

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Melanie Amrhein

Instead of talking financial aid this month and instead of sending you all an April Fool's prank, I read something I'd like to pass on to all of you. As I get older, I think about life's lessons, so the 45 life lessons listed from someone who has seen 90 years go by are worth passing on. Some are helpful, some thoughtful, some thought provoking and some sentimental, so toss out those you don't care for, but there will be one or two (or 45) that may alter your perspective today and we all could use that from time to time. Here's hoping we all get to write such a list at age 90.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short – enjoy it.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

- Melanie

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LOSFA Launches Third Annual “FLY” Tour

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is set to launch its third annual “Financial Literacy for You (FLY) Tour.” The live performance, which is written and performed by LOSFA’s Public Information and Communications staff members Kendra Woods, Britt Kelly, Justin Marshall and Ebony Holmes, will be presented at select high schools throughout the state from April 15-19.

The program will deal with everything from credit and money management to financial aid for college and will attempt to impress upon high school students the impact that a variety of financial decisions made early in their lives can have on their long term futures. The production will also highlight a number of the college access, scholarship, and grant programs administered by LOSFA.

The FLY tour will take place during April, which is recognized in the United States as National Financial Literacy Month. In 2000, The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy began promoting April as Financial Literacy for Youth Month in an effort to highlight the importance of financial literacy and teach Americans how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits.

In 2003, the United States Senate designated April as Financial Literacy for Youth Month. In March 2004 the Senate passed Resolution 316 that officially recognized April as National Financial Literacy Month.

Check the schedule below for dates and locations of this year’s FLY Tour.

FLY Tour Schedule 2013

Monday, April 15th

9 a.m. – Many High School
100 Tiger Drive Many, La

1:30 p.m. – Bolton High School
2101 Vance Avenue Alexandria, La

Tuesday, April 16th

9 a.m. – Avoyelles High School
287 Main Street Moreauville, LA

1:30 p.m. – Zachary High School
4100 Bronco Lane Zachary, LA

Wednesday, April 17th

9 a.m. – Eleanor McMain High School
5712 S. Claiborne Avenue New Orleans, LA

1 p.m. – Sarah T Reed High School
5316 Michoud Blvd. New Orleans, LA

Friday, April 19th

9 a.m. – Carencro High School
721 West Butcher Switch Road Lafayette, LA

1:30 p.m. – Hammond High School
45168 River Road Hammond, LA

Go Grant Webinar Scheduled for May 1st

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance's (LOSFA) Scholarship and Grant Division will host a Webinar, Go Grant 2013-2014, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 1st.

The Go Grant 2013-2014 Webinar is expected to last approximately one hour and will include an overview of the new Go Grant Framework and resulting changes to the billing process.

If you have questions concerning this webinar, please contact Bonnie Lavergne, Special Programs Administrator at Bonnie.Lavergne@la.gov or 225-219-7714.

Instructions for participation:



LOG ON to: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>

Enter Meeting Number: 8885578511

Enter Code: 6978014

Enter your e-mail address

Enter your name

Click "Submit"

On the next screen, click "Participant"

Then, click "Submit"

CALL IN by dialing 1-888-557-8511

Enter access code 6978014 to join the meeting



Louisiana GEAR UP Announces Summer Transition Programs

Louisiana GEAR UP has funded Summer Transition Programs (STPs) for 2013 at four universities. In total, fifteen individual weeks of STP programming will occur throughout June and July serving up to 860 rising 11th and 12th graders from the 30 Louisiana GEAR UP Participating high schools from across the State.

This summer STPs will provide ACT preparation, planning for the practical aspects of applying for college and financial aid using the Louisiana

Connect College & Career Readiness web portal, as well as an immersion in the college life experience to participating students. Additionally, some STPs will provide Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, & Mathematics (STEAM), or career exploration themed programming.



Summer Transition Program titles and partner universities

Grambling State University

- College Success Scholars: Pathways to ACT Mastery

Louisiana State University

- LSU Summer Transition Program for STEM Learning

Louisiana Tech University

- Reaching Beyond Our Limits with STEM
- Soaring Through the Skies with STEM
- Sports STARS: Striving Together to Achieve Readiness and Success
- Storytelling: My Story, My Dream, My Plan

Nicholls State University

- Success "By-You"

Applications Being Accepted for John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is currently accepting applications for the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program.

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program in Louisiana provides for the payment of eligible educational loans (both Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP] and Federal Direct Loans) for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors employed in Louisiana who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years.

This year there are six \$5,000 awards for public defenders and 12 \$2,500 awards for prosecutors.

The application is now available and the deadline to apply is April 30, 2013. To check eligibility requirements

orto apply, visit <http://www.osfa.la.gov/index.jsp?SRC=/jrjustice.htm>. There is no paper application for the award; the online application is the only accepted application.

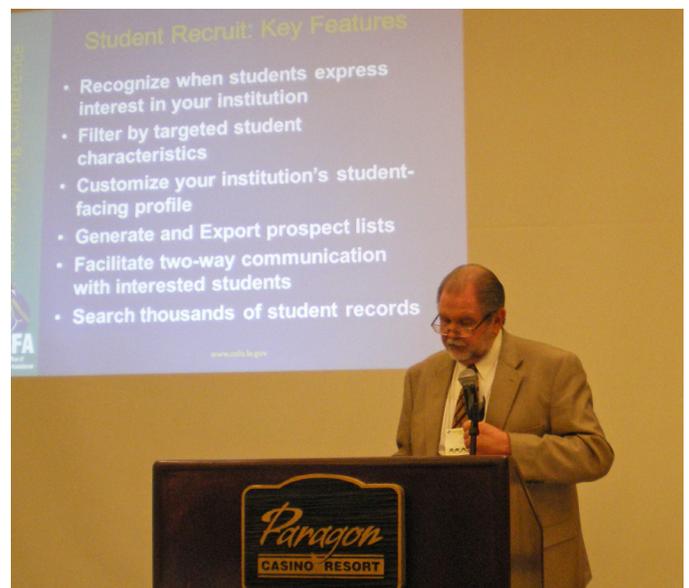


LOSFA Representatives Attend LASFAA Conference

Members of LOSFA's staff attended the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) Conference on March 28 at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville to present information about LOSFA programs.



LOSFA's Scholarships and Grants Director Deborah Paul presented Go Grant program update information.



LOSFA's Public Information Director Gus Wales gave conference attendees information about LOSFA programs.

LOSFA Preparing for 20th Anniversary Trailblazer Camp

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will hold its 20th annual Trailblazer camps this summer. The first camp will be held at Northwestern in Natchitoches on July 14-16. The second camp will be at Nicholls in Thibodaux on July 21-23. This year marks the sixth time that Nicholls has hosted a camp and the 19th for Northwestern.

Trailblazer camps are comprehensive, three-day training workshops conducted by financial aid professionals for the purpose of educating selected high school students about the college admissions process and about how to obtain financial assistance for postsecondary education. Attendees receive training on a variety of subjects, such as TOPS, FAFSA, Financial Aid, College Goal Sunday, Financial Literacy and other LOSFA programs.

After attending camp, Trailblazers return to their high schools and, under the supervision of their professional school counselor, share their knowledge of financial aid procedures with their peers.

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the first Trailblazer camps were held in 1994. LOSFA will celebrate the occasion with special activities during the camps. Throughout the last 19 years, 3,261 students have gone through the program. LOSFA is hoping to draw a record number of attendees to this year's camps.

To participate, a high school must nominate a qualified current junior who is enthusiastic about the opportunity of being a Trailblazer. To be considered, students must be college bound, academically outstanding, effective public speakers and leaders among their peers. The success of the program depends solely upon the students' initiative in disseminating the information they have learned.

Professional school counselors who have a student that they would like to nominate may do so by visiting <https://www.osfa.la.gov/outreach/faces/jsf/trblazer/tbnReg1.jsp>.

For more information on the Trailblazer Program, please contact Jerri Mack at jerri.mack@la.gov.



LOSFA's Social Media Sites



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



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



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



www.Flickr.com/LOSFA



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

By Phone: 800-259-5626

By E-mail: custserv@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 Gus Wales at Gus.Wales@la.gov.