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# TSAC Board of Directors Bi-annual Meeting Update

The TSAC Board of Directors met Thursday, March 19, 2009 in Nashville. Two rule changes were approved including revisions to current rules for the Tennessee Rural Health Program and adding rules for Non-Traditional students. The changes to the Rural Health Program rules clarify the number of awards that can be granted in the five-year life span of the grant program. The rules for Non-Traditional students help clarify various issues including credit hours and grades reviewed at the benchmarks, terminating events, and calculation of the cumulative grade point average. The revised rules are posted on TSAC's website at [www.tn.gov/tsac](http://www.tn.gov/tsac) under the Board of Directors Meeting page: [March 19, 2009 agenda](#).

One item of note, which is new since the Board of Directors meeting, is the presentation of the Governor's budget. The good news from the budget is there were no reductions for the 2009-10 academic year in any of the grant programs. Specifically, the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA), the Ned McWherter Scholars program, and the loan scholarship programs were not reduced. Further good news is that for 2009-10, a recurring increase of \$3.2 million was recommended for the TSAA program. This is to offset a non-recurring \$3.2 million appropriation in the current 2008-09 year. These items, however, represent the Governor's recommendations and must still go through the legislative process before becoming final.

## e\*GRandS Update

Beginning in Fall 2009, the Dual Enrollment Grant and Foster Child Tuition Grant will appear as new e\*GRandS programs. More details regarding system implementation and training are coming soon. Please contact Robert Biggers for answers to your questions regarding the implementation of these two TELS programs.





## TSAC at TASFAA

**A**s you know, TASFAA is just a few days away, here in Nashville at the Nashville Airport Marriott on Sunday, April 5 -Wednesday, April 8, 2009. We want to invite you to stop by the TSAC booths in the Vendor area in Salon ABCD at some point during the conference.

TSAC will be presenting an update on financial aid issues across the state during the TSAC Update session on Monday, April 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the Cumberland Room.

Naomi Derryberry will be presenting the New Aid Officers Workshop on Sunday. Robert Biggers and Naomi Derryberry will be providing an e\*GRandS Q & A at 10:45 a.m. in the Capitol 1 room on Monday morning. There will be another e\*GRandS session Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the Capitol 1 room. Please plan to attend, or stop by the booth and let us know if you have any questions or need any materials.

## TSAC Hires Business Development Rep.

**T**TSAC is pleased to announce Bill Heath's promotion to the position of Business Development Representative. Bill brings with him knowledge and expertise of the financial aid process along with the inner-workings of a guarantee agency. Prior to representing TSAC, he worked for First American Bank, now part of Regions as a student loan specialist. In this new role, Bill will be responsible for enhancing our current service provided by the loan guarantee side of TSAC as well as developing new ideas on products for the future. As we have recently experienced, financial aid is an ever changing and dynamic field. TSAC is ready to partner with you to meet the demands of today and tomorrow. Please join us in congratulating Bill on his promotion and wishing him continued success within the financial aid community.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### April

1 Cleveland State Community College Fair  
5-8 TASFAA Conference - Nashville, TN

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

College Goal Sunday will  
be held next year on:

**Sunday, February 14, 2010**

# Meet Tim Phelps: Associate Executive Director for Grants and Scholarships

**M**r. Tim Phelps, Associate Director for Grants and Scholarships with TSAC, has been working in the financial aid field since 1995 and really enjoys his work. He is originally from Somerset, Kentucky, but grew up in Frankfort, Kentucky. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Tim's first financial aid job was with KHEAA (Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority). Initially, he worked with defaulted borrowers, but after a few years, he became the first administrator for the KEES (Kentucky's lottery-funded scholarship) program. When asked how he first got interested in higher education, Tim replied, "At first, it was a job, but I was fortunate to work with the KEES program. My experience administering that program and helping students got me hooked on working with financial aid programs." TSAC lured Tim away from KY in the Fall of 2006 to head up the Grants and Scholarships division. Tim's favorite part of working at TSAC is the opportunity to problem solve, whether that means working with students and parents with financial aid questions and helping them find assistance or working with the financial aid community to interpret laws and rules for the programs. He tries to always use a common sense approach to all issues.



On a personal note, Tim has been married for nearly 15 years to his wife, Marlene; they have four beautiful daughters (including a set of twins). Tim has a twin brother in Kentucky and a younger brother in Alabama. He enjoys watching college basketball and football and his hobbies include fishing and spending time with his family.

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### *Comments from Tim:*

“ I enjoy working at TSAC because we are able to impact students' lives. I am a first-generation college graduate and I understand the importance of receiving an education and having to help pay for it. It's always rewarding when you receive a call or email thanking you for the assistance you provided. ”

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## April Legislative Update

**A**lthough approximately 60 bills related to lottery scholarships and other student financial aid have been proposed, only a few have been passed by either the Senate or House education committees. Because growth in projected lottery revenues for this year is not meeting anticipated levels, a growing voice among education committee members seems to indicate they will vote against any lottery scholarship bill increasing the total cost of the scholarship program.

SB0037 (Senator Kyle) has passed out of the Senate Education Committee. This bill proposes to expand eligibility for the Helping Heroes Grant by including current members of a reserve or Tennessee National Guard unit who have served on active military service. Since the number of students that participated in the program this year did not meet the allotted number of awards, this expansion can be accomplished without obligating additional funding.