



CSLF School Counselor eNews

April 2009

Highlights of the Higher Education Act (HEOA) 2008

There are a number of provisions in the Higher Education Act designed to make the college search process a lot more user friendly. The following provisions should have the biggest impact:

Section 111 - Transparency in College Tuition for Consumers - This section requires institutions of higher education to post on their Web sites a "net price" calculator. Students will be able to log onto the calculator, enter information regarding their age, marital status, income, number in family, number of family members in college, living status (on-campus, with parents etc.) and residency. Once the students complete all the requested data elements, the calculator would provide an estimated total cost of attendance along with an estimated net price and estimated grant aid. Schools must have these calculators posted on their Web sites by August 2011.

Section 111 also requires the U.S. Department of Education to begin publishing a number of lists including:

- *The Top 5% of institutions which have the highest tuition and fees for the most recent year
- *The top 5% of institutions which have the highest net prices for the most recent year
- *The top 5% of institutions with the largest percentage increases in tuition for the most recent three years
- *Top 5% of institutions with the lowest tuition and fees for the most recent year
- *Top 5% of institutions with the lowest net price for the most recent year

The federal College Navigator Web site will also begin reporting additional information including an annual report that will list, by state, the percent change in spending for higher education. In addition the website will report the following information for all Title IV institutions:

- *Number of students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled in each institutions
- *Number of degrees awarded
- *Student/Faculty ratios
- *Average grant awarded to first-time undergraduates
- *Total amount of federal loans for undergraduates
- *Number of students receiving Pell grants

Admissions Facts

According to an April 2nd article in the Wall Street Journal, applications at Connecticut state institutions of higher education are up 10% from the previous year.

[Section 483 - Improvement to Paper and Electronic Forms and Processes](#) - The provisions in the section of the HEOA requires the U.S. Department of Education to develop a new EZFAFSA to be used by low-income families. Provisions in this section also call for the U.S. Department of Education to work to reduce the data elements in the FAFSA by 50 percent. These provisions are to take place within two years.

[Section 484 - Model Financial Aid Form](#) - Under this section, the U.S. Department of Education is directed to offer recommendations in the development of a uniform financial aid award letter. The section calls for the award to be "consumer-friendly, simple, and easy to understand."

Our Year in Review

As the school year begins to wind down, it's time to look back and review what the Early Awareness and College Planning team has accomplished. We may be small in number but we manage to provide a wide range of services throughout the state. I view us as the "little engine that could". We have a state map that we use to chart every community we have been to during the past year and the numbers are impressive. We visited nearly 100 towns this school year. Our service breakdown is as follows:

- Financial Aid Workshops - 104 (reaching more than 5,000 parents and students)
- College Planning Workshops - 16 (reaching approximately 435 parents and students)
- Professional Development Workshops - 8 (reaching approximately 185 counselors)
- College Fairs - 28
- Hotline calls - 826 and climbing
- Resource Center Appointments - 121 to date

CSLF is committed to providing the school counselor community as well as parents and students with high quality, free services. We look forward to another busy and productive year in 2009-2010.

Learn more about our College Planning Services by calling 1.866.752.6443

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). 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 early awareness and 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.