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College Goal Tennessee

We are pleased to announce that our marketing materials and website will have a new look for our 2012 events. The updated website will be available on December 9th and we hope you will check it out for the latest information about our sites and locations.

Volunteers are always needed at our sites to help with everything from registration, to answering questions and serving as financial aid experts. If you're interested in being a volunteer but need more information, please contact Karen Myers at [ka-ren.myers@tn.gov](mailto:karen.myers@tn.gov) or 615.253.7473.



TSAC/TASFAA Fall Training

TSAC and TASFAA's joint effort to provide training opportunities this fall was well received by the financial aid community. A special thanks to Lipscomb University, South College, and Union University and the members of their staff for hosting the workshops. Thanks also to Brent Tener of Vanderbilt University, Michelle Baird of Lincoln Memorial University School of Law, and Robert Biggers and Naomi Derryberry of TSAC for serving as our trainers. Our federal trainer was Wood Mason from the Department of Education out of the Atlanta office.

We had 176 participants to register for the workshops and 165 to attend. Evaluations were positive and provided comments that will be used when we plan our next venture.



Senate Lottery Stabilization Task Force Update

The Senate Lottery Stabilization Task Force held its final meeting on November 29th to finalize discussions regarding the long-term viability of the HOPE Scholarship program. The Task Force approved several recommendations that will be forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor. These recommendations will require legislative action by the Tennessee General Assembly in order to be implemented.

The first recommendation would modify the HOPE Scholarship to require that students who attend a four-year institution must meet both the GPA **and** ACT requirements to receive the full award. Students who meet one of the criteria and attend a four-year institution will receive half of the award.

Students who meet one of the criteria can receive the full award in their third year if they retained the award for their first two years. The requirements for students who attend a two-year institution will remain unchanged. These changes, if implemented, would take effect in the 2015-16 academic year.

Included with the HOPE Scholarship recommendation “package” are three other proposals: providing \$10M in funding to the Tennessee Student Assistance Award program when the HOPE Scholarship changes are implemented, increasing the General Shortfall required reserve from \$50M to \$100M, and requiring the Comptroller to study the effectiveness of the HOPE Scholarship changes.

There were also recommendations made by the Task Force regarding the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation. The State Funding Board will now provide greater oversight to the amount of funding provided for lottery scholarships. Additionally, the Board must approve employee bonuses given by the lottery corporation.

If you have questions about the Task Force or the recommendations, please contact Tim Phelps at 615.253.7441 or tim.phelps@tn.gov.

Outreach Specialist Team Adds New Member

For the colleges and universities in the eastern region of Tennessee, you may have noticed that Drew Freeman is no longer an Outreach Specialist for TSAC and that Director of Outreach, Jason Seay has been covering events in your territory. Drew resigned in November to pursue new professional opportunities and we wish him well.

Interviews have concluded and Elizabeth Raymond from UT in Knoxville will serve the east territory starting January 3, 2012. We will provide you with her contact information once she begins. Please join us in welcoming her to the world of financial aid after the first of the year.

If you have any questions or need to set up a presentation in the meantime, please contact Jason Seay at jason.seay@tn.gov or at 615.253.7459.



Happy
Holidays
from the
TSAC Staff

TSAC offices will be closed for the Holidays on Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; Friday, December 30; and Monday, January 2. If you need to contact a TSAC staff member plan to do so either before or after these scheduled state holidays.