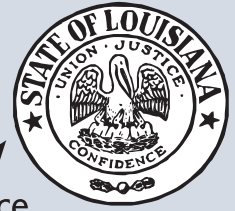




# NEWSLINE



A Publication of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

Vol. XIV No. 3

September 2004

## LASFAC returns \$400,000 to needy college students

**T**he Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) announced the award of \$400,000 in surplus operating revenues to the state's most financially needy college students.

These revenues were generated from the commission's administration of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) in Louisiana during fiscal year 2003-2004.

The surplus was principally derived from federal fees paid the commission on the volume of student loans that it guarantees and from defaulted student loan debt that the commission collected.

In January of this year, the commission authorized the return of these surplus funds to Louisiana's students in the form of need-based aid. To achieve this purpose, the commission and the Board of Regents concluded an interagency agreement that provides guidelines for the allocation and use of these aid funds.

In accordance with a formula developed by the Board of Regents, the funds are now being distributed to Louisiana's colleges and universities, both public and private. Recipient schools will then disburse their share of the funds to students who have financial need as determined by a federal needs test.

To be considered, students must qualify for federal Pell Grants and be enrolled at least half time. All award funds must be used by students to pay their higher education expenses.

"As we increase the volume of loans that we guarantee, the potential exists for incremental growth in the amounts that can be annually allocated to higher education institutions," LASFAC Chairman F. Travis Lavigne Jr., said.

The commission is the U.S. Department of Education's designated guarantor for FFELP loans in Louisiana; however, it must compete for student loan business with out-of-state guarantee agencies.

The Commission guaranteed approximately 46 percent of the \$746 million in FFELP loans that were generated by Louisiana's postsecondary institutions last year.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- News and Updates.....2
- LOSFA executive staff.....3
- GEAR UP camps.....4
- Guidance Counselor Workshop dates.....4
- LOSFA'S new look.....5
- Trailblazer Camp wrap-up.....6,7

### Changing addresses?

E-mail the Newslines staff with your updated information at [Newslines@osfa.state.la.us](mailto:Newslines@osfa.state.la.us).

**OFFICIAL STATE AVERAGE:** The state's composite average ACT score for 2003-2004 is 19.8. Therefore, for Louisiana high school graduates of 2005, the ACT minimum requirement for the TOPS Opportunity Award will remain at 20.

**CAMPUS CHANGES:** Effective beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year, the L. E. Fletcher and Sowela campuses of the Louisiana Technical College (LTC) system will no longer be classified as LTCs for the purposes of the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Instead, they will be considered community colleges.

**LOSFA HIRES:** **Jeanne Forcheimer** has joined the agency's Default Prevention Section as a Collector. Forcheimer is a graduate of Louisiana State University (LSU) with a bachelor's in English literature. Prior to joining LOSFA, she worked with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Tax Office.

**Nicole Moliere** has joined the Default Prevention Section as a Collector. A graduate of LSU in Baton Rouge with a bachelor's degree in mass communication, Moliere is a native of New Orleans.

**Kennon Clayton** has joined Default Recoveries Section as a Collector. He received a bachelor's degree in sociology from LSU in Baton Rouge.

**Terri Finley** has joined the START Division as a Financial Aid Administrator. Finley received a bachelor's degree in management from Southeastern Louisiana University. Previously, she served with Hancock Bank in Baton Rouge for 13 years.

**COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:** **Francis M. "Hank" Gowen Jr.** was recently appointed to the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC)—the governing body for LOSFA. Gowen represents the Board of Supervisors for Louisiana State University and fills the seat vacated by Louis Lambert.

**Angela Nealy** has been appointed as a student member of LASFAC by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). She fills the position previously held by Frank Taylor.

**Christie Mason** has also joined the LASFAC as a student member, representing the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU). She replaces Tamara Washington.

**LOSFA TRAVELS:** Public Information Representatives **Ricky Boyett, Annette Chelette and Roshonda Hanible** represented LOSFA at the Louisiana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (LACRAO) Freshman Fairs held in April, May and August at college campuses across the state.

The LACRAO fairs include a presentation from the Board of Regents, a presentation on TOPS, a presentation from the host college and a browse session.

Director of Public Information and Communications **Gus Wales** attended the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) conference held July 18-21 in Minneapolis.

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Executive Director**  
Jack L. Guinn  
**Assistant Executive Director**  
Melanie Amrhein  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
Connie Almond  
**Chief Research and Planning Officer**  
Sujuan Boutte  
**General Counsel**  
George Eldredge  
**Chief Information Officer**  
Terry Tuminello

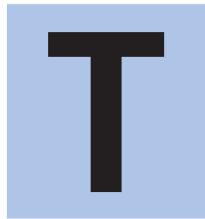
**Chief Marketing Officer**  
Gus Wales  
**Human Resources Director**  
Agnes Bickham  
**Loan Operations Director**  
Lynda Downing  
**START Saving Program Director**  
Carol Fulco  
**Audit Director**  
Susan Michelli  
**Scholarship and Grant Director**  
Juanita Rougeau

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Dillard University**  
Cynthia Thornton  
**Camelot College**  
Connie Williams  
**Louisiana State University - Alexandria**  
Kenn Posey  
**Louisiana State University - Eunice**  
Jacqueline Lachapelle (Ex Officio)  
**LSU Health Science Center Shreveport**  
Sherry Gladney

**McNeese State University**  
Taina Savoit (Chair)  
**Nelnet/Intuition**  
Lisa Simms-Thomas  
**Office of Student Financial Assistance**  
Jack L. Guinn (Ex Officio)  
**South Louisiana Community College**  
Shonda Rosinski  
**Southern University - New Orleans**  
Kathy Woods

## LOSFA names Boutte to executive staff as Chief Research and Planning Officer



The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) recently named Dr. Sujuan Boutte as Chief Research and Planning Officer, an executive staff position.

are pleased to welcome her as a key member of our team.”

Boutte is a former educator with a bachelor’s, master’s, specialist’s and doctorate degree in education from Northwestern State University (NSU).

Boutte, the former Assistant Secretary of Workforce Development at the Louisiana Department of Labor, brings to LOSFA the vision and history of forging private industry and the public sector into networking partnerships.

A self-described “global person by nature,” Boutte said, “integration is a deep part of my philosophy. No single agency has enough resources in financial or human capital to accomplish its mission independently. Combined resources help students meet their goals through a coordinated approach.”

As Chief Research and Planning Officer, Boutte will provide research data to LOSFA executive and management staff, to aid in their decision-making process.

To that end, she will investigate past, present and future goals of the agency and compare program effectiveness and efficiency with other states and organizations, by compiling and evaluating national data, trendline data and LOSFA trendline data.

“This is an evolving position,” Boutte said. “My work will be to compass an area of expertise beyond the day-to-day functioning of the agency, and project trends over time to determine whether we want to stay the course or change direction.”

LOSFA Executive Director Jack Guinn said, “Dr. Boutte brings to the agency a strong background in education and government. Her energy and experience will well serve the interests of Louisiana’s students and we



*Chief Research and Planning Officer Sujuan Boutte brings years of experience in forging partnerships between the public sector and private industry to her new executive staff position at LOSFA.*

She served with the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL) for more than seven years, where she provided oversight of the federal job-training program (The Workforce Investment Act), in addition to managing the Employment Services Program (Job Service Offices), the Community Service Block Grant Program (Community Action Agency Offices) and the Incumbent Worker Training Program.

Prior to her stint at LDOL, Boutte served for more than two years as Director of Public Service for NSU, and for one year as coordinator of IBM’s Teacher Training In Technology Program – where she forged partnerships with cable, phone and emerging technology companies to aid in teacher training.

Boutte started her career as a teacher at NSU’s Lab school, where she served for 13 years, forming partnerships with BellSouth, McDonalds, Winn Dixie and other private industries to provide hands-on learning materials for her students in the classroom.

## Camps held for at-risk middle graders

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), in conjunction with the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP), Northwestern State University (NSU) in Natchitoches and Louisiana Tech University (La. Tech) in Ruston, participated in a series of GEAR UP summer camps during June, July and August.

The summer series of 10 week-long camps were designed to introduce “at-risk” students to the educational opportunities and social satisfactions of life on a college campus. Campers spent many hours participating in hands-on science, engineering, computer technology and leadership training modules.

In addition, campers experienced a one-day immersion into the requirements for attend-

ing college, such as the admissions process, the financial aid application process and the aid programs administered by LOSFA.

LOSFA Public Information and Communications representatives Glenda Bocking and Ricky Boyett provided campers with information on the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), the federal loan and grant program and other financial aid programs for higher education available through LOSFA.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is funded through a five-year, \$12.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is focused on accelerating the academic achievements of at-risk students.

*GEAR UP summer camp organizers Dianna Frank of LaSIP, Glenn Beer of La. Tech and Glenda Bocking of LOSFA pose with campers and their counselors during the July 18-24 camp at La. Tech.*



### Guidance Counselor Workshops schedule set

As part of LOSFA’s continuing effort to update educators about financial aid opportunities, a series of seven Guidance Counselor Workshops will be held at various locations across the state during October and November.

All workshops are from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The dates and locations are as follows:

Oct. 25 McNeese State University,  
Burton Business Center

Oct. 26 UL-Monroe,  
Activity Center Lounge

Oct. 27 LSU-Shreveport,  
University Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Oct. 28 LSU-Alexandria,  
Brumfield Cafey Annex

Oct 29 Lafayette  
Chenier Auditorium

Nov. 9 UNO, Grand Ballroom,  
Student Union

Nov. 10 Baton Rouge, Pennington Center,  
Main Auditorium

## LSU student gives LOSFA a new look

*"I loved having the opportunity to hone my graphic design skills in a professional publications environment," Olcsvary said. "Working for LOSFA has been an invaluable experience in enhancing my education."*

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) provided LSU graphic design student Erin Olcsvary with a summer internship as a student worker in LOSFA's publications section, where she redesigned several of the agency's logos and images.

In addition to creating the new artwork, Olcsvary also fashioned a new layout design for the agency's periodicals, The Newline and the STARTing Line. She also redesigned the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) brochures and helped create an Eighth Grade Guide to Higher Education for distribution to Louisiana middle schools.

A 2001 graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School and a TOPS Opportunity Award recipient, Olcsvary previously was a member of the parish-wide Talented Art Program. Olcsvary plans to receive a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a concentration in graphic design from LSU in 2006, after which she intends to seek employment in an advertising or public relations firm.



*Erin Olcsvary, student worker in graphic design, creates LOSFA's new logos at her work station in the Publications Section.*



*The new Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) logo designed by Olcsvary is an easily recognizable image for parents, students and educators.*



*Echoing the efficiency of the state guarantee operation, Olcsvary's redesigned loan logo displays a streamlined look.*



*Olcsvary redesigned the LOSFA state pelican, creating a fresh new face for the agency's signature logo.*

*LOSFA's Trailblazer Camps point high school students in the right direction, toward available sources of financial aid for higher education. As illustrated by the new logo, Olcsvary's creative vision of the program captures the diversity, camaraderie and common goal of Trailblazers.*

## Trailblazer Camps provide fun and learning in collegiate atmosphere ●

**A** total of 190 high school seniors attended the eleventh annual Trailblazer Camps held at Northwestern State University (NSU) in Natchitoches, July 11-13 and at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) in Hammond, July 25-27. This year, Sen. John J. Hainkel Jr. was featured as keynote speaker at SLU.

Each year, high school guidance counselors select outstanding college-bound seniors to attend the fun-filled summer camps that are situated on an inspiring college campus.

While at camp, the Trailblazers receive extensive training in state scholarship programs (including the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – TOPS), college admissions procedures, financial aid applications, federal grant and loan programs, career choices and surfing the Web for alternative postsecondary funding sources.

This unique experience provides campers with food and overnight accommodations in a college dormitory. During the three-day and two-night adventure, Trailblazers participate in workshops, training sessions and contests. Between working sessions, campers have the opportunity to get to know their peers from across the state, as well as learn more about life on campus. Evenings are devoted to fun activities and entertainment.

When the Trailblazers return to their high schools in the fall, they are well equipped to share their knowledge and expertise with fellow students, under the supervision of guidance counselors.



*Left: Trailblazers mingle on the steps at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. Camp registration sign-in and dorm assignments give campers their first opportunity to meet with peers from across the state and make new friends.*

*Right: Campers assemble in a Southeastern Louisiana University classroom, prepared for a comprehensive training session on financial aid opportunities available for higher education.*



## TRAILBLAZER CAMP 2004



*Left: Campers participate in team building exercises during a break between training sessions at Southeastern Louisiana University.*



*Above: Sen. John J. Hainkel Jr. delivers the keynote address at the opening of the Southeastern Louisiana University Trailblazer Camp.*



*Above: Trailblazers at Northwestern State University contemplate their strategy while waiting for their chance to perform as teammates in camp learning activities.*



*Above: Trailblazers at Southeastern Louisiana University stay on top of the learning curve and have fun at the same time.*



*Above: Campers at Northwestern State University play a competitive game of Life, in keeping with this year's Trailblazer Camp theme: "Life: Get In The Game."*

# NEWSLINE

Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
P.O. Box 91202  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

*Newsline* is a publication offering recent technical, procedural and feature information related to the scholarship/grant programs of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance. This publication also contains material related to Federal Title IV Student Aid Programs. While LOSFA believes that the information herein is accurate and factual, this publication has not been reviewed nor approved by the U.S. Department of Education.



Additions to the distribution list and articles for publication should be submitted to:  
*Newsline* Editor, P.O. Box 91202,  
Baton Rouge, La. 70821-9202.

## CONTACT LOSFA:



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



For more info, links, etc:  
[www.osfa.state.la.us](http://www.osfa.state.la.us)



Public Information and Communications  
(formerly Customer Services):  
(800) 259-5626, Ext. 1012  
or (225) 922-1012



For more info, address changes, etc:  
[newsline@osfa.state.la.us](mailto:newsline@osfa.state.la.us)

**NEWSLINE STAFF**  
The LOSFA Public Information and Communications Division  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
Dawn Love  
**Copy/Layout Editor**  
Janice Lovett

### CONTRIBUTORS

Glenda Bocking  
*Public Information and Communications*  
Sujuan Boutte  
*Executive*  
Ricky Boyett  
*Public Information and Communications*  
Kennon Clayton  
*Default Recoveries*  
Terri Finley  
*START*  
Jeanne Forcheimer  
*Default Prevention*  
Christy Marchand  
*Executive*  
Nicole Moliere  
*Default Prevention*  
Erin Olsvary  
*Public Information and Communications*  
Kristen O'Neil  
*Public Information and Communications*

This public document was published at a total cost of \$2,047.80. Two thousand copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$2,047.80. The total cost of all printing of this document including reprints is \$2,047.80. This document was published by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, La. 70821-9202 and printed by LSU Graphic Services, 3555 River Road, Baton Rouge, La. 70803-8201 to provide additional training and information to schools, lenders and students in order to use and administer student financial aid programs more effectively, under special exemption by the Division of Administration. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S.43:31.