

# In-Line With LASFAA

## Summer 2010

### Letter From the President

#### New World Order?

Turns out we will be able to get loans for our students using the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (DL) Program after all. In our shop, we have just disbursed our first DL for our early-start professional students for 2010-11. Thus far, our transition has been neither the disaster predicted by the “Save FFELP or Die” camp, nor the cake-walk promised by the most ardent DL supporters (and some of our ED friends). Our experiences illustrate a need for a fundamental shift in approach in dealing with our new (yet old) student loan partners.

DL primary school contacts and telephone representatives are, based on my limited experiences to date, knowledgeable, professional, friendly, and anxious to help. Sometimes though, they can't move the monolith when something needs fixing. For example, our goal was a setup based on a single OPE ID code, avoiding the unnecessary complexities of administering separately for suffix or other codes. Unfortunately, the studentloans.gov site also includes an inactive code in the pull-downs and this is confusing our students. In FFEL, this kind of thing was fixed with a phone call and a little IT intervention. In DL, we were eventually told we will have to wait to remove the errant code ourselves when the system is enhanced – in March.

In FFEL we were customers; in DL we are constituents. Without the free market competitive pressure to improve, innovate, and serve, we will need to deal with our new partners by learning to efficiently and effectively exercise our constitutional right to “petition government for the redress of grievances”.

Back to our first DL disbursement – it was exciting. We are utilizing the “Disburse Then Fetch” methodology of first disbursing to student



accounts, second reporting to COD, and third (quickly) drawing down funds through G5. Our excitement faded with an urgent call from Accounting – turns out our DL allocation is tied to a discontinued and invalid DUNS number, rather than the valid number we identified on our DL “Turn Us On” email, so they can't get the money. Another frantic petition to our DL primary contact – hope this one can be fixed faster.

Sorry to take so long on my DL story. We face many other challenges and changes in federal and state programs, not to mention looming budget shortfalls for our institutions. With these challenges in mind, please take a few minutes to provide your thoughts and suggestions regarding the Fall LASFAA Conference program and structure (respond to the 7/8/10 email survey form LASFAA). Your input regarding hard training content as well as desperately needed diversions and inspiration will facilitate a valuable and successful conference experience. And please try to come; I know times are tough but your Conference Program Co-Chairs, Lauren Jackson and Kristi Waters, along with Site Chair Kim Tamer, are working hard to develop a conference that will be economical as well as inspiring and informative.

My hope and prayer is that you all have a fruitful and productive Summer as you continue financially facilitating post-secondary education for the students of Louisiana.

~Patrick Gorman

# Lela Continues to Support Louisiana's College-bound Students

In light of the recent passage of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), nonprofit and state agency student loan providers across the nation are actively exploring new or expanded services to enhance access to education opportunities. As the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) continues to remain committed to helping Louisiana high school students and their families pursue their goals to attend college, Lela is shifting its focus from federal loan originations to providing other needed borrower products and services for Louisiana.

As Louisiana's nonprofit resource for college planning, Lela fulfills its mission by providing scholarship opportunities, free counseling services and resources for college-bound students. Lela is also staying connected with today's youth and forming partnerships that enable them to continue to make progress for students, parents, schools and lenders. Lela awarded over 30 scholarships this past year through related organizations, college fairs, on-line drawings, Lela Christmas Card Art Contest, Lela Cash for College Financial Aid Awareness Month contest in February and through events held during Lela's newly launched Financial Literacy campaign this past April.

One of Lela's primary goals is to create a heightened awareness among Louisiana high school students and parents that Lela is their primary link for college planning as they transition from high school to pursue their professional endeavors. In addition to connecting students with resources offered by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA), Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and other related organizations, Lela will continue to help students identify and utilize

other valuable, free services available locally and nationally.

Lela is expanding its outreach efforts with its "Ask Lela" campaign through a customized web link, [www.asklela.org](http://www.asklela.org), to position itself as a major resource for accessing financial aid information and free personal college planning assistance. Lela also utilizes social networking outlets such as Facebook and sends targeted email blasts to students, parents, and high school counselors to make them aware of vital scholarship and financial aid programs that are available through Lela and other sources.

This past April, Lela launched a new campaign in conjunction with national financial literacy awareness month entitled "Are you Financially Fit?" and "What is your Financial IQ?" Both initiatives, which were tailored primarily for high school and college students, provide them with scholarship access and direct access to educational materials and information to help them make informed decisions about borrowing money and budgeting their resources. To link to these resources, visit Lela's financial literacy website at [www.lela.org/financialliteracy](http://www.lela.org/financialliteracy).

In addition to the students that visit the web, Lela expects to reach more than 10,000 high school students through its participation in local and regional college and career fairs this fall and to reach more than 2,000 Louisiana high school seniors graduating in 2011 projected to participate in upcoming youth statewide programs such as Boys State, Girls State, Louisiana Youth Seminar and LOSFA Trailblazers.

Even amidst the challenges that the student loan industry

## Lela Continues to Support Louisiana's College-bound Students (cont.)

faces at this time, Lela continues to reach out to Louisiana's students to help increase financial aid awareness and to help ensure that college is accessible to those who wish to attend.

Lela also continues to build alliances and is exploring new program and service initiatives that will serve as a benefit to the students of Louisiana. If you would like to submit your ideas or if you need more information, please contact Lela at (800) 228-4755 or [info@lela.org](mailto:info@lela.org).

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) is a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA), a nonprofit public trust established to bring financing assistance and advantages to the people of Louisiana.

*Lela is Louisiana's Non-Profit Resource for College Planning.*



### Your 2010 LASFAA Executive Board Members are:

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## Presentations from the 2010 LASFAA Upper Management Meeting is now available on-line!

**The 2010 Upper Management Meeting** is an opportunity for Directors, Assistant Directors, Associate Directors and other upper management positions within the financial aid offices to share ideas and be informed. While we will have various presenters from the state and federal levels, one of the benefits of our Upper Management meeting has always been the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from around the state.

**To view the presentations, please visit:**  
[http://lasfaa.org/docs/toc\\_training.html](http://lasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html)

### Also available on-line...

**2010 LASFAA Awards and Acknowledgments.**  
Congratulations to all recipients.

**To view a list, please visit:**  
[http://lasfaa.org/docs/toc\\_awards.html](http://lasfaa.org/docs/toc_awards.html)



## Fall 2010 LASFAA Conference

Don't miss LASFAA's Fall 2010 conference! This year the conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Lafayette, LA. It will be held **October 27-29, 2010**. Keep checking your e-mail for more information regarding this upcoming event from LASFAA!

## 2010 FSA Conference

FSA's fall conference will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel from **November 30 to December 3, 2010**. To date, there are over 2,500 financial aid professionals registered for the conference and we anticipate that over 5,000 will ultimately attend this event.

This year's program is quite intensive. There will be approximately 57 breakout training sessions educating the financial aid community on Federal student loan regulations, processing, servicing, reconciliation, and system(s) usage, as well as data security updates, program integrity issues, cohort default rates, and more. New this year will be sessions with the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The tentative session list has been posted online at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/program10.html>.

## 2010 SWASFAA Conference

Where else can you receive pertinent training from USDE trainers, confer with colleagues from not only your state, but others in your region, and yet still be in a small and personal setting? The answer: SWASFAA 2010 Conference and Boot Camp. Mark your calendar for the upcoming Boot Camp and Conference which will be held **December 13 - 17, 2010** in New Orleans, Louisiana!

# SAVE THE DATE

**SWASFAA CONFERENCE 2010**

**SHERATON HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS**

**DECEMBER 13-15, BOOTCAMP**

**DECEMBER 15 -17, CONFERENCE**

**AGENDA AND ROOM RATES**

**RIDING THROUGH SOON!**

# IFAP: What's New?

*Here is the latest Dear Colleague Letter, issued July 27, 2010*

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce our release of the second module of EDEXpress Online Training for 2010-2011, the Web-based training product that teaches users the basic skills needed to access and navigate the 2010-2011 EDEXpress and EDconnect software. This module includes two training lessons that cover setting up the software, creating records, exporting records, creating disbursement records, and importing acknowledgement of records sent to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System.

- The "Pell" lesson focuses on Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) awards.
- The "TEACH" lesson focuses on Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant awards.

The module is available on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](http://ifap.ed.gov/edexpress/1011index.html) at <http://ifap.ed.gov/edexpress/1011index.html>.

**New for 2010-2011:** As described with the release of the first module in May 2010, EDEXpress Online Training, formerly referred to as "EDEXpress Basics," has been redesigned for 2010-2011 with a new interface and lesson structure, offering users an enhanced training experience.

This self-paced training is intended for financial aid office staff with day-to-day responsibilities that involve using the EDEXpress software. By using the software in a simulated environment, users will gain an understanding of the fundamental EDEXpress and EDconnect functions. As such, this training is a resource for on-the-job training and re-training in the use of EDEXpress.

We will release additional EDEXpress Online Training for 2010-2011 modules in the coming months.

- The third module on Global functions, software set up, Packaging, and Application Processing using [FAA Access to CPS Online](#) is planned for release in mid-August 2010. Additionally, this module will include training for new users of the EDconnect data transmission software as well as updated "What's New" information.
- A full version of the training that is compliant with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act is planned for release in mid-September 2010.

We will inform the community of the availability of these modules in forthcoming Training Announcements posted on the [IFAP Web site](#).

We look forward to your use of EDEXpress Online Training for 2010-2011. If you have questions about this Web-based training product, please contact David Bartlett at [david.bartlett@ed.gov](mailto:david.bartlett@ed.gov) or Mark Gerhard at [mark.gerhard@ed.gov](mailto:mark.gerhard@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Jana Hernandez

Federal Student Aid

# CHANGES FOR LOUISIANA GO GRANT

The Board of Regents is responsible for the state's student financial aid programs. The Louisiana GO Grant was established to assist in providing access to postsecondary education to students with the greatest financial need. In consultation with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, the Board of Regents is authorizing a change in the GO Grant framework beginning with the 2010-11 academic year for the Louisiana Go Grant Award.

Elements of the existing Go Grant Framework that remain:

- Eligible students must be in a cohort originally determined by the Board of Regents and defined in current rule by LASFAC
- Eligible students must be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant
- Eligible students must meet their institution's requirements for admission and Satisfactory Academic Progress as established for their Title IV recipients.
- If sufficient funds are appropriated the Maximum annual awards for the Louisiana Go Grant will remain:
  - \$2,000 for full-time enrollment
  - \$1,000 for half-time enrollment
  - \$ 500 for part-time enrollment

If sufficient funds are not appropriated the annual award will be prorated based upon the final appropriation. **The prorated amount for AY 2010-2011 is:**

**\$900 for full-time enrollment**

**\$450 for half-time enrollment**

**\$225 for part-time enrollment**

Effective AY 2010-11, students who meet the above criteria must also have a remaining Financial Need of  $> \$0$ , based on the following methodology:

Cost of Attendance (Federal definition)

- Expected Family Contribution

- Federal Pell Grant

= Remaining Financial Need

If annual legislative appropriation is insufficient to fund all students at the maximum annual award amount, the administering agency will provide to the Board of Regents the projected number of Go Grant eligible students for which, based on the annual appropriation, an award determination can be established, such that all students will receive the same monetary award (dependent on their enrollment status). This amount will become the annual award, however, should additional funds become available, that allow for the award amount to be increased after loans are packaged, schools will be required to reduce the students' loan disbursement (fall and/or spring) accordingly.

*Article courtesy of LOSFA's FAN (Financial Aid News) Newsletter; July 2010.*

# News From NASFAA

## Full Senate Appropriations Committee Passes Education Spending Bill

The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved a [\\$169.6 billion bill](#) that would provide fiscal year 2011 funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education, including Federal Student Aid programs. The committee's action clears the bill to be considered by the full Senate.

The annual spending bill would maintain a level discretionary funding base for the Federal Pell Grant program of \$4,860. That amount, combined with a mandatory add-on from the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act (HCERA), would provide a maximum Pell Grant of \$5,550 in the 2011-12 year. The Senate's bill does not include \$5.7 billion to plug an estimated Pell Grant shortfall in the 2011-12 year. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education included the \$5.7 billion needed to pay off the Pell Grant Program shortfall in its [appropriations bill](#) that was approved by the subcommittee on July 15. Senate Democrats on the committee said that addressing the shortfall would have to wait until the bill is considered by the full Senate or when the House and Senate meet to combine the two versions of the bill in a conference committee.

In terms of student aid spending, the committee did not change funding levels from the [bill marked up Tuesday](#) by the committee's Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee. The spending bill would maintain level funding for the majority of the other student aid programs. The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) program, the Federal Work-Study (FWS), program, and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP) program in fiscal year (FY) 2011 would all be level funded under the appropriations bill. TRIO would be increased by \$15 million under the bill and Perkins cancellations would receive no funding. The bill also provides \$9.7 million for Javits graduate fellowships, the same amount the program received in fiscal year 2010.

The Obama Administration released its FY 2011 budget request in early February, but the appropriations process has been delayed in Congress. If the House and Senate are unable to pass FY 2011 appropriations bills, Continuing Resolutions will need to be passed to continue funding for federal programs beyond Oct. 1, 2010.

*Posted 07/30/10 to [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org). Redistribution to non-NASFAA institutions is prohibited. Please submit website questions or comments to [Web@NASFAA.org](mailto:Web@NASFAA.org).*



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Have something you'd like published??? Please e-mail all articles/photo submissions to JESSICA CIUFI at [jciufi@selu.edu](mailto:jciufi@selu.edu) and be included in the next edition of In-Line with LASFAA!