

SLGFA E-Updates

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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. Saddle Up for a Fistful of Dollars at SLGFA's 2004 Annual Conference

The 2004 SLGFA Annual Conference will swing open its doors February 26-27, 2004, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, with the western theme ***A Fistful of Dollars...Financing a College Education***. Conference on-line registration for attendees and corporate sponsors is available on SLGFA's Web site. Click on the provided link for registration and to learn more about the conference: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/conference/2004/2004Article.asp>

2. Arkansas Hispanics in Higher Education – Part I: Latino Fundamentals

Arkansas' Hispanic population could grow to one-half million in 10 to 20 years. This minority demographic could become Arkansas' greatest resource for economic growth if they knew about the opportunities gained from receiving a higher education. Arkansas' service sector has begun to seek out Hispanics who are well educated and bilingual to fill jobs. How well will Arkansas respond to the challenges future Hispanic generations face in achieving a higher education? The complete story can be read by clicking on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/ARLatinos.asp>

3. ED Modifies and Waives HEROES Act Statutory Provisions

Secretary of Education Rod Paige released a notice of waivers and modifications to statutory provisions and regulations of the HEROES Act for individuals serving in the military. The waivers affect people who are applicants and recipients of Title IV student financial aid and who are serving on active duty during war and in other military or emergency capacities. Further information about some of the waivers and modifications can be read by clicking on the provided link: http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/HEROES_Mod.asp

4. E-Legislation

President Bush signed into law the CAN-SPAM Act on December 16, 2003. The new law is meant to fight junk e-mail or spam through application of various requirements for sending commercial e-mail messages such as a valid postal address and giving recipients the opportunity to opt out of receiving more messages. The new federal law will preempt Arkansas' anti-spam law passed in April 2003.

Additional legislation news includes the Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization. The HEA Reauthorization may become part of the Senate Republicans' 2004 floor agenda in either March or April. The December 18, 2003, *CongressDaily* reported that Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), Senate Majority Leader, drew up several different floor agendas for 2004 that included the HEA Reauthorization. Additional information about the federal spam law and the congressional schedule can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/E-Legislation/E-Legislation01-16-04.asp>

5. Common Manual

The most recent **Revisions to the Common Manual**, approved **December 18, 2003, (Batch 109)** by the *Common Manual* Governing Board are currently available. These revisions have also been included in the integrated version of the *Common Manual*. Questions regarding the *Common Manual* should be directed to the SLGFA Policy & Compliance Division at 800-622-3446. The *Common Manual* Policy Committee has released **Common Manual Training Brief #7**. *Common Manual* Training Briefs are located on SLGFA's *Common Manual* web page in the same PDF document format as the *Common Manual*. More information about the Training Briefs and Revisions to the *Common Manual* can be found by clicking the following link: http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/cm-revisions/December_revisions/Dec2003revisions/Batch109-TrainBrief7.asp

6. Fourth Quarter Special Allowance Rates Are Available

The Treasury Department has published the average of the bond equivalent rates of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned during the quarter ending **December 31, 2003**, as **.93 percent**. The average of the bond equivalent rates of the quotes of the 3-month commercial paper rates in effect for the quarter ending **December 31, 2003**, as **1.09 percent**. For more information, please click on the provided link: http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/special_rates/2003-4thQtr.asp

7. Mortarboard FYI

The Department of Education has launched two new initiatives that will allow the financial aid community to discuss default prevention issues online and help college students prevent identity theft. Arkansas' Department of Higher Education has developed a web page for comments on topics that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education is covering. More information about these subjects can be read by clicking on the provided link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/MortarboardFYI/MFY011604.asp>

8. SLGFA Seeks to Fill a Database Analyst I Position

The Financial Management Department has an opening for a Database Analyst I position. To get more information about this staff position, please click on the following link: http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/whats_new/newjobsindex.asp

Disclaimers: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/e-updates/f-print.asp>.

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