The Torch

May 20, 2011

A bi-weekly report from the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations

COHEAO News

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- **Student Aid Alliance Sends Budget Request to Hill, Calls for Perkins Funding**
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  To be held in St. Louis, the COHEAO Mid-Year Conference will provide you with multiple opportunities to learn more on regulatory and operational issues related to Perkins Loans, campus-based loan servicing, accounts-receivable management, and other student financial services issues.
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- **CFPB Names Leader of Office of Research**
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Industry News

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  On Wednesday, the New America Foundation (NAF) and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) cosponsored a webinar, in partnership with the Department of Education (ED), titled, "Connecting Children's Savings, Financial Access, and Financial Education to the Federal GEAR UP Program: Forming and Funding Partnerships," to highlight related research, practices and policies.
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  USA Funds recognized the following three postsecondary institutions for their efforts to promote financial literacy and help their students minimize and manage their student loan debt.

Employment Opportunities with COHEAO Members

- **University of Minnesota, Office of Student Finance—Principal Collections Representative**
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Attachments

- **Board of Directors**
- **COHEAO Commercial Members**
- **2011 Mid-Year Conference Draft Agenda**

COHEAO News

COHEAO Launches New Grassroots Campaign for Perkins Appropriations

With the appropriations process underway in the House of Representatives, COHEAO last week re-launched its campaign to seek funding for the Perkins Loan Program. Given the extremely difficult budget environment in Washington, COHEAO made the strategic decision this year to focus efforts on restoring funding for the reimbursement of cancelled loans. The Higher Education Act requires the Department of Education to reimburse Perkins revolving funds for cancelled loans and even says the reimbursement should be done within 90 days. However, there is no penalty for failing to make timely reimbursements, and they have lagged over the years, with no funds in the current fiscal year.

COHEAO sent a Spark with a sample letter to all COHEAO Members last week urging everyone to write their Representative to ask that they request funding for the Perkins Loan Program. If you haven't already sent a letter to representatives in your state, please do so today!

Student Aid Alliance Sends Budget Request to Hill, Calls for Perkins Funding

The Student Aid Alliance has submitted its FY 2012 appropriations request to Congress, calling for renewed funding for Pell Grants, Perkins Loan Cancellations, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study and other federal student aid programs. (COHEAO is an active member of the Alliance.)

The Alliance has asked Congress to:

- Maintain the maximum Pell Grant award of $5,550.
- Restore Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants to $757.5 million.
- Fund the Federal Work-Study Program at $980.5 million, the Federal TRIO Programs at $920.1 million, and GEAR UP at $333 million.
- Appropriate $125 million to the Perkins Loan Program for loan cancellations.
- Maintain the in-school interest subsidy for graduate student loans.
- Provide $9.69 million in funding for the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program and restore the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program to FY 2010 levels.
- Restore the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP) Program for $64 million.

The Perkins Loan request also raises the issue of a Federal Capital Contribution, which has not been made since FY2005. The entire request reads:

"The Perkins Loan Program requires $125 million for loan cancellations. The federal government provides a number of options for loan cancellations in the Perkins Loan Program, but has not provided reimbursements to institutions as required by law over the last several years, As a result, institutional revolving fund balances are declining by hundreds of millions of dollars, which would otherwise be available to make low-interest Perkins Loans to new students. Funding for capital contributions would also increase the availability of low-interest, good-term loans to low-income students."

The Alliance is a coalition of higher education organizations co-chaired by American Council on Education President Molly Corbett Broad and National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities President David Warren representing students, parents, colleges and universities, and others who believe that all qualified students should be able to go to college, regardless of their financial resources. To see the entire Alliance request, go to: http://studentaidalliance.org/student-aid-alliance-calls-for-renewed-support-for-pell-grants-other-federal-aid-programs-in-fy-2012-budget/

Register Today for the COHEAO Mid-Year Conference!

To be held in St. Louis, the COHEAO Mid-Year Conference will provide you with multiple opportunities to learn more on regulatory and operational issues related to Perkins Loans, campus-based loan servicing, accounts-receivable management, and other student financial services issues.

Register today!   (If this link does not work in your email client, please paste the following you're your browser: http://bit.ly/l5dQAu)

As you will see from the attached agenda, the conference will focus on providing information and training that will help campus loan and accounts receivable administrators do their jobs. The Department of Education and the Federal Reserve have published volumes of regulatory changes taking effect this year and last. This conference will draw on experts and provide a chance to share experiences that will help you cope with compliance.

Understanding compliance will be key as a big new regulator, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will have just assumed responsibility for enforcing regulations affecting institutional credit programs stemming from legislation of great importance to COHEAO members, such as the Truth in Lending Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and others.

We are inviting the Department of Education to provide an update, including discussion of Perkins Loan issues. And this conference will take place only weeks after its complex set of new program integrity regulations takes effect. A session will be devoted to understanding how these rules affect schools and their servicers.

The COHEAO Mid-Year Conference will also again feature interactive discussions among COHEAO's topical task forces and committees. At last year's Mid-Year, the Perkins, A/R Management, and Financial Literacy Task Force sessions were considered by many attendees to be the highlight of the conference.

For the third straight year, COHEAO is holding the line on prices. Early registration fees are the same as last year, and remain significantly less than 2009 levels! Be sure to register soon before prices rise. The Westin St. Louis is a fabulous hotel centrally located for many of St. Louis' top attractions, including the famous Gateway Arch and Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals.

COHEAO members are eligible for an incredible rate of $162 per night for the Mid-Year Conference. Please click here to register for the special rate online. (If this link does not work, please paste the following into your browser: http://bit.ly/kRE9Pc)   You may also call 1-800-Westin1 to register

Financial Literacy Corner: Recording of COHEAO's Webinar: "What's New in Private Student Loans" Is Available

COHEAO held a webinar May 12 called, "What's New in Private Student Loans." The event featured presentations from Tom Lustig of PNC Bank, Bob Frick of University Accounting Services, and Tom Sakos of DeVry University who provided the perspective of lenders, servicers, and schools respectively on recent developments and the future of private student lending.

The three panelists indicated the financial crisis had a significant impact on private student loans—from just over $23 billion in annual volume in academic year 2007-2008, loan volume fell to an estimated $8-$9 billion for 2010-2011. However, conditions are improving in terms of pricing, the availability of credit, and repayment rates. The panelists suggested there will continue to be improvement in pricing and the availability of credit, but it will not happen overnight.

Sakos said more students were qualifying for private loans at more affordable prices, and Lustig stated financial institutions have become more interested in making and holding the loans. Frick's presentation provided an overview of the relationship between servicers, schools, and lenders and insights on trends in institutional loan servicing.

All three also discussed the challenges facing schools and lenders in terms of regulations, reviewing the challenges presented to schools with preferred lender list regulations and stating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will be a major factor in private student loan regulation once it is up and running on July 21. Frick also indicated the Truth in Lending Act disclosure requirements continue to cause some confusion on institutional and the Health and Human Services loan programs, but schools were "becoming much smarter" in terms of their compliance with these regulations.

An archived version of the webinar **is available for purchase** online. The pricing is as follows:

- $49 for staff of COHEAO member colleges and companies
- $99 for non-members

Please contact Wes Huffman of COHEAO at **whuffman@wpllc.net** or 202.289.3910 with any questions on accessing the webinar.

The Congress

New America Foundation: New "Perkins" Program Doesn't Save Money

A commentary by the New American Foundation says a method of projecting the costs of federal credit programs mandated by the House-passed Budget Resolution would likely doom any chance of passage of the Obama Administration's "New Perkins Loan" proposal. The commentary was written for the New America Foundation by Jason Delisle, Director of the Federal Education Budget Project at NAF and a former staffer on the Senate Budget Committee.

A proposal in the Administration's FY2012 budget, like proposals in the Administration's FY2010 and FY2011 budgets, would create a new "Perkins" program with terms and conditions identical to the Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan Program, with all servicing managed by the national Direct Loan contractors. According to the Administration's budget estimates, this would generate billions in revenues that could be used to pay for Pell Grants.

But Delisle thinks differently. He wrote: "Buried in the text of the **House-passed budget resolution** is a provision (Sec. 408) that lets the House Budget Committee use a "fair-value" estimate of the cost of any new federal loan program or changes to an existing one instead of the official estimates. (Technically, the congressional budget committees already have this authority, but the provision signals a more formalized intent to use it in the House.) Many **budget experts**, including the Congressional Budget Office, believe that a fair-value estimate provides the most comprehensive measure of a loan program's costs. Specifically, that accounting method more fully reflects the risks that taxpayers bear in making subsidized loans. In fact, **estimates** calculated using the official budget rules tend to understate the costs of federal loan programs by excluding a full measure of the riskiness of the loans. Thus government loan programs, like the president's Perkins proposal, appear profitable for the government even though borrowers get below-market terms, no private lender would make them with its own capital, and the federal government has no inherent cost-savings advantage….

"While neither the House nor Senate Budget Committees have been able to get a fair-value estimate of the president's Perkins Loan proposal yet, **all evidence suggests** that under that accounting method, the proposal would result in costs rather than savings for the federal government."

The entire post can be found here:
http://higheredwatch.newamerica.net/blogposts/2011/budget_rule_may_kill_presidents_perkins_loan_proposal-50730

Federal Budget Talks Continue, With New Developments, Focus on Biden Group

As the White House, Leadership, and representatives of the Budget Committees continue their negotiations on long-term deficit reduction plans, the House and Senate are taking different paths in terms of the process for the spending bills in FY2012. The apparent demise of the "gang of six" senators working to put together a plan for recommendations of the President's deficit reduction commission (Simpson-Bowles) leaves the bi-partisan group led by Vice President Joe Biden as the key decision maker. Although business leaders are pleading for speedy action on legislation increasing the limit on the national debt in order to avoid default and severe disruption of the economy, the Congress is in no hurry to act. The Treasury Department this week stopped issuing new T-Bills and other debt instruments, instead shuffling funds within the government to keep paying federal obligations. The ability to move money around to avoid a bond default will expire by August 2, however. Most observers expect a deal increasing the debt ceiling and reducing the projected federal deficit to be done about August 1.

For now, Republicans and Democrats seem content with public posturing, but some progress is being made in private conversations between Congressional leaders, the Vice President, and top Administration officials.

Perkins Loans have not been publicly mentioned by budget negotiators, with the President's proposal for the program so far not gaining much traction in Congress. Still, the Administration is one of the major players in negotiations and the proposal to create a new unsubsidized Direct Loan Program called "Modernized Perkins" will remain in play as long is it is calculated to save money. However, the Congressional Budget Office's estimate that it would increase the deficit over 10 years to kill the current Perkins Loan Program makes that proposal less appetizing for negotiators who are supposed to be cutting the deficit, not increasing it.

The two most visible aspects of student aid that are likely to be affected by these negotiations are the Pell Grant Program and the in-school interest subsidy on Stafford Loans. The Pell Grant Program is likely to be impacted because its cost has ballooned at the most inopportune time. The President decided to sacrifice the in-school interest subsidy, at least on loans to graduate students, so it may be rolled into these discussion because eliminating the (somewhat, at least in terms of "access") controversial benefit produces significant budgetary savings that can be used for deficit reduction or to fund Pell Grants.

The Simpson-Bowles deficit commission proposed eliminating all in-school interest subsidies, pointing to studies indicating the program did little in terms of increasing access. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), then Chairman, now Ranking Member, of the House Education and the Workforce Committee also proposed the elimination of the graduate in-school interest subsidy in 2009 with the initial SAFRA bill.

Meanwhile, the Congress is left to work on spending without the overall framework provided by the Budget. In the House, the Majority has decided to proceed with its appropriations efforts, using Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) "Path to Prosperity" budget resolution, which passed just before the Easter recess, as its guide.

House Republicans Plan Education Spending Cuts To Help Reduce Deficit

On May 11, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) announced both the allocations for each appropriations Subcommittee spending bill this year. For the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee the number would cut spending back to the 2004 level.

This will require deep cuts in many programs that already were cut in FY 2011. The Subcommittee has until July 26th to come up with a bill and prepare for mark-up. Although there is a considerable amount of time between now and July 26th, programmatic requests from Members of Congress to the Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee are due today. The full Committee will take up the bill on August 2nd, just prior to recess. Rogers intends to have all appropriations bills pass the House by the start of the federal fiscal year, September 30.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill received an allocation cut of 11.6% from this year's spending level and 41% below President Obama's budget request. The total amount allocated for the subcommittee does not specify how much should go to each of the three cabinet-level agencies covered by the bill. But the assumption is that the H.R. 1 proposal passed by the House earlier this year for FY2011 would be the starting point for the House majority in FY2012. That included elimination of the SEOG program and a cut to the maximum Pell Grant of at least $845.

The Democratic response to these allocations was sharp. Appropriations Committee Ranking Democrat Norm Dicks (D-WA) said, "These reductions are irresponsible and they would necessitate draconian cuts to programs that Americans depend on including Pell Grants, Head Start, Food Safety and WIC, as well as assistance to state and local governments for law enforcement, infrastructure improvements, housing, community development, public health, and other needs."

In the Senate, after weeks of waiting, Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) has decided to shelve his Budget Resolution for FY 2012. Conrad is expected to again try to bring a Resolution forward as a way to help pass whatever bi-partisan deal is worked out to raise the debt ceiling. With a one-vote majority in his Committee, Conrad has faced the twin hurdles of unified Republican senators opposing any increases in taxes while Democrats are divided on the subject. One Committee member, socialist Bernie Sanders (I-VT), has insisted on tax increases on people making more than $1 million as a minimum step to get his vote for a budget. Facing a no-win situation, Conrad punted.

It was announced that Secretary Duncan will appear before the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to defend the President's spending plan for FY 2012 on June 8th. Appropriators are wrestling with what to do about Pell Grants and are unlikely to start moving bills in the Senate until the debt limit/deficit reduction negotiations are completed.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: Still Leaderless but Warren Appointment Now Expected

More and more indications have emerged that President Obama will appoint Elizabeth Warren as the first Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), an influential voice on the Banking Committee, remarked that thanks to a pledge by 44 Republican senators to block any director from being confirmed unless major changes are made to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform legislation passed last year, the President now has no alternative but to make a recess appointment not subject to Senate confirmation.

If he's going to make such an appointment, observers believe he will try to please his liberal constituency and appoint their champion, Warren. A group of House Democrats is reportedly about to send a letter to the President urging him to appoint Warren. If a recess appointment is made, the person can only serve through the end of this Congress, early January 2013.

Appointments continue to be made at all levels within the Bureau, which is going to start enforcing various consumer protection laws on July 21. Student loans are going to be one of the priorities of the new organization.

CFPB Names Leader of Office of Research

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has named Sendhil Mullainathan, a behavioral economist, to lead the agency's Office of Research. Mullainathan is a Harvard University economist and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. The Research Office will promote evidence-based policymaking and help the bureau understand the potential benefits and costs of its policies.

Mullainathan's research has focused on how people's biases and weaknesses lead them to make bad economic decisions. His research has provided much of the intellectual foundation for the establishment of the bureau. Mullainathan, who has received a MacArthur Foundation "genius award," has said he supports a two-part approach to financial regulation—one in which safe products would be lightly regulated while other products with the potential to hurt consumers would be more heavily regulated. He is a founder of MIT's Jameel Poverty Action Lab.

The CFPB also named Patrice Ficklin, a former Fannie Mae staffer who most recently practiced at the civil-rights law firm Relman, Dane & Colfax, as assistant director for fair lending.

The Administration

Perkins Public Service Cancellation Dear Colleague Released

The Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid, published a Dear Colleague letter with information on Perkins Loan cancellations for participation in specified public service professions. Although no funds are available for cancellation reimbursements this fiscal year, the Department will keep a record of amounts owed to schools for reimbursement later.

The letters says in part: "The Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P. L. 112-10) was enacted on April 15, 2011 and provided final Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations for the Campus-Based programs. P.L. 112-10 did not allocate funds to the Department of Education to issue 2009-2010 Federal Perkins Loan Service Cancellation Reimbursements. As a result, there will be no reimbursement payments issued this year. However, we will calculate the 2009-2010 reimbursement payment for which a school would have been eligible to receive (using the process explained below) and maintain a record of that amount."

The entire letter can be found here:
http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/051211FedPerkinsLoanServCancellationReimbursement0910.html .

ED Hearings Underway on Negotiated Rulemaking

The Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education is in the middle of its series of hearings on proposals for the upcoming negotiated rulemaking on student aid regulations. Yesterday and today they have been holding a hearing and workshop in Chicago at Loyola University. Next Thursday and Friday the final hearing and workshop will take place at the College of Charleston, South Carolina.

For more information the negotiated rulemaking, go to:
http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2011/index.html

Still Waiting for Final Gainful Employment Shoe to Drop

Publication has still not occurred of the final segments of the highly anticipated regulations further defining "gainful employment in a recognized occupation." The revised regulations expected to make program eligibility for federal student aid dependent on debt-to-income ratios and repayment rates remain in the final stage of the process, awaiting approval from the White House Office of Management and Budget. This could come as early as today or next week, but may take even longer than that.

In the interim, the Department of Education has established an online resource center for gainful employment issues on its IFAP website. This website features information on the already published gainful employment regulations, such as information on the Department's upcoming May 26 and 27 webinars, and will also include information on the additional regulations as they become available. A list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: **http://ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/2011GEFAQ.html** .

The new gainful employment IFAP website is available online:
http://ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/

ED to Host Webinar on July 1, 2011 Gainful Employment Regs

As reported last issue, the Department of Education will soon hold the first in a series of webinars designed to provide institutions that participate in the Federal student assistance programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, with information on new regulatory requirements related to Title IV-eligible educational programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized occupation (GE Programs). The first webinar to be broadcast on May 25 and 26, 2011 (see below for details) will include information about two components of the gainful employment final regulations published in the Federal Register on October 29, 2010.

This first webinar will provide information on the definition of a GE Program, the requirements for and the process that will be used to meet the GE Program reporting requirements, and the regulatory requirements related to the disclosure by institutions of information about each of their GE Programs. In announcing the webinars ED said, "It is important that financial aid administrators and other campus personnel who will participate in the webinar review the October 29 regulations and the information provided in Dear Colleague Letter GEN-11-10, posted on April 20, 2011 to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

Dear Colleague GEN-11-10 is available online: http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1110.html
The announcement of the webinar is available online: http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/ANN1111.html

Industry News

Pew Survey Finds Americans Don't Think College Is Good Value

A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 57% of Americans don't think college provides good value for the money spent. This is a disturbing finding that is likely to contribute to the focus in Congress on taking steps to push colleges to hold down prices. Colleges will respond that the federal regulatory burden contributes to high prices so, further regulation of prices won't help. It's a debate that will unfold over the next few years. The survey can be found here: http://pewsocialtrends.org/2011/05/15/is-college-worth-it/#about .

Webinar Highlights Financial Education Ties to GEAR UP Program

On Wednesday, the New America Foundation (NAF) and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) cosponsored a webinar, in partnership with the Department of Education (ED), titled, "Connecting Children's Savings, Financial Access, and Financial Education to the Federal GEAR UP Program: Forming and Funding Partnerships," to highlight related research, practices and policies.

Phil Martin, the Assistant Secretary for Financial Education and Student Aid at ED, delivered welcoming remarks and declared that ED's one goal is to achieve the President's goal of leading the world in college graduates by 2020. He added that GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a "$300 million grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education," is the "cornerstone of federal investment" to reach the 2020 goal.

Mark Huelsman, a Policy Analyst for the College Savings Initiative and Asset Building Program at NAF, detailed research indicating how assets and savings impact educational outcomes. Research shows that there is a direct correlation between students having savings accounts in their names and college completion. Specifically, 75 percent of students with some sort of savings dedicated to education purposes are "on track" to graduate by the time they turn 24 years old. While financial literacy and education are important to students' achievement, Huelsman cautioned against providing financial education without a tangible example, such as an actual savings account. The knowledge alone may cause students to believe that since they do not have savings, they cannot afford college, which is the opposite of the desired effect.

Leigh Tivol, the Director of Savings and Financial Security at CFED, advised that GEAR UP applicants should decide early what their goal is, and she highlighted three categories to address including: 1) Financial education that provides students and parents the knowledge and skills necessary; 2) Savings accounts provided by a partnership with a financial institution; and 3) Offering financial incentives to encourage students to make deposits to their savings accounts. For more information, visit **http://cfed.org/knowledge_center/events/gearup/**.

Financial Education Initiatives Lauded at Three Universities

USA Funds recognized the following three postsecondary institutions for their efforts to promote financial literacy and help their students minimize and manage their student loan debt:

University of Hawaii at Manoa -- Honolulu. Since 2006 the University of Hawaii at Manoa has undertaken a financial literacy initiative that relies heavily on students teaching other students. The university began using peer educators to teach incoming students about personal finance issues during new-student orientation. Based on the success of those presentations, the university expanded its financial literacy training to other units, including financial literacy lessons to freshman learning communities, as well as workshops delivered through student support services, the cooperative extension service, student life and development, and financial aid offices. Since the program's inception, 2,900 UH Manoa students have completed lessons of USA Funds Life Skills®, a financial literacy program for college students, and have demonstrated, on average, a statistically significant gain in personal finance knowledge. In addition, 500 students who participated in university-sponsored financial literacy workshops demonstrated greater awareness on 13 of 20 indicators. The award includes a $15,000 USA Funds grant to support student scholarships at UH Manoa.

San Jacinto College -- Pasadena, Texas. Faced with rising student loan default rates, this community college pursued a multiphase approach to debt management, included analyzing enrollment and borrower reports, enhancing borrower communications, and launching a financial literacy initiative. The college hired a full-time default prevention manager in 2008 to develop and carry out its program. The default prevention manager developed a profile of delinquent and defaulted borrowers to guide the college's default prevention practices and initiatives. The college enhanced its print literature and online information about financial aid and student loans, incorporated the information as part of the student orientation process, and established an 11-member default prevention committee. As part of an ongoing financial literacy initiative, the college has enhanced its borrower counseling activities, begun mailings to past-due student loan borrowers, and developed a college success course for students at risk of dropping out. As a result of these initiatives, the school's draft 2009 cohort default rate decreased to 10.2 percent, down from the 2008 rate of 12.9 percent and the 2007 rate of 15.7 percent. The award includes a $10,000 USA Funds grant to support student scholarships at San Jacinto College.

DeVry University -- Downers Grove, Ill. Last June DeVry launched a comprehensive financial literacy initiative. The initiative includes workshops, a financial literacy website, third-party default prevention vendors, email campaigns and financial literacy fairs. DeVry has invested in a team of 35 full-time-equivalent staff to support the program. To date, the school's main focus has been ensuring student completion of exit counseling. Departing students are offered the option to complete exit counseling over the phone, in person, in group sessions or online, with follow-up calls from the school to ensure completion. As a result the school has increased exit counseling completion by 10 percent. DeVry also is developing a website with life skills information, and the school uses third-party vendors to contact student loan borrowers during their grace period and if they fall behind in their loan payments. In addition, the school's financial literacy staff members are working with academic units to incorporate financial literacy objectives into select courses. The award includes a $5,000 USA Funds grant to support scholarships for DeVry students.

The full announcement is available online: **http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/usa-funds-presents-excellence-in-debt-management-awards-to-three-schools-121566988.html**

Employment Opportunities with COHEAO Members

University of Minnesota, Office of Student Finance—Principal Collections Representative

The University of Minnesota has an opening for a Principal Collections Representative. A brief description is included below, and additional details and applications instructions are available online: https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp
Position: *Principal Collections Representative*
Office: *Student Account Assistance, Office of Student Finance. Full time, permanent position handling the collection of student receivables for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.*

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COHEAO Mid-Year Conference Agenda 2011
All Meetings and Sessions Are Located at the Westin St. Louis

Sunday, July 31, 2011

8:30am-3:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting
3:30pm-5:00pm	Perkins Task Force Meeting
5:00pm–6:00pm	Accounts Receivable Management Task Force Meeting

Monday, August 1, 2011

7:30am-9:00am	Registration & Breakfast
8:00am-9:00am	Commercial Members Meeting
9:00am-9:10am	The President's Welcome & Opening Remarks Speaker: Bob Perrin, COHEAO President
9:10am-10:00am	Session: A Legislative Update on Perkins Loan and Related Student Aid Issues *Although the pending sunset of the program is no longer an issue, Perkins Loans continue to face significant legislative challenges. This session will provide an outlook on what to look for from the 112th Congress in terms of higher education and student lending issues.* Introduction:
10:00am-11:00am	Session: What's New with the FDCPA? *With a new regulator on the scene, compliance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)will be more important than ever for colleges and universities. This session will provide an update on what is happening with regulation and enforcement between the FTC and CFPB as well as providing attendees with tips for remaining compliant and maintaining effective collection efforts.*
11:00am-11:15am	Break
11:15am-12:30pm	Session: Department of Education Update *The Obama Administration has proposed significant changes to the student aid programs in the name of "protecting" Pell Grants. This session will review the*

	status of those proposals, the program integrity regulations that are to take effect on July 1, 2011, regulations stemming from the most recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, and other issues associated with the student aid programs.
12:30pm-1:45pm	Lunch and Luncheon Address
2:00pm-3:00pm	Compliance Training: Preparing for the CFPB *As we will review earlier in the day, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will have assumed jurisdiction over a number of laws governing your operations on campus. In addition to the FDCPA, the Truth in Lending Act (TILA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, among others, will all be under the jurisdiction of the new Bureau. This session will review the pertinent regulations associated with these laws and provide you with tips and tools for remaining compliant.*
3:00pm-3:15pm	Break
3:15pm-4:15 pm	Session: Private Student Loans & Gap Financing *Perkins Loans and institutional loan programs are critical piece of the gap financing puzzle. However, the program is not equipped to cover the remaining costs for millions of students who need additional financing beyond state and federal aid. This session will review the private student loan market landscape and the interaction between the private and federal loan programs.*
4:15pm-5:00pm	Student Loan and Student Aid Benefits for Active Duty and Veteran Students *There are numerous benefits available to both active duty and veteran students. This session will provide a review of those benefits, focusing on the deferment and cancellation benefits for these students in the federal loan programs, as well as providing a high level overview of the updated GI Bill.*
6:00pm-7:00pm	Reception *A full day of in-depth student loan and student aid discussions most certainly should conclude with drinks. Please join your friends and colleagues for a reception to close the first day of the conference.*

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

8:00am-9:00am	Financial Literacy Task Force Breakfast Roundtables *This breakfast will feature a series of roundtable discussion on a variety of topics related to providing these essential services to students. Regardless of membership with the Financial Literacy Task Force, all conference attendees are encouraged to attend this meeting.*
9:00am-10:15am	Session: Understanding the Program Integrity Regulations *It is safe to say the program integrity regulations are the most controversial set of regulations ever promulgated by the Department of Education. Many of these regulations take effect on July 1. While most of the attention in the media and in Washington has focused on their impact on the for-profit higher education sector, these regulations will affect all of higher education and this session will provide a timely review.*
10:15am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-11:30am	Session: Direct Loan Servicing and the Impact on Student Borrowers *The SAFRA legislation brought about fundamental changes in the federal student loan programs. This session will examine the details of the Direct Loan servicing model with a particular focus on what it means for student borrowers.*
11:30am-12:30pm	Session: Bankruptcy & Litigation *It is unfortunate, but inevitable, that some former students will face financial difficulties and, in many cases, they ultimately file for bankruptcy. An expert will provide information on going to court for tuition receivables and student loans as well as a review of relevant bankruptcy laws.*
12:30pm	Conference Concludes