

SLGFA E-Updates

June 17, 2003

E-UPDATES is an electronic newsletter sponsored and operated by the Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas (SLGFA) to provide program information to schools and lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. MPN: Out with the Old and In with the New.

Rumor is floating around about some schools and lenders using outdated Master Promissory Notes or MPNs. Access the new MPN forms by following this link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/mpn/Old-NewMPN.asp>

2. Record Low Student Loan Interest Rates Become Effective July 1.

Students and borrowers will have a little more cash in their pockets beginning July 1, 2003, when federal student loan interest rates will drop to a historic record low. Borrowers with Stafford loans in repayment will see interest rates fall to 3.42 percent. Current students will experience a reduction in Stafford loans to 2.82 percent, as well as recent graduates within the six-month grace period and borrowers in deferment status. To read U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige's comments and learn more about this historic reduction, click on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/regulatory/03-04InterestRates.asp>

3. Is Student Loan Consolidation a Good Option?

Historically low student loan interest rates make loan consolidation very tempting. But is consolidation the right choice for borrowers and recent graduates? When is the best time to consolidate? To review student loan consolidation options, click on the provided link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/student-loancon.asp>

4. Mortarboard FYI

Occasionally, an SLGFA staff member approaches the E-Updates editor with a suggestion for an E-Updates article, but it does not fit in the realm of student loans. So, where does the editor place this significant news? Well, that's how the Mortarboard FYI section was born. Information may include SLGFA FYI or simply FYI information from other sources for Arkansas' schools and lenders. The genesis article for this edition is, **"When is the best time for schools to plan the next enrollment transmission schedule?"** Follow this link, <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/MortarboardFYI/MFYI061203.asp>, to improve enrollment transmission time management skills.

5. Meteor™ Takes Best Practices Award

The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) awarded the Meteor™ Project the 2002 Best Practices Award last month. To read more about this honored achievement, click on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/Meteor/images/BestPracAward.asp>

6. MYF Online Counseling Adds Enhancements

Mapping Your Future will upgrade its popular Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC) this summer with enhanced student privacy protection and Financial Aid Office (FAO) Access Area. Mapping Your Future is also looking for a few good financial aid professionals to test the FAO prototype. Follow the provided link to learn more about and review the upgrade: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/myf/FAOAccessUpdate.asp>

7. Outside the Circle

The editor of E-Updates searches high and low to locate financial aid news for E-Updates readers and on occasion finds media sources that are outside the standard financial aid circle. These sources give a different public perspective on financial aid and its affects on students, schools, and lenders. To read more about what's not-necessarily-financial-aid news, click here:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/OutSideCircle/OSC060903.asp>

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