



Student Service Updates

Letter from the Director

As we approach the end of another fiscal year, it has been a busy summer in Student Service. We have lots of information to share with you in this edition of the *Student Service Updates*.

On page 3, you will find an introduction to Dr. Debra Saunders-White, who was recently appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Higher Education Programs (HEP). HEP is the division in the Office of Postsecondary Education that oversees the Student Service area. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Saunders-White.

We are also pleased to provide updates on a number of Student Service initiatives currently underway, including the Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, and GEAR UP program competitions, as well as annual performance report updates and information.

Thank you for your service and best wishes for the start of the new school year.

Sincerely,

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.
Director, Student Service

Talent Search Competition Update

Congratulations to the 435 applicants in the FY 2011 Talent Search (TS) grant competition who received notification in July that their projects were funded. Forty-five of these projects are new and 390 are currently operating.

Using approximately \$131 million in available funds, the Department rank

-order funded the top applications based on the total score assigned the application. All 435 successful applications received a total score of 100.00 points or higher. The total score is the average score assigned to the application by the three non-Federal peer reviewers who assessed it, plus any prior experience (PE) points that were earned
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Talent Search (TS) Competition Update (*continued*)

by operating a current Talent Search project. Under Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subsection 643.22, currently funded applicants can earn up to 15 PE points for a competition if their projects met the objectives outlined in their application during previous years.

Additional TS projects will be funded following the outcome of a

second review process, which was established by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and implemented by the regulations in 34 CFR 643.24. In this process, 54 unsuccessful applications with scores above 98.83 and below 100.00 were notified that they fell in a “funding band” and were therefore eligible to request a second review if they could document that there was an adminis-

trative or scoring error in the first review of the application. Funding band applicants were given until July 29 to submit a request for a second review. After the completion of the second review process, the Department will rank-order fund the top scoring applications in the funding band, based on the amount of Federal funds available.

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Update

The closing date for EOC applications was May 23, 2011. The review process for all eligible applications is complete. Student Service anticipates funding 124 grants for a five year grant cycle that begins September 1, 2011. We plan to notify successful applicants of their funding status on or before August 31, 2011.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial is the first on the National Mall to honor a man of color, whose message of hope and peace continues to resonate with us today. The official dedication will occur on Sunday, August 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. King’s historic *I Have A Dream* speech. For additional information, please go to:

<http://www.mlkmemorial.org/>

2011 Federal TRIO Program Appropriation Update

The Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, P.L. 112-10, was passed by Congress on April 15, 2011. It provides funding for the Department of Education for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2011.

The FY 2011 appropriation for the Federal TRIO Programs is \$826,521,644, approximately 3.1 percent below the 2010 level. For the Student Support Services, Upward Bound, McNair, and TRIO Training programs, an across-the-board reduction of approximately 3.1 percent will be applied to grants for which continuation awards are made in FY 2011. Many of you have already received Grant Award Notifications reflecting this update.

In addition, the funding allotted for the FY 2011 competitions for new awards under the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers programs has been reduced by approximately 2 percent. Competitions run in FY 2011 had a slightly smaller decrease than other TRIO programs because some costs were offset by the availability of evaluation funds.

Additional information regarding the FY 2011 budget is available at the following link:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/2011-program-budget.html>

Introducing Debra Saunders–White, Ed.D.



Dr. Debra Saunders-White was appointed by the White House and began her duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs (HEP) in the U.S. Department of Education in May 2011. She serves as the assistant secretary's chief advisor on higher-education programs administering more than 60 programs, totaling nearly \$3 billion annually. HEP supports higher education facilities and programs through financial support to eligible institutions, and management of

programs that recruit and prepare disadvantaged students for successful completion of college. Notable among its programs are the nine TRIO programs, institutional development programs for minority-serving institutions, teacher development programs, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Prior to coming to Washington, DC, Dr. Saunders-White was one of the seven University of North Carolina (UNC) Wilmington senior officers and was chair of the UNC System Chief Information Officer Council.

GEAR UP Update

The GEAR UP program continues to move forward with a jam-packed summer, which included fielding questions regarding the fiscal year 2011 competition. Approximately 300 eligible applications were received via Grants.gov by the closing date of July 14, 2011. The Student Service office anticipates finalizing the review process during the late summer of 2011. The Department anticipates that successful applicants will be notified on or before September 26, 2011.

The GEAR UP staff also presented information on performance reporting and matching Federal dollars at the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships annual conference held in San Francisco on July 17- July 20, 2011. Several Department

staff members attended the annual conference to participate in workshops that highlighted the best GEAR UP programs across the United States. GEAR UP grantees also conducted in-depth workshops on key issues in college access, parental involvement, financial preparation and data driven success models.

The GEAR UP staff was also excited to attend the annual Youth Leadership Summit during the conference. This event provides GEAR UP students a unique opportunity to discuss the impact Federal funds are having in improving their personal and academic lives.

Secretary's Supplemental Priorities

The Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has announced priorities and definitions to be used for any appropriate discretionary grant program in fiscal year (FY) 2011 and future years, including those programs administered by the Student Service area. The Secretary's priorities help to focus Federal financial assistance on expanding the Department of Education's support activities in areas of greatest educational need. The priorities are implemented through the grant competition process.

Please see the link below to review the Secretary's priorities, especially those that focus on areas relevant to the scope of the Student Service programs. As we work to align Student Service programs with the approved Secretary's priorities, you may see these priorities again in upcoming competitions for grants under the Student Service area.

<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/05/12/2011-11650/supplemental-priorities-for-discretionary-grant-programs#h-11>

Annual Performance Report (APR) Updates and Information

Student Support Services (SSS) APR Information

The Department takes this opportunity to acknowledge those grantees that provided constructive feedback during both public commenting periods regarding suggested revisions to the new SSS APR. Based on grantee feedback, the Department made several changes that will further improve the data collection and reporting processes. Grantees will begin using this new form for the 2010-11 reporting year.

In addition to revising the SSS APR for the new grant cycle (2010-2015), the Department is making changes to the APR data collection process for the SSS program to improve transparency in the calculation of prior experience (PE) points and to ultimately provide SSS grantees with their PE points at the time of the APR submission. To achieve this goal, the Department needs grantees to include on their APRs, for each reporting year, all participants that were served in the timeframe needed to calculate PE points (e.g., six years for four-year institutions and four years for two-year institutions). This

will require grantees to add back to the APR data file some participant records (e.g., prior-year participants no longer served). So that grantees know which participant records need to be included on the 2010-11 APR and to ensure that the Department has accurate information on these participants, the Department is implementing this fall a one-time student verification process that will occur prior to the regular SSS APR submission process. Grantees will be required to review the Department's list of participant records to be included on their 2010-11 APR and correct, if necessary, a participant's Social Security Number (SSN), First and Last Name, Date of Birth, and Student Cohort Year. Grantees will have approximately six weeks, starting in October 2011, to verify and update information as needed. The Department anticipates that the regular APR submission process will begin in early January, 2012 with an APR due date of mid-February, 2012. Should this new process prove successful, the Department expects to be able to give SSS grantees their PE scores annually beginning next year with the fall 2012 APR data collection (reporting year 2011-12).

"Heads Up" on Race and Ethnicity Collection Guidelines for APRs

In October 2007, the Department released guidance on how grantees should collect, maintain and report data on race and ethnicity, to be implemented no later than fall 2010 for the 2010-11 school year. The guidance can be found at the following websites: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.pdf> ; or <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.html>

Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, and Upward Bound programs (Regular, Math-Science and Veterans) grantees have been provided the above guidance since the 2008-09 APR Instructions. The Department acknowledges and appreciates those grantees that have already implemented the changes and wants to reiterate that all TS, EOC, and UB/UBMS/VUB grantees will be required to adhere to the new guidelines in preparation for the 2010-11 APR sub-

mission.

Student Support Services and McNair grantees will find more information on the new requirements in the 2010-11 APR Instructions. The Department realizes that some grantees may not have implemented the new collection requirements for the 2010-11 project year. As such, *to the extent possible* for the 2010-11 APR, the Department advises grantees to report race and ethnicity information on participants as required. Beginning with the 2011-12 APR, all grantees will be required to collect and report race and ethnicity information on all participants in accordance with the new guidance. The 2010-11 APRs for both SSS and McNair will include field changes and additions to reflect the new reporting requirement. For additional information, refer to the 2010-11 APR Instructions that will be available this fall.

Growing up TRIO: Chaz Gipson

Note:

All grantees should contact your designated grants management specialist as the first line of communication with any programmatic issue or concern.

The Office of Postsecondary Education, a division within the U.S. Department of Education, is excited to have Mr. Chaz Gipson among its 2011 summer interns.

Chaz is a 2011 graduate of Morehouse College with a BA Degree in Sociology and Public Health Science. Chaz started his journey with the Talent Search program and later with the Upward Bound program. He was also able to successfully complete his course work at Morehouse College with assistance from the Student Support Services program.

Chaz was an active participant in the Ronald E. McNair program and won first place at the 15th Annual Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference presenting on "How Do Health Beliefs Affect Health Behaviors Among African American Male College Students." Chaz was the recipient of the Ronald E. McNair Award of Excellence and the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship.

Chaz credits TRIO and all of his mentors (including Dr. Ruby Byrd, Marshall Troup, Brock Mayers, Malcolm Williams, Munichia McCalla, Michael Maxwell, Dr. Patrice Prince and Dr. Terry Mills) for helping him to become a Servant Leader and looks forward to what is yet to come in the next stage of his life.

Upward Bound and McNair APR Submissions

Given that these programs will be competing in FY 2012, grantees are strongly encouraged to submit their APRs early (i.e., prior to the due date) in order to give the Department ample time to calculate grantees' Prior Experience (PE) points. The programs' APR web applications will be available starting in early October for the Upward Bound programs and early November for the McNair program.

Upward Bound Pre-Application Workshops

The Upward Bound program competition is quickly approaching, though we do not have a deadline at this time. Student Service will conduct 10 pre-application workshops this fall. Please mark your calendars with the following dates of the first two sessions: Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in Detroit, Michigan; and Wednesday, September 28, 2011 in Washington, DC, at the end of the COE conference. The locations and dates of the eight other workshops will be announced at a later time. These workshops will include in-person sessions, as well as webinars! Be sure to check our website, where new information will be posted as it becomes available.

Check out the College Affordability and Transparency Center website, a great new tool for deciding which college to attend!

<http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/>

COE Annual Conference:

September 25–28, 2011

Please plan to join Student Service during any of the six sessions that will be held during the Council for Opportunity in Education's 30th Annual Conference on September 25-28, 2011 at the Washington Hilton and Towers. This year's theme is "America's Future – The Role of Education in Our National Security." Senior staff will present relevant and timely information regarding each of the following topics:

- **Update on Process for Awarding Prior Experience Points for Upward Bound Projects**
- **Update on Process for Awarding Prior Experience Points for McNair Projects**
- **Understanding the New Student Support Services (SSS) Annual Performance Report (APR)**
- **Update for GEAR UP and TRIO Talent Search Directors**
- **Update for Educational Opportunity Centers Program Directors**
- **Update for Veterans Upward Bound Directors**

We look forward to seeing each of you in September, and we congratulate COE as they finalize preparations for what promises to be a wonderful event!

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) in the Spotlight

The Graduate Assistance in the Areas of National Need (GAANN) program, new to the Student Service, Undergraduate and Graduate Programs Division, awards discretionary grants through academic departments and programs of U.S. accredited institutions of higher education. In order to maximize teaching and research opportunities, GAANN grants provide fellowships to exceptional students who are pursuing the highest postsecondary degrees available in the areas of national need designated by the Secretary and who demonstrate financial need. Program Manager Rebecca Green shares that she is rewarded daily by her efforts "when a student discovers they actually *like* to teach or proceeds to a career in teaching, research or post-

doctoral work." One former University of Alabama GAANN fellow recently became a NASA Postdoctoral Fellow in the study of Physics. Also, in rare instances, a grantee institution, such as the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, receives an enormous opportunity to submit patent and trademark documentation on behalf of one of their GAANN fellows. Founded in 1988, the GAANN program now joins the cadre of high-quality Student Service programs in their mission to support the Secretary's goal: to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. For further information regarding its upcoming fiscal year 2012 competition, refer to the Student Service Home Page at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/student->

Important Dates

- **SSS APR Verification Process:** Early October – Mid-November, 2011
- **SSS APR Regular Submission :** Early January – Mid-February, 2012
- **UB and UBMS APR Web Applications Available:** Estimated early October, 2011; UB APR due date November 30, 2011; UBMS APR due December 31, 2011
- **VUB and McNair APR Web Application Available:** Estimated early November, 2011
- **TS and EOC APR submission:** November 1-30, 2011
- **UB Pre-Application Workshops*:** Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in Detroit, Michigan; and Wednesday, September 28, 2011 in Washington, DC, at the end of the COE conference. (*Please note the schedule for the other eight workshops is not yet finalized.)
- **COE Annual Conference:** September 25 -28, 2011

Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS Updates? Please send ReShone Moore an email at ReShone.Moore@ed.gov