

# SLGFA E-Updates

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**E-UPDATES** is an electronic newsletter sponsored and operated by the Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas (SLGFA) to provide program information to schools and lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### 1. **SLGFA 2005 Conference: Mixing Adventure, Education, Food and Music**

SLGFA: Knights of the Loan Table conference promises to be an educational adventure for those who attend on Thursday and Friday, March 10-11, 2005, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock. Information about the agenda, special interest sessions, Thursday evening's entertainment and more are now available. Central Region Director Ms. Deborah Keene from Heifer Project International will be the guest speaker for Thursday's lunch. Click on the following link to register, and then click on the Conference Agenda link to learn more about the conference events:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/conference/2005/index.asp>

### 2. **AASFAA Sponsored TV Programs Enhance Financial Aid Awareness**

Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN) and KATV Channel 7 hosted financial aid awareness programs in February, which were sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA). The complete story can be read by clicking on the provided link:

[http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/05TVFA\\_Awareness.asp](http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/05TVFA_Awareness.asp)

### 3. **Common Manual**

The most recent revisions to the *Common Manual*, approved **January 20, 2005, (Batch 118)** by the *Common Manual* Governing Board are currently available. More information about Revisions to the *Common Manual* can be found by clicking the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/cm-revisions/Januaryrevisions/Jan2005revisions/Batch118.asp>

### 4. **E-Legislation**

In customary fashion, both parties in the Senate used the beginning of the 109th Congress to introduce their top ten bills for the current two-year session of Congress. Higher education was included as part of their separate agendas. To read more about Washington, D.C. activities, click on the following link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/E-Legislation/E-Legislation02-11-05.asp>

### 5. **Student Aid Gauntlet Report Suggests Simplified Financial Aid**

The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance submitted final recommendations on how to simplify the federal student application process in a report titled, *The Student Aid Gauntlet*. More about *The Student Aid Gauntlet* can be read by clicking on the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/StudentAidGauntlet.asp>

### 6. **Mortarboard FYI**

A report from Education Trust, a Washington-based policy group, challenges college graduation rates. According to the report, fewer than six out of 10 students complete college within six years, and higher education institutions could do much more to improve such completion rates. The report concludes that while several factors such as the academic preparation of the students, the availability of financial aid, and the amount of spending on instruction and student advising, play crucial roles in graduation rates. For more information about this and an interactive web site, click on following link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/updates/MortarboardFYI/MFY021105.asp>

## 7. Financial Aid Groups Hold Meeting

The National Council of Higher Education Loan Policy (NCHELP), Federal Student Aid (FSA) and the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) combined resources to hold a complimentary NCHELP/FSA NSLDS work group for an informational three-day program to be held Monday-Wednesday, March 7-9, 2005 in Crystal City, Va. For more information about the work group and registration, click on the provided link:  
[http://www.nchelp.org/conferences/event\\_detail.cfm?id=81](http://www.nchelp.org/conferences/event_detail.cfm?id=81)

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