



LOSFA LOOP

July 2011 Edition

Volume 4-7

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Happy Independence Day! Our great nation is celebrating its 235th birthday this month. I'm giving away my age, but it seems like just yesterday we were watching those "Bicentennial Minutes" that dominated the airwaves back in 1976 (am I the only person who remembers those?) Anyway, a mid summer break is so welcomed right now, and I'm sure you are all feeling the same. Hope you enjoy it despite the heat!

July marks the midway point of our calendar year and represents the beginning of a new state fiscal year. The legislature has done their work and we have a budget that did not further cut higher education. Students, however, will see increases to their tuition based on prior year's legislation. On June 15, 2011, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget approved tuition increases for public postsecondary institutions as authorized by Act 915 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Legislature. This is the final year of this authorizing legislation that allows schools to increase tuition by 3, 4, or 5% based on SREB peer institution comparisons. On June 23, 2011, the Board of Regents approved each campus's performance measures as required under the 2010 GRAD Act, allowing those schools to increase tuition, not to exceed 5%, for the 2011-12 academic year. The combination of these two could result in up to a 10% increase to tuition at 4 year public institutions. Also, HB 526 that will equalize tuition across the community colleges was signed by the Governor on June 24th. Our office has all the pieces to finally get the TOPS Tuition amounts for 2011-12 out to the campuses and they will be sent out as soon as the figures are complete. A legislative update is provided in this issue of the LOOP for those keeping score.

June 30, 2011 marked the deadline for the application period for our newest program, the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program. In the very first year of its existence in Louisiana there have been more than 50 applications submitted. This program will afford some relief from student loan debt to a select group of dedicated lawyers. These lawyers have bypassed more lucrative opportunities to serve the public as prosecutors and public defenders. They have paid the same law school tuition as their fellow students, incurring the same levels of debt while accepting much lower salaries as public servants. LOSFA is pleased to be able to administer this program on behalf of the US Department of Justice.

Many of you are unfamiliar with the people who serve as members of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority. These Commissions direct the

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LOSFA Outreach

Event Schedule

Sunday, July 10 - Tuesday, July 12

Northwestern State University Trailblazer Camp - Natchitoches

Sunday, July 17 - Tuesday, July 19

Nicholls State University Trailblazer Camp - Thibodaux

Monday, July 25

Louisiana Tech University – Ruston – LA Gear Up Camp

Monday, August 1

Louisiana Tech University – Ruston – LA Gear Up Camp
Nicholls State University – Thibodaux – LA Gear Up Camp

Monday, August 15

FLY Team Performance – New Orleans – Delgado Community College, City Park Campus

Tuesday, August 23

LACRAO Articulation Workshop Zone II -- LSU-E – Eunice

Wednesday, August 24

LACRAO Articulation Workshop Zone IV – Delgado Community College – New Orleans

Thursday, August 25

LACRAO Articulation Workshop Zone III – Southern University – Baton Rouge

Wednesday, August 31

LACRAO Articulation Workshop Zone I – Delta Community College – Monroe



Youth learn about Chafee Program

Fifty foster care youth and their case workers learned about the benefits of the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, as well as about general financial aid, from LOSFA's Public Information and Communications Representative Kate Herke at a luau held at Cafe Hope in Marrero. National Youth in Transition, an organization that helps foster care children who are aging out of the system adjust to living independently, hosted the event.

The Chafee ETV Program awards up to \$5,000 annually to qualified students who have been in the foster care system so they can pursue an academic college education or technical and skill training in college to be prepared to enter the workforce.

For more information on the Chafee Education Training Voucher Program go to <http://www.osfa.la.gov/Chafee.htm>



Now that the contract for a Web-based portal has been awarded to ConnectEDU, LOSFA is working hard to put together the Louisiana Connect portal.

Louisiana Connect is designed to give students and parents as much information about College Access as possible, but it cannot do that without your help.

LOSFA is collecting information about [Enrichment Opportunities, Remediation Programs and Dual Credit Opportunities](#) available for Louisiana students. If your organization or institution runs such a program, we want to know about it.

We need from you:

- ▶ Name of the program
- ▶ Any associated Web sites
- ▶ Brochures, PDFs or other supporting documentation that outlines which students are eligible for your program, as well as any fees and scholarship opportunities available

Send all information to smanuel@osfa.la.gov.

This information will be loaded into the portal so qualified students can find out about your program(s) with ease starting this 2011-12 School Year.

LOSFA will continue to collect information about programs of interest to students as the Louisiana Connect portal comes together.

In the coming weeks, we will be asking for information concerning:

- ▶ Internships
- ▶ Volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Scholarship resources

When we're ready to collect that information, we'll let you know where to send it. Stay tuned and stay connected.

Jump\$tart Poster Contest Winners

Featured below are the winners of the Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition poster contest and their winning posters. Their prize packages included a plaque, commemorative t-shirt and START Saving Account certificate. The Overall Winner received a \$500 deposit to a START Saving Account, and the Elementary, Middle and High School winners received a \$100 deposit to a START Saving Account.



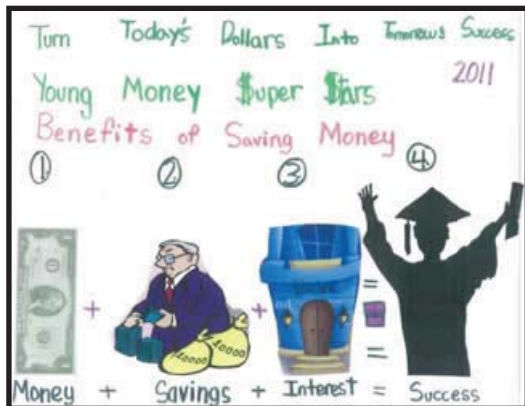
Overall winner: Robin Miller, 11th Grade, Edna Karr Charter High School, New Orleans



High School Winner: Marcelo Gutierrez, 11th Grade, Edna Carr Charter High School, New Orleans



Middle School Winner: Aban Telfah, 7th Grade, Ruston Junior High School, Ruston



Elementary School Winner: Sydnie Larkins, 3rd Grade, St. Aloysius School, Baton Rouge



TRAILBLAZER CAMP 2011

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY -- JULY 10 -12

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY -- JULY 17 - 19

It's Trailblazer time again and this year, 233 students from across the state have registered for the 2 camps - 132 at Natchitoches and 101 at Thibodaux. These students will be trained to assist their school counselor in planning financial aid awareness and college access information events for their school. They will receive training on a variety of subjects like TOPS, FAFSA, Financial Aid, College Goal Sunday, Financial Literacy and other LOSFA programs. Like last year, this camp will be very interactive - with breakout sessions in computer labs on a variety of subjects such as Financial Aid on the Internet, Career Choices and the new Louisiana Connect Web portal.

The students will also have the opportunity to make a video highlighting what they have learned about financial aid and college access. The purpose of this video is to convince all high school students that any Louisiana student CAN and should go to college, regardless of their financial situation or the financial situation of their family. At the conclusion of the camp, the videos will be posted on LOSFA's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>. Photos from the camps will also be posted at LOSFA's Flickr site, <http://www.flickr/LOSFA>. Videos created at last year's camps, as well as photographs from previous years like those below, are available on those sites now.



Changes to START Saving Program

Effective July 1, 2011, each deposit in the Vanguard Total World Stock Index Fund, Investor Shares (VTWSX), will incur a one-time purchase fee of one quarter of one percent (0.25%) which will be deducted from the amount of the deposit.

Effective July 1, 2011, the Louisiana START Saving Program will substitute a lower cost share class for five (5) of the existing program Funds. Since this is only a change in share class of each of the listed Funds, the risk level for each of the Funds remains the same. For more information see Supplement No. 1 to the START Disclosure Booklet:

http://www.startsaving.la.gov/savings/pdf/Supplement_Number_1_6-7-11.pdf

Changes to Early START

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission at its June meeting approved an increase in the amount Louisiana Technical College campuses are paid for providing Early Start courses.

The change in payment provides the same \$100 per credit hour award amount for students enrolled at Louisiana Technical College campuses as at other institutions beginning with the fall semester of 2011. The total paid per student per semester remains at \$300.

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office in its administration of all our programs and outreach. I want to thank our outgoing members, Mr. Walter Guidry, representing the Southern University System and Mr. Brock Sebren, Student Representative for the UL System, for their faithful and dedicated service to both boards. I also want to welcome three new members, Mr. Pete Lafleur, representing BESE, Mr. Myron Lawson, representing the Southern System, and Mr. Warren Gachassin, new Student Representative for LCTCS. We look forward to their insights and guidance.

--Melanie

Keep up with changes on LOSFA's Social Media sites!



<http://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



www.Flickr.com/LOSFA

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION 2011 - BILLS AFFECTING ROLE, SCOPE, OR MISSION**

As of June 28, 2011

(Shaded Bills Died with the completion of the Legislative Session)

	No.	Author	Subject And Summary	Status
1.	HB 589	Chaney & Downs	TOPS - Changes the TOPS core effective with 2014 graduates to include History of Religion as an advanced social studies from which students must earn two units and changes the Fine Arts Survey substitute requirement from two units of Art to one unit of Art and deletes substitution of one unit from among the other core subjects for Fine Arts Survey.	Act 203 Signed 6-24-11
2.	SB 50	Gautreaux	TOPS – Places a cap on TOPS awards at 90% of the amount paid for the 2010-2011 academic year. TOPS Performance and Honors stipends will be paid	Involuntarily Deferred by Senate Ed.
3.	SB 138	Marionneaux	TOPS – Changes TOPS to a loan forgiveness program beginning with students graduating in 2011-2012. The current program will continue for students who graduated in 2011 or earlier.	Involuntarily Deferred by Senate Ed.
4.	SB 194	Jackson	TOPS – Changes the current TOPS procedure for eliminating students in the event of an appropriation shortfall to a pro rata reduction of the TOPS award so every student receives an award and the total amount of the awards does not exceed the total funds available for awards (Note: Bill does not provide for how Performance and Honors Award stipends will be handled.)	Involuntarily Deferred by Senate Ed. 5-26-11
5.	HB 390	Jane Smith	TOPS FUNDING – Constitutional Amendment. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the TOPS Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust.	Pending House Floor Final Passage
6.	HB 457	Jane Smith	TOPS FUNDING – Bill contingent on passage of HB 390. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the TOPS Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust.	Pending House Floor Final Passage
7.	SB 52	Alario	TOPS FUNDING – Bill contingent on passage of SB 53. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the TOPS Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust. Also requires the Treasurer to credit the TOPS Fund with proceeds received between April 1, 2011, and the effective date of the amendment. Includes dedication of the certain cigarette tax proceeds to the Health Excellence Fund within the Millennium Trust.	Pending Governor's signature
8.	SB 53	Alario	TOPS FUNDING – Constitutional Amendment. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the TOPS Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust. Also requires the Treasurer to credit the TOPS Fund with proceeds received between April 1, 2011, and the effective date of the amendment. Includes renewal of a 4 cent cigarette tax and dedication of the proceeds to the Health Excellence Fund within the Millennium Trust.	Pending Vote of Louisiana Voters

	No.	Author	Subject And Summary	Status
9.	SB 92	Jackson	TOPS FUNDING – Constitutional Amendment. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the Health Excellence Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust and credits the TOPS Fund with 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust. Also requires the Treasurer to credit the Health Excellence Fund with proceeds received between April 1, 2011, and the effective date of the amendment.	Assigned to Senate Finance
10.	SB 151	Jackson	TOPS FUNDING – Bill contingent on passage of SB 92. Beginning fiscal year 2011-2012, Treasurer credits the Health Excellence Fund with 100% of Settlement Agreement (tobacco) proceeds and 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust and credits the TOPS Fund with 1/3 of all investment earnings on the investment of the Millennium Trust. Also requires the Treasurer to credit the Health Excellence Fund with proceeds received between April 1, 2011, and the effective date of the amendment.	Assigned to Senate Finance

Other Legislation Mentioning TOPS

	No.	Author	Subject And Summary	Status
1.	HB 25	Richard	FEES - Allows colleges to charge for enrolled hours in excess of 12 at semester schools or eight at quarter schools. Excludes the additional amount from being paid by TOPS.	Withdrawn
2.	HB 448	Downs	FEES - Allows colleges to charge for enrolled hours in excess of 12 at semester schools or eight at quarter schools. <u>Does not</u> exclude the additional amount from being paid by TOPS.	Pending House Floor Debate

For more information, contact the
Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance:

By Phone: 800-259-5626, Ext. 1012

By E-mail: custserv@osfa.la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

Web Address: www.osfa.la.gov



For submissions, opinions or comments for LOSFA LOOP, please
contact David Roberts at droberts@osfa.la.gov.