant Yield paid to ED on loans subject to the loan participation purchase program. For loans where the special allowance payment is based on the bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury Bills, the average rate during the quarter ending December 31, 2010, for 91-day Treasury Bills was 0.13 percent.

The [FFELP special allowance rates](#) for the most recent quarter are available on *TG Online*.

Questions

For question, please contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267, or send an email message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

Policy Resources

Common Manual updates

Guarantor representatives who serve on the *Common Manual* Governing Board have approved several changes to the *Common Manual*. Details on these changes have been added as a PDF available on *TG Online*. Click the "[Common Manual Updates](#)" link in the right column to view the changes. An updated *Integrated Common Manual* incorporating the changes will be made available soon through *TG Online*. These changes will also appear in the *Manual's* next annual update.

Questions

Please note the effective date of each policy change. If you have questions about any of the changes, contact TG's Customer Assistance team at (800) 845-6267, or send an email message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

News Briefs

According to reports, including one by the College Board, the U.S. ranks below the top ten countries in terms of higher education attainment. To make up for the lag — and to ensure the U.S. maintains a prosperous, competitive economy — President Obama has challenged schools to increase the number of their graduates by 50 percent over the next decade. This March, ED released several resources, including a college completion tool kit and a grant competition, to help boost national college completion rates. The kit suggests policy, strategies, and resources

that states can use in their enrollment efforts. ED also announced that it is accepting applications for the 2011 Comprehensive Grant Program, which forms part of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The Comprehensive Grant Program will provide a total of \$20 million to colleges working to increase graduation rates. Access the [toolkit](#) and [review the grant competition details](#).



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

To ask questions about *Shoptalk*, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4732, or send an e-mail message to communications@tgslc.org.

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