



LOSFA LOOP

May 2012 Edition

Volume 5-5

From the Desk of the Executive Director

May is always an exciting month because of the high school and college graduations that take place throughout the state. I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate our graduates because, as Louisiana's First Choice for College Access, this is why we labor, to see students graduate from high school and matriculate into post secondary education as well as to see students graduate from college and begin their careers. I'm especially excited for the 2012 graduates because this is the first graduating class with access to the Louisiana Connect College Access and Career Planning portal. Of course the portal is still in its infancy, so I look forward to seeing how it will impact the class of 2013 and especially the class of 2016 who will have had access to the portal since the 8th grade. The benefits to them and to the state as a whole will be tremendous.

I want to thank our colleagues at the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs for allowing us to be a part of your 40th Annual Conference (*Preserving the Past, Sustaining the Present and Charting the Future*) and conduct a demonstration of the Louisiana Connect portal. I am confident that once the professionals in TRiO are logged onto the portal and can track their student cohort and encourage them to consistently take advantage of the portal's benefits, use of the portal will increase exponentially leading to a dramatic increase in Louisiana's college-going rate.

As this academic year winds to a close, we hope the financial aid and scholarship offices are ensuring that their TOPS students are aware of the new rule provision that will allow these students to utilize hours earned over the summer to count towards the 24 hours necessary to retain their TOPS awards (See TOPS Bulletin 2012-02). We count on the campuses to alert students via the many effective means of communications that you have at hand. Thank you for continuing to be our voices to the students.

--Melanie

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David E. Roberts, Assistant Executive Director of Outreach and College Access, and Brian Dennis, Louisiana State Director for ConnectEDU, conducted a presentation and demonstration of the Louisiana Connect College Access and Career Planning Portal at the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Program's (LASAP) 40th Annual Conference in Lafayette, LA. Attendees included professionals from the Education Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, Ronald McNair Students Support Services and Upward Bound programs from throughout the state.

Are you connected?

High school students and their parents can access Louisiana Connect, a free service from LOSFA, to keep track of their academic progress, Individual Graduation Plan and TOPS curriculum progress, as well as to search for colleges, scholarships and financial aid resources. La Connect also offers financial literacy resources, information on student loans and trends in the job market.

To connect, go to <http://www.osfa.la.gov/landing/LAConnect.htm> and activate your account.

TOPS Information

- ▶ Processing for high school seniors awaiting their initial TOPS award will begin the first week of June. The TOPS Master Roster will be updated on Friday, June 8th with the first group of newly eligible students. Students awarded TOPS will receive notification shortly thereafter. Processing will continue weekly until all eligible students are awarded.
- ▶ Because of the change in the funding source for TOPS and the amount appropriated, funds for payment of school invoices have not been available to pay all spring semester/quarter invoices at one time. However, the appropriation is being increased so we expect to receive sufficient funds to pay invoices on hand before the end of the state fiscal year.
- ▶ Last month, approximately 4,400 letters were sent to 2011 High School Graduate TOPS Qualifiers for whom no TOPS Payment Requests had been received by April 12th. The letters warned those students that LOSFA has received no TOPS Payment Requests on their behalf and that they must enroll full time for Fall 2012 to receive TOPS funding. They are also instructed that, if they have been enrolled full time, they should contact the Financial Aid Office at their institution to review TOPS Funding status.
- ▶ Starting with the 2011-2012 Academic Year, summer session and intersession hours may be used to meet the TOPS 24 hour requirement. All other continuation requirements and deadlines remain the same, including those for minimum cumulative GPA.



Creating New Entrepreneurs for South Louisiana...One Stand at a Time!

LOSFA, in partnership with the La Jump\$tart Coalition, is promoting Lemonade Day, a financial literacy initiative.

What is it: Lemonade Day is a nation-wide event that teaches kids the skills they need to be successful in the future. Participants learn to set goals, develop a business plan, establish a budget, seek investors, provide customer service and give back to the community. Lemonade Day is the perfect opportunity for a community to show kids they care and train the next generation of entrepreneurs through a FREE, fun, engaging and experiential activity.

When is it: Lemonade Day is Saturday, May 12, 2012.

Who can participate: Youth of all ages can participate (with adult supervision!). Not only does Lemonade Day directly affect the participants, but it also affects the entire community. To register for an official Lemonade Day stand and to participate in the event, a parent or guardian must sign a consent form agreeing that a responsible adult will assist and supervise.

Who can get involved and how: Anyone and everyone can be involved in Lemonade Day! Young entrepreneurs that have lemonade stands need adult supervision, sponsors, investors, employees and customers!

How to register: Registration opens March 2012. <http://southlouisiana.lemonadeday.org/>

How schools can participate: We encourage every school in the city, public and private, to get involved. Lemonade Day is a unique experiential learning opportunity combining academics and life skills to teach youth about entrepreneurship. Lemonade Day has developed lesson plans highlighting your state teaching objectives which are available on our Web site, <http://southlouisiana.lemonadeday.org>. For information on becoming a partner, contact South Louisiana Lemonade Day at (225)205-7265.

How to get backpacks: Backpacks will be available for 2012 beginning in late March.

Where does the money go? The young entrepreneurs keep everything they earn. In the spirit of a true business, they are encouraged to open a savings account, pay back investors and make a further investment in their community by donating a portion of their profits to a charity of their choice.

Lemonade Day Logistics:

Materials: Lemonade Day will provide “how to” Entrepreneur Workbooks explaining budgets, securing investors, choosing locations, marketing, and customer service. These materials, including the Caring Adult Guide, are found in the backpack and are available to download after registering online.

Location: The stands will be set up in a location selected by the entrepreneur. Each entrepreneur is responsible for obtaining permission to sell lemonade on private property.

Time: Participating youth and their responsible adult may open for business at any time during Lemonade Day. Do what works best for you. Our suggestion is from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**For more information on
South Louisiana Lemonade Day, please contact:**

Stacy Schlieve, City Director
Phone: (225) 205-7265
Lemonade Day South Louisiana
<http://www.southlouisiana.lemonadeday.org>

Save the Dates

Trailblazer Camp 2012

The dates for the 2012 Trailblazer Camps are July 15th - 17th at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and July 22nd - 24th at Natcholls State University in Thibodeaux.

High school students nominated by their counselors will attend this free camp, learning about financial aid and the college application process, and take that knowledge back to share with their peers at their home schools.

FLY Tour 2012

The 2012 FLY Tour wrapped up last month, after visiting 10 high schools across Louisiana. The tour brought the message of financial literacy and funding a college education directly to Louisiana juniors and seniors, in a format focused on music, poetry and drama.

Of those surveyed, 85 percent thought the show motivated them to think more critically about financial decisions, 70 percent thought the presentation was relevant to their lives and 85 percent thought they'd be more proactive in planning for their future after attending the tour. Seventy-five percent said the show surpassed their expectations.

Words the students used to describe the event are below, along with a photograph of the tour. A video of the presentation is available at www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000.

"Funny and Inspirational"

"An eye opener"

"It was great!"

"True Motivation"

"Well put together, got to start planning, a lot of options"

"Come back again!"



Kendra Woods, Britt Kelly and Justin Marshall perform as part of LOSFA's FLY Tour. They are all members of the Public Information and Communications section. Lisa Baumer, not pictured, with LOSFA's Default Prevention section, also took part in the tour.

REGULAR SESSION 2012
Legislation That Could Possibly Affect LOSFA
As of April 27, 2012

| HOUSE BILLS | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|---|----------------------|---|
| | No. | Author | Subject And Summary | Recommended Position | Status |
| 1. | HB 275 | Schroder | STUDENT/TUITION: Authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to increase tuition and mandatory fee amounts up to SREB averages in accordance with the Board of Regents Tuition and Financial Aid Policy, subject to legislative approval of such policy, and authorizes uniform imposition of tuition and mandatory fee amounts on a per-credit-hour basis. | | Assigned to House Education |
| 2. | HB 294 | Harrison | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Establishes a maximum dollar amount of \$1,600 per semester for a TOPS award for the 2013-2014 award year through the 2017-2018 award years. | | Assigned to House Education Involuntarily Deferred 3/28/12 |
| 3. | HB 299 | Harrison | STUDENT/TUITION: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides that the requirement that the imposition of a new fee or increase in an existing fee requires the enactment of a law by a 2/3 vote by the legislature shall not apply to new tuition amounts or mandatory fees or increases of such by a public postsecondary education management board. | | Assigned to House & Governmental Affairs Reported favorably 7-3 4/18/12 Recommitted to House Civil Law and Procedure |
| 4. | HB 348 | Greene | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for students awards when insufficient money to fund all eligible students is appropriated. Removes income from the cut criteria and leaves only ACT/SAT scores as the criteria to use to eliminate students because of a funding shortfall. | | Assigned to House Education |
| 5. | HB 435 | Lorusso | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides scholarship opportunities to certain military veterans. Veterans would be classified residents for tuition purposes if they served on active duty for two years, was honorably discharged and is currently serving in the reserves. | | Assigned to House Education Reported with amendments 14-0 3/28/12 Passed the House 104-0 4/4/12 Assigned to Senate Education |
| 6. | HB 740 | Lebas | STUDENTS: Provides for participation in a dual enrollment program at postsecondary education institutions by certain high school students enrolled in BESE-approved programs. The legislation changes the participation restriction from enrollment in a public high school to enrollment in an educational program approved by BESE and adds a Louisiana residency requirement. | | Assigned to House Education |
| 7. | HB 785 | Hunter | CURRICULA: Authorizes a high school student to change his program of study and the type of diploma he is pursuing prior to the beginning of the second semester of his senior year under certain circumstances. | | Assigned to House Education |

| HOUSE BILLS | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|--|----------------------|---|
| | No. | Author | Subject And Summary | Recommended Position | Status |
| 8. | HB 841 | P. Smith | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, provides for award dollar amounts. The Board of Regents will annually set the TOPS Payment Amount. | | Assigned to House Education |
| 9. | HB 848 | Hunter | HIGHER EDUCATION: Authorizes postsecondary education management boards to grant resident status for tuition purposes for distance learning and out-of-state commuters | | Assigned to House Education |
| 10. | HB 926 | Simon | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Relative to TOPS, specifies circumstances under which an award applicant's ACT/SAT test score can be submitted to and considered by the program's administering agency after statutorily established submission deadlines. | | Assigned to House Education Reported Favorably 16-0 3/28/12 Passed the House 100-0 4/4/12 Assigned to Senate Education Reported Favorably 4/26/12 |
| 11. | HB 945 | H Burns | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Extends TOPS eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the U.S. Armed Forces and maintain continuous active duty. | | Assigned to House Education Reported favorably with amendments 14-0 3/28/12 Passed the House 101-0 4/4/12 Assigned to Senate Education Reported favorably 4/26/12 |
| 12. | HB 946 | Greene | STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Extends TOPS eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the U.S. Armed Forces and maintain continuous active duty. | | Assigned to House Education |
| 13. | HB 954 | Danahay | LEGISLATION: Provides for technical corrections to various provisions of the La. Revised Statutes. Places LATTAs under the Department of Education. | | Assigned to House & Governmental Affairs Reported favorably with Amendments 4/18/12 |
| 14. | HB 964 | Fannin | COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides for the merger of Louisiana Tech and LSU-Shreveport | | Assigned to House Education |

| HOUSE BILLS | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | No. | Author | Subject And Summary | Recommended Position | Status |
| 15. | HB 1078 | Broadwater | <p>STUDENT/TUITION: Provides relative to the authority of public postsecondary education management boards to increase tuition and mandatory fee amounts.</p> <p>Allows increase in tuition and fees in accordance with the Board of Regent’s Tuition and Financial Aid Policy approved by the legislature, but limits increases to the average amount of annual tuition and mandatory fees applicable to resident students at institutions in SREB states, excluding La. Allows tuition and mandatory fee amounts be charged on a per-credit-hour basis. The bill constitutes legislative approval of the Tuition and Financial Aid Policy adopted by the Board of Regents on March 21, 2012, and presented to the legislature by the board and legislative approval.</p> | | Assigned to House Education |
| 16. | HCR 97 | Hoffman | <p>COMMENDATIONS: Commends Charles "Charlie Mac" McDonald of Bastrop, former state representative, for his contributions to education in La., including authoring the legislation that created TOPS</p> | | <p>Enrolled and signed by the Speaker of the House</p> <p>Signed by the President of the Senate</p> |

| SENATE BILLS | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|---|----------------------|--|
| | NO. | AUTHOR | SUBJECT AND SUMMARY | Recommended Position | Status |
| 1. | SB 62 | Appel | <p>EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Re-creates the Department of Education.</p> | | <p>Assigned to Senate Education</p> <p>Reported favorably 4/23/12</p> <p>Passed the Senate 38-0 4/25/12</p> <p>Assigned to House Education</p> |
| 2. | SB 103 | Nevers | <p>POSTSECONDARY ED: Limits the number of hours required to earn a baccalaureate degree.</p> | | <p>Assigned to Senate Education</p> <p>Reported favorably 3/21/12</p> <p>Passed the Senate 35-0 3/28/12</p> <p>Assigned to House Education</p> |

| SENATE BILLS | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-----------|--|----------------------|---|
| | NO. | AUTHOR | SUBJECT AND SUMMARY | Recommended Position | Status |
| 3. | SB 247 | Long | POSTSECONDARY ED: Creates the Central La. Technical Community College. The Central Louisiana Technical Community College includes the following LTC campuses: Alexandria, Avoyelles, Huey P. Long, Lamar Salter, Oakdale and Shelby M. Jackson. | | Assigned to Senate Education Reported Favorably 4/16/12 Recommitted to Senate Finance |
| 4. | SB 284 | Cortez | COMMUNITY TECH SYSTEM: Merges certain La. Technical College campuses with South Louisiana Community College. Effective July 1, 2012, the Acadian, Charles B. Coreil, Evangeline, Gulf Area, Lafayette, T. H. Harris, and Teche Area campuses of the Louisiana Technical College are merged with South Louisiana Community College. | | Assigned to Senate Education Reported Favorably 4/16/12 Recommitted to Senate Finance |
| 5. | SB 301 | Lafleur | POSTSECONDARY ED: Allows postsecondary institutions to carry forward certain funds at the end of a fiscal year under certain conditions. | | Assigned to Senate Education |
| 6. | SB 418 | Appel | POSTSECONDARY ED: Provides relative to the regional distribution of public postsecondary educational institutions. The Board of Regents would consider whether the merger of two or more existing postsecondary institutions within a region would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of public postsecondary educational services and programs within the region. | | Assigned to Senate Education |
| 7. | SB 458 | Lafleur | TUITION: Provides relative to START education savings accounts and for definitions with respect thereto. Removes the requirement that a postsecondary institution be accredited by the regional accrediting association. | | Assigned to Senate Education Reported favorably 3/21/12 Passed the Senate 38-0 3/28/12 Assigned to House Education |
| 8. | SB 527 | Walsworth | POSTSECONDARY ED: Provides for the merger of Louisiana Tech and Louisiana State University at Shreveport. | | Assigned to Senate Education |
| 9. | SB 579 | Adley | TOPS: Extends TOPS eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the United States Armed Forces and maintain continuous active duty. | | Assigned to Senate Education Reported favorably 4/23/12 Passed the Senate 35-0 4/26/12 Assigned to House Education |

| SENATE BILLS | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-------------|--|----------------------|---|
| | NO. | AUTHOR | SUBJECT AND SUMMARY | Recommended Position | Status |
| 10. | SB 645 | F. Thompson | POSTSECONDARY ED: Merges certain La. Technical College campuses with Louisiana Delta Community College. The Bastrop, Delta-Ouachita, North Central, Northeast Louisiana, Ruston and Tallulah campuses are included in the merger. | | Assigned to Senate Education Reported Favorably 4/16/12 Passed the Senate 38-0 4/18/12 Assigned to House Education |

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Taking the ACT & Applying for TOPS?

Read carefully *before*
completing your
ACT Registration
form!

- TOPS processing cannot begin until LOSFA can match FAFSA data, high school academic data, and ACT score.
- This data is matched by **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**.
- IF YOU DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** ON YOUR ACT REGISTRATION, YOUR TOPS PROCESSING **WILL BE DELAYED**.



For more information, contact LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626, Ext. 1012 or custserv@osfa.la.gov.



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.