



ASSISTANCE ADVISOR

Fall 2013
Volume 1, Issue 4

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues:

As we embark on a new academic year, it is gratifying that HESAA's scholarship expertise is being recognized and utilized beyond our traditional constituencies. Two recent collaborations come to mind.

Earlier this year, HESAA and the Schools Development Authority (SDA) began discussions about a program the SDA wished to fund for women and minority students pursuing training in construction related industries. As a result of these discussions, in June, Governor Christie announced the New Jersey Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship (NJ-GIVS). This scholarship pays up to \$2,000 a year for enrollment in a non-degree certificate program in a construction related field at any of New Jersey's 19 community colleges. (At the end of this newsletter is an NJ-GIVS FAQ.)

First Lady Mary Pat Christie's office also solicited HESAA's expertise on the "Spirit of a Hero" scholarships offered by the First Lady's foundation. One scholarship recognizes students who have made significant contributions to their communities through community service. The other scholarship recognizes veterans. For more information please go to www.newjerseyheroes.org.

While we are always happy to assist with any effort to make post-secondary education more affordable and accessible, job number one at HESAA remains the administration of the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program. At its July, 2013 Board meeting, the HESAA Board adopted the academic year 2013-2014 TAG and Part-Time TAG award tables. The tables distributed \$341 million in TAG funds and \$11.2 million Part-Time TAG monies. Since FY10, a combined \$95.9 million in new state funds has been added to these two programs.

At HESAA, we wish all our students and institutions a successful 2013-2014 academic year. Please know, we are here to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Charette, Esq.

Upcoming Events

**AICUNJ Financial Aid
Directors Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2013
AICUNJ Office Summit**

**Payment Roster Certification
Training for State Colleges
Friday, Oct. 25, 2013
Registration - 9 to 10 a.m.
Training - 10 a.m. to noon
HESAA Offices**

**NJASFAA Conference
November 4, 5, 6
Atlantic City
State Update (Nov. 6)**

**HESAA Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 12,
2013
10:00 a.m.
HESAA Offices**

Grants and Scholarships

New Director

Larry Sharp has been promoted to Director of Grants and Scholarships. Larry can be reached at 609-588-3289 or lsharp@hesaa.org.

Change to Short AIRs

Although students who have already earned an Associate Degree are not eligible to receive TAG, Part-time TAG or NJ STARS to earn a second Associate Degree, the short AIRs will no longer ask students enrolled at community colleges if they have an Associate Degree. When certifying their rosters, financial aid officers at the Community Colleges will be confirming a student has not already earned an Associate Degree. For more information contact: Josette Greene at 609-588-8188 or jgreene@hesaa.org.

TAG Follow-up Letters

The Verification Unit revamped its TAG follow-up letters making it easier for students and families to determine the information/documentation needed to complete verification of their file. A sample of the new follow up letter and a list of TAG dictionary items associated with these letters is available via E-administrator. For more information contact: Pilar Sanchez at 609-588-3235 or psanchez@hesaa.org.

24/7 Grant Access

Financial Aid Officers now have 24/7 access to view student grant information. Go to HESAA.org, log in and select option "NJ Grants View." Please note, NJ Grants View is limited in functionality and is not replacing E-Administrator at this time. NJ Grants View was designed to provide information during those time periods when E-Administrator is not available such as holidays, weekends and after normal business hours.

Loans

NJCLASS

NJCLASS volume has been swift. The 10-year principal and interest loan, the fully deferred loan and the Graduate loan are all fully subscribed and no longer available. The 15-year principal and interest and interest only loans are still available. Consolidation loans are also still available.

Federal Loans

On August 9, 2013, President Obama signed the "Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013." Effective retroactively to July 1, 2013 the various federal loans will carry the following rates for the Academic Year 2013-2014:

Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized	3.86%
Stafford Graduate	5.41%
Grad PLUS and Parent PLUS	6.41%

Training Tip

In an effort to increase our responsiveness to the financial aid community, HESAA has assigned a **Customer Support Representative** to each college/university.

To find your Customer Support Representative, visit:

- * E-administrator
- * E-library
- * Customer Support Representative List by Institution

Other contacts for Financial Aid Professionals:

Technical Support:
Magda Torres
609-588-2913

Training /Marketing:
Sharon Austin
609-588-3136

Compliance and Quality Assurance

Before NJ STARS award funds are disbursed, community colleges are responsible for receiving students' final high school transcripts and verifying that students graduated in the top 15.0% of the high school class. For further information please refer to [N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-85](#). Questions may also be directed to Gena Carapezza, Director of Audits & Quality Assurance at gcarapezza@hesaa.org or 609-584-4026.

High School Counselor Training Institute

HESAA will be hosting its annual Training Institute for high school counselors again this year. As high school counselors are most students' first point of contact along the road of college planning and financial aid, it is critical that they have the correct information to point students in the right direction. The following dates and locations have been confirmed:

- October 18, 2013 Bergen Community College
- October 24, 2013 Rider University
- October 30, 2013 Wyndham Philadelphia-Mount Laurel Hotel
- October 31, 2013 Georgian Court University
- November 14, 2013 Seton Hall University
- November 19, 2013 Richard Stockton College of NJ

Contact Us



**New Jersey Higher Education
Student Assistance Authority**
4 Quakerbridge Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08625
www.hesaa.org

Telephone – 609-588-3226

General Business Hours
Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

HESAA Customer Care Line
609-584-4480 (English and Español)
Monday through Thursday 8 am to 8 pm
Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Grants and Scholarships
609-588-3268

NJCLASS
609-584-4480

Lender and School Relations
609-588-3136

Fax Numbers

Tuition Aid Grant
Fax #....609-588-2228
Loan Servicing and Collections
Fax #....609-588-7285
NJCLASS Loan Origination/Processing
Fax #....609-631-6730

HESAA Technical Support

609-588-3315 (for user ID, password, login
and registration Issues)

HESAA is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue education beyond the high school level. With roots dating back to 1959, HESAA's singular focus has always been the benefit of the students we serve.



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Are both non-credit and credit-bearing certificate programs eligible for funding under NJ-GIVS?

Answer: Yes.

Question: *For students enrolled in credit bearing certificate programs is there a minimum number of credits or a minimum length of time the program must span?*

Answer: No.

Question: *Are students enrolled in Associate Degree programs eligible for the NJ-GIVS scholarship?*

Answer: No. This program is specifically limited to "**non-degree**" certificate programs.

Question: *Can students receive an NJ-GIVS award for part-time attendance?*

Answer: Yes. Students who choose to go part-time, however, should be advised that the award is only renewable once, on a first come first served basis, subject to the availability of funds.

Question: *HESAA's application states that the filing deadline is October 1, 2013, will renewal students have until October 1, 2014 to apply for NJ-GIVS or will they have to apply by June 1 similar to renewal TAG students?*

Answer: Renewal NJ-GIVS students will have until October 1, 2014 to file their NJ-GIVS application. Their FAFSA, however, must be filed by June 1, 2014. Students who wait until the October 1st deadline run the risk of not being funded if all available resources have been exhausted by that point.

Question: *Does the student need to be a resident of the county in which he/she is attending an NJ-GIVS funded program?*

Answer: No.

Question: *How will NJ-GIVS awards be applied when there is federal aid and/or program costs are less than or greater than the \$2,000 scholarship?*

Answer: NJ-GIVS pays for direct enrollment costs, up to \$2,000 less any federal aid.