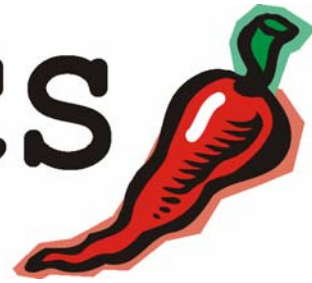


hot TOPICS



IPD Financial Aid News
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Fourth Department of Education Letter on Terrorist Attack Relief Still Pending

An update posted to the National Association of Student Financial Aid (NASFAA) Web site on November 20, 2001, indicates that the Department of Education is still working on the fourth Dear Partner Letter related to the terrorist attacks. This last letter is expected to cover additional issues related to regulatory and administrative relief for those affected by the September 11 attacks, including the treatment of students who withdraw from school.

The first three letters and other items related to the terrorist attacks can be found at NASFAA's Attack on America Resource Page at <http://www.nasfaa.org/linklists/terroristattackpage.asp> and at the Department of Education's Information for Financial Aid Professionals Web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/IFAPWebApp/SFAGuidancetoTerroristAttacks.jsp>.



The fourth letter, when published, may also be found at these sites.

Sally Stroup Nominated for Key Position at Department of Education

In October, President Bush announced that he would nominate Sally Stroup to be the Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. Members of the higher education community have applauded his choice.

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige has been quoted as saying, "Sally Stroup has earned an outstanding reputation at the national and state levels as a leader in higher education. Sally joins an all-star lineup of senior leaders at the department who have experience in higher education and who share a commitment with her offering every child access to a quality education. I look forward to welcoming Sally to this outstanding team."

Prior to her nomination, Ms. Stroup has most recently held the position of Director of Industry and Government Affairs for the Apollo Group, Inc. and University of Phoenix. From 1993 to 2001, she served as a professional staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. From 1981 to 1993, Ms. Stroup worked at the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority, the country's second-largest student loan guaranty agency and a nonprofit lender, first as a Staff Attorney and later as its Senior Vice President of Legal Services and the Chief Counsel. Ms. Stroup is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Loyola University School of Law.

Fed. Up Issues Chart Released

The Committee on Education and the Workforce has issued a draft chart of the issues that were submitted as part of the Fed. Up project. The chart is available in both PDF and HTML format at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/107th/education/fedup>.

All issues submitted to the Committee are being reviewed, and the chart will be updated periodically. The chart is organized by topic and lists the regulation, statutory authority, suggested amendment and/or regulation, and the rationale. The Department of Education has indicated that its negotiated rulemaking committees will address many of the issues submitted in response to the Fed. Up initiative.

The Fed. Up initiative was started in May by Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon, the California Republican who heads the House subcommittee that handles higher education issues. He invited members of the higher education community to identify the most "painful" student financial aid regulations.



Some of the biggest issues being tackled include incentive compensation to recruiters, disabled borrowers, the 12-Hour Rule and the 50% Rule, and Return of Title IV Funds provisions. College officials are also asking lawmakers to drop the provisions that require student aid applicants to indicate whether they have ever been convicted of buying or selling drugs and whether or not they have registered with Selective Service. The cumbersome reporting requirements for campus crime are also under attack.

Fed. Up Issues Chart Released, continued

Mr. McKeon has said that he does not expect to support every proposal. He plans to introduce legislation this year to make changes that he thinks everyone can agree on. For some of the more contentious proposals, he says that he will hold hearings to support action in two years, when the Higher Education Act comes up for renewal.

The Department of Education has said that it will work closely with Mr. McKeon on the project, especially on those changes that are regulatory issues instead of legislative ones.

Mr. McKeon has been quoted as saying, "If we can ease the regulatory burden of the people on the firing lines, then students can move forward in their education, and that benefits the whole country."

Reauthorization of Higher Education Act

It's almost that time again! No sooner has the dust settled from the Reauthorization of 1998 (we've all almost perfected Return of Title IV Funds, right?) than we're faced with the next Reauthorization, expected to start in 2003.

The Department of Education, in the December 5th *Federal Register*, has requested nominations for members for its two negotiated rulemaking committees scheduled to start meeting in January 2002. The Department would like to have representation from the following entities: students, legal assistance organizations that represent students, financial aid administrators, business officers and bursars, guaranty agencies and their servicers, lenders, secondary markets, and loan servicers.

Reauthorization is expected to focus on the regulatory proposals from Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon's Fed. Up initiative. Over 3,000 responses on the regulations were received by the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness of the Education and the Workforce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The goal is to streamline the current federal student financial assistance program regulations while maintaining or improving program integrity.

Each committee will attend three meetings to be held at the Department of Education in Washington, DC, from January through April.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid (NASFAA) has created a Reauthorization Task Force whose members will serve at least a two-year term and develop NASFAA's recommendations for changes to the Higher Education Act. The Task Force will start meeting in early 2002. The following individuals are part of the Reauthorization Task Force:

- ◆ **Laurie Wolf, Chair**
Des Moines Area Community Colleges
- ◆ **Pat Hurley**
Glendale Community College
- ◆ **Bob Collins**
Apollo Group, Inc.
- ◆ **Norm Finlinson**
Brigham Young University
- ◆ **Jack Taylor**
University of Kansas Medical Center

Bob Collins Accepted as Official Negotiator

As many of you are aware, the Department of Education (ED) and representatives of the higher education community will be engaged in negotiated rulemaking sessions to modify existing federal regulations. The Higher Education Act requires that ED obtain public involvement in the development of proposed regulations via the negotiated rulemaking process. The Secretary recently requested nominations for groups or individuals that were interested in representing various sectors of education during the negotiations. Apollo Group, Inc. nominated Bob Collins, the Vice President of Student Financial Aid for Apollo, to negotiate the various regulatory agenda items.

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Collins has been accepted by ED to be an official negotiator. Mr. Collins is extremely familiar with the challenges facing institutions and the industry in general due to his extensive financial aid background (over 20 years in federal financial aid). While Mr. Collins will be negotiating all issues presented, he will provide particular focus and emphasis to issues affecting adult education delivery models. In addition, Mr. Collins may be joined by Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, President of University of Phoenix, who previously testified in front of Congress on the issues surrounding the 12-Hour Rule. Additional information regarding the Negotiated Rulemaking process can be found on the ED Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/rulemaking/index2002.html>.

Karen Blum
Director of Apollo Financial Services Oversight

IPD Financial Aid Training

IPD is pleased to announce the IPD Financial Aid Training for Directors/Adult Program Processors. This offer is extended to new and existing IPD Partner Institutions with employees new to the financial aid position. The training will be basic financial aid training for nontraditional programs. Topics to be discussed include the following:

- ◆ Application Process
- ◆ Satisfactory Academic Progress
- ◆ Scheduling
- ◆ Cash Management
- ◆ Loan Processing
- ◆ Return of Funds
- ◆ Pell Processing
- ◆ Regulatory Update
- ◆ Verification



The training is scheduled to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 25–26, 2002. Participants should plan to arrive in Phoenix on Sunday, February 24, and stay until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2002.

Please e-mail Kristen Vedder at kristen.vedder@apollogrp.edu as soon as possible if you would like to send a representative from your office.

Annual IPD Financial Aid Conference

The Annual IPD Financial Aid Conference and the Annual CAAHE Conference will be held in downtown Indianapolis at the brand new Marriott Conference Center on June 5–7, 2002. The agenda is full of interesting and hot topics, including the following:

- ◆ H.R. 1992
- ◆ Financial Aid Process Improvement
- ◆ Policies and Procedures
- ◆ Electronic Signatures
- ◆ Professional Judgment
- ◆ Consumer Information
- ◆ Reauthorization
- ◆ Various Facilitated Roundtables

Registration forms will be sent out in the next few weeks. We hope to have financial aid representatives from all IPD Partner Institutions present this year! Please e-mail Kristen Vedder at kristen.vedder@apollogrp.edu if you are interested in presenting a topic or facilitating discussions.

January Teleconference

In lieu of conducting our next quarterly teleconference, we are asking each location to complete a teleconference survey. We are looking for ways to increase participation and bring the most benefit to IPD Partner Institutions. The surveys will be distributed in the next week. Please complete the survey, including comments, to assist us in this endeavor.



Financial Aid Global Distribution List

The Financial Aid global distribution list is available to allow you to consult with one another about the common problems you face and solutions that have provided positive results. To utilize the list, open a regular e-mail and type ipdfinaid@apollogrp.edu in the TO: section of the message. When the e-mail is sent, it will go to all the members of the list. Clicking “Reply To All” in response to the e-mail will send the response to all members of the list. Thanks to all who have been utilizing this list, and to those providing timely responses to requests.



Goings On

Do you have information about job openings or upcoming events at your institution that you'd like to share with the other IPD Partner Institutions? Just e-mail the information (including the name of the event or job opening; any relevant dates; and a name, telephone number, or e-mail address of a contact person) by March 15, 2002, to Kristen Vedder at kristen.vedder@apollogrp.edu so that your information will be included in the next newsletter.



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