

# 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. **Contention Follows House HEA Reauthorization Bill Introduction**

After months of controversy about Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization, Republican leaders of the House Committee on Education and Workforce introduced Wednesday evening, May 5, 2004, the College Access and Opportunity Act (H.R. 4283). But soon after the bill's introduction, contention began between Republican and Democrat House Representatives over interest rates. To read more about the College Access and Opportunity Act, click on the provided link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/E-Legislation/HEABill050604.asp>

### 2. **WhizKid 9.0 Includes New Report Tools**

WhizKid 9.0 was released May 19, 2004, with several new features that include new history tracking resources and reports. More information about the WhizKid update can be read by clicking on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/WhizKid9.asp>

### 3. **New MYF OSLC 3.0 Includes Customized Features**

Schools and borrowers can now customize the Mapping-Your-Future Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC) to meet their specific needs. OSLC 3.0, released May 1, 2004, has been designed with added features that will allow schools to create their own entrance counseling questions or borrowers can do a combined Stafford and Perkins entrance counseling. Click on the provided link to access more information about the OSLC upgrade: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/myf/OSLC3-0.asp>

### 4. **E-Legislation**

House Bill H. R. 4102, "Access and Equity in Higher Education Act," sponsored by Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), addresses loan limit increases, variable interest rates for consolidation loans, loan forgiveness for people employed in public service jobs and more. Rep. Andrew's bill also received full support from the Coalition for Better Student Loans. To learn about this bill, click on the following link: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/E-Legislation/E-Legislation05-21-04.asp>

### 5. **Common Manual**

The most recent **Revisions to the Common Manual**, approved **April 15, 2004, (Batch 113-114)** by the *Common Manual* Governing Board are currently available. The *Common Manual* Policy Committee has released **Common Manual Training Brief #11**. 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/Aprilrevisions/April%202004/Batch113-114-TrainBrief11.asp>

### 6. **ED Letter Clarifies Consolidation of FFELP and Non-FFELP Loans**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued Financial Partner letter FP-04-05 to further clarify a March 15, 2004, letter released to the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP). The intent of the letter is to provide clarification on the consolidation of FFELP and non-FFELP loans. The Department issued the subsequent letter on April 29, 2004. For more information about FP-04-05, click on the provided link: [http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/letters/dear\\_colleague/FP-04-05.asp](http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/letters/dear_colleague/FP-04-05.asp)

**7. Mortarboard FYI**

Accessibility and opportunity are partners when it comes to achieving the dream of a college education. ***Investing in America's Future, Building Blocks for College Access and a national college outreach program alliance with public television*** are sources that are working to help people achieve that dream. Click on the following link to read this month's Mortarboard FYI to become more informed and involved:  
<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/MortarboardFYI/MFY052104.asp>

**8. Outside the Circle**

***Public Attitudes on Higher Education: A Trend Analysis, 1993 to 2003*** and ***Meeting the Competition*** are two higher education public opinion reports recently published by *Public Agenda*, the nonprofit public opinion web site. *National Cross Talk*, a publication by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education features two articles of note about the marketing of higher education and returning college dropouts back to school. To read where this information can be located, click on the provided link:  
<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/OutSideCircle/OSC052104.asp>

**9. SLGFA Promotions**

Congratulations go to Phyllis Newton who has been promoted to the position of Client Services Representative in SLGFA's School and Lender Services Department. Phyllis, who has been an SLGFA employee for more than 18 years, brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and experience in the student loan program and SLGFA. Please join us in congratulating Phyllis in her new role.

**10. Memorial Day Holiday**

SLGFA offices will be closed Monday, May 31, 2004, for Memorial Day. Have a great holiday weekend.

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