



## CSLF School Counselor eNews

June 2008

### Graduation Rates and Student Aid

This month the U.S. Department of Education released its latest report on college enrollment and graduation rates. The report tracked the cohort of students entering college for the first time in 2001. According to the report:

- 36% of full-time students at 4-year colleges earned a bachelors degree within 4 years.
- Within six years the number of full-time students graduating at 4-year institutions rose to 58%.
- Students attending private, non-profit institutions tended to graduate faster than students attending public schools, with 50% of students at private colleges graduating within 4 years compared to just 29% at public colleges.
- Graduation rates by racial groups showed that Asian-Americans tended to have the highest 6-year graduation rates at 66%, followed by white students at 59%, followed by Hispanic students at 48%, and black students at 41%.
- 75% of these full-time undergraduates received one or more types of financial aid.
- Student borrowing varied by institutional type. Students attending for-profit, private schools had the highest percentage of borrowers at about 70%; undergraduates at private non-profit institutions followed at 60%; public two-year colleges had the lowest percentage of borrowers at 18%.
- Private non-profit institutions gave out the most institutional grant aid reporting that 75% of undergraduates received institutional grants; followed by 44% at 4-year public institutions.

#### CSLF Offers On-site Professional Development Services -

Our Early Awareness and College Planning Staff offers FREE customized professional develop workshops at your school or in our Rocky Hill training facility. Call Carolyn Karno at (800) 237-9721 ext. 550 for more details.

### In Many States Community Colleges Expanding

I remember when I told my oldest daughter that I would buy her a new car if she wanted to live at home and attend the local community college. Her response was, "I'd rather eat dirt." My response was, "That can be arranged." That was twelve years ago. I decided, for a number of reasons not the least of which was maintaining my sanity, that maybe it was better if she did go away to school. She went on to spend 4 glorious years at Keene State where my highest annual college bill was \$16,000. Fast forward to 2008, my youngest daughter will be entering her final year at a small, private Midwestern college. Even with institutional grants, the bill will be over \$30,000. Compare that to one year at the local community college for about \$3,000.

Public institutions usually see an upswing in admissions when the economy heads south but the growth at many community colleges has been steadily increasing for quite a number of years.

According to a report from the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 44 states experienced growth in their full-time enrollments between 2000 and 2005. Twelve states experienced growth greater than 20 percent. Several New England states were in that group with Maine reporting an increase of more than 40%, followed by New Hampshire and Vermont - both at 25.9%, followed by Connecticut at 20.7%.

Community colleges should be considered a good way for students to begin their higher education. It's affordable so students can borrow less. Often the classes are smaller than at the 4-year public institutions and now that most of Connecticut's public 4-year colleges have completed transfer articulation agreements with the community colleges, students can make a seamless transition to a 4-year school.

If I knew then what I know now, maybe a little dirt eating would have been a good thing.

## CSLF to Launch Parent College Planning E-Tips

Beginning this fall, CSLF will be offering online monthly college planning tips for parents. We will offer e-subscriptions to parents of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Each edition will cover timely information targeted to parents of students by grade level. For instance, parents of Juniors will receive tips on how to plan a college visit, advice on how to assist in the college search, and reminders of when students should begin registering for admissions tests. Parents of seniors will receive tips on how to assist students with the college application process and information on financial aid. This is an exciting new endeavor for us. If you think the parents of your students would be interested in receiving our Parent College Planning E-Tips, let them know they can sign up online at [www.cslf.com](http://www.cslf.com).

**Enjoy your summer! Your eNews will be back  
in September!**

**About Connecticut Student Loan Foundation** – The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation is a non-profit corporation that administers, guarantees, and finances loans within the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and alternative student loan programs. CSLF promotes access to higher education by helping students and their families plan for and pursue a postsecondary education. CSLF has more than 40 years of experience providing assistance to students, parents, and industry partners.

**About Invest in your Future** – Invest in your Future (IF), CSLF's college planning services division, provides free outreach services regarding college planning and the financial aid process. The IF program is designed to promote college access and awareness, and includes a college planning resources center and library, a toll-free hotline, community presentations, materials distribution, online resources, and much more.