

EDITOR: HENRY SAAS
XAVIER UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Pet's Corner**
- Recipe Corner
- Mascot Cross-
word Puzzle



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Between Bursars

Upcoming Meetings: Spring Conference, April 29th– May 1st, 2015

VOL. 20 NO. 2

MARCH 25, 2015

The President's Corner

By LORI MCKEE

Could it be? Could it be?
Could it possibly be the end
of that white stuff on the
ground, subzero tempera-
tures, school delays and
school closings? Could it
possibly be time for spring? I
am sure hoping so.

With the coming of spring,
also comes many great
things for the Ohio Bursars
Association. The first being
the Spring Conference. I am
looking forward to the con-
ference that will be held
April 29 – May 1 at Maumee
Bay State Park Resort. This
year's host is Stephanie Blau-
sley from the University of
Toledo. If you haven't al-
ready done so, you can regis-
ter online at

www.ohiobursars.org.

Also during the Spring Confer-
ence will be the conclusion of
my term as President of the
OBA. What an exciting year
that we have had. We have
successfully completed all pa-
perwork required to be recog-
nized as an organization with
the State of Ohio. And we have
received our Employer Identifi-
cation Number. Our next step
is to identify a CPA who has the
ability to file for tax exempt
status. We have identified a
statutory agent to ensure that
the OBA remains in compliance
with all filing requirements to
maintain our status with the
State of Ohio as well as tax ex-
empt status. I would be remiss
if I did not give a huge shout
out to Henry Saas for his role in

getting us to this point.

Please keep in mind that the OBA
exists "To provide a forum for the
discussion of common concerns and
the interchange of ideas and infor-
mation of interest to institutions of
higher education; to gather and pro-
vide an opportunity for common
voice and participation in broader
concerns of higher education of the
state and federal levels; to provide
for professional development of its
members by promoting conference,
seminars, and other related educa-
tional activities." I again would like
to encourage each and every mem-
ber to use the OBA as a tool for gain-
ing knowledge and friendships that
can last a lifetime.

Thank you to all that have supported
me during my year of serving you as
President and I look forward to see-
ing you all at the OBA Spring Confer-
ence.

In Your Service,

Lori McKee

Membership Corner

By CHRISTY EGLER

This year, the Ohio Bursars
Association welcomed Frank-
lin University and Terra State
Community College to our
membership and welcomed
back our friends at the Uni-
versity of Mt. Union. In addi-
tion, Point Across Solutions
and FrontStream became
new Business Partners, while
ERS returned to our organiza-
tion. Please join me in wel-
coming our newest OBA

members!

The Board has recently re-
ceived applications from a
few other *new* Business Part-
ners and we hope to be able
to announce their member-
ship very soon! As always, the
OBA Board encourages our
current institutional and Busi-
ness Partner members to
help us recruit new members
throughout the year. Our
organization continues to
remain vibrant with the addi-

tion of new (or returning)
members that bring with
them fresh perspectives, ide-
as, and industry knowledge.
On a final note, I will be com-
pleting my service as the OBA
Membership-at-Large repre-
sentative at the conclusion of
the Spring Conference so if
you are considering serving
the Association in some way,
please consider this position.
Feel free to reach out to me
directly to learn more about
this position on the Board.

Be great!

Christy



Perkins Student Loan Program Status Update

By KAREN REDDICK

First and foremost - The fate of the Perkins Program has not yet been determined and can only be determined by Congress, NOT the Department of Education. The Department of Education recently sent out a Dear Colleague Letter to give guidance on the “wind-down” of the Program if the program expires and Congress does not act. The Higher Education Act expires on September 30,

2015, which encompasses all Title IV programs, not just Perkins. Congress needs to either pass a reauthorization bill by that date or an extension. It took 5 years and at least 13 extensions during the last reauthorization process before President Bush signed a bill in August 2008. Congress can also introduce a standalone bill to extend Perkins or repeal the sunset provision all together. If an

extension of the HEA occurs, which is likely, Perkins will also be extended unless Congress specifically states otherwise and the wind-down guidance will be modified until we see an actual bill. I am hopeful that Perkins will be reauthorized. COHEAO and campuses nationwide are working diligently on the Hill to save this Program and Congress is listening. It is my intent to keep you updated as this moves forward.

[Editor’s Note: For more information, reference the COHEAO Update at the end of this newsletter.]

“The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.”



30 Day Rule (This means we’ll be voting on this at the Spring Conference):

BY LORI MCKEE

Due to the increase in organizational costs, meeting costs and food costs, the Board is asking for the General Membership to approve the following stipulations regarding attendance at the Fall and Regional Meetings:

With each paid school membership, a maximum of three (3) people may attend the Fall Meeting at no additional cost. For each person above three (3) who wishes to attend, an additional cost of \$25 would apply.

With each paid school membership, a maximum of three (3) people may attend a given Regional Meeting at no additional cost. For each person above three (3) who wishes to attend, an additional cost of \$15 would apply.

V.A., and Perkins, and Collections. Oh my!

By CHRISTY EGLER

While it didn’t lead them to the land of Oz, many of our members did follow the Yellow Brick Road (or salty, icy, expressways) to an OBA Regional Meeting this February. Institutional members and Business Partners shared information, best practices, and valuable networking time to keep one another apprised of the latest and greatest news in

our industry.

In all, our host schools delivered events with **20 different presentations** and/or speakers, and hosted **7 OBA Business Partners** and representatives from **26 Ohio colleges and universities!** Feedback from the events has been positive and attendees report that the meetings were well-organized, educational, and fun! Several

presentations from these events have been added to the Members Only section on the OBA website.

Please join me in thanking the schools that stepped up and organized this year’s Regional Meetings: The Ohio State University, Miami University, Bowling Green State University, and Kent State University! **THANK YOU** for your service to the OBA!



Spring Conference Register Now!

Conference Center, Oregon, Ohio
(1-800-282-7275-Must secure room
by March 27th)

When?

April 29-May 1, 2015 (Last day to
register is March 17th)

Why?

Toledo Zoo with sweets and lions
and tigers and bears, oh my!

Golf with a Scottish-links layout

Appreciation Dinner for our Busi-
ness Partners

Robust agenda/Dynamic speakers

Endless networking opportunities
Hollywood Casino-Epic Buffet
Hospitality Suite fun

Photo Contributed by
STEPHANIE BLAUSEY

Snapped on her walk at
Maumee Bay State Park.



Who?
You, it is our conference!
What?
OBA 2015 Spring Conference
Where?
Maumee Bay State Park Lodge &

University of Cincinnati's Upstanding Employee

By HENRY SAAS

Teresa Schmidt, Assistant Direc-
tor at UC, is an upstanding em-
ployee...literally.

The rationale behind this type
of workstation is that it is a
healthier option than sitting all
day. The purpose is to incorpo-
rate standing into the normal
work day. Benefits include low-

ering the risk of obesity, diabe-
tes, cancer and cardiovascular
disease.

Teresa said that Bursar, Ken
Wolterman, will make it availa-
ble within the Bursar's Office
to anyone who wants it. Hey,
Ken! Henry here. I work in the

Bursar's Office and I want
one too. Any other takers?

Photo Contributed by
DEB JONES



Retirement News

By PAT GRAY

I am retiring the end of
March. It's been a real pleasure
getting to know all of my fellow
bursars. No sun, sand and mar-
garitas in the plans – just ran
out of energy so time to take
care of me – 22-1/2 years is
long enough.

Take care and know I will NOT
let that picture of you at 22 be
what I remember about you.

Fondly,

Pat

[Editor's Note: All the best to
you, Pat. Congratulations!]



The Photo in
Question.

P.S. This is
not really
Henry. It is,
however,
Scott Medley
of GRC when
he was a
teen.

New Additions to Xavier

By HENRY SAAS

Xavier's Bursar's Office welcomes two new Student Account Specialists and they are special! Liz and Clare are practically conjoined at the hip. They refer to each other as BFAW's. In case you didn't know, BFAW stands for Best Friend at Work.

Liz Bellman joined our office in November, 2014. She is a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University and has a background in finance from the time she spent working at Fifth Third Bank. We are currently trying to break Liz of her habit of saying, "No problem" whenever someone tells her, "Thank you." This is a tough challenge. It's safe to say Liz is wearing us thin daily here in the Bursar's office!

Clare Bunning joined our office in February (just last month). She's a recent graduate of Xavier University. She spent her four years at Xavier working as a student worker in the Financial Aid Office so, for the most part she knows what she's doing...sorta. Since graduating she spent some time working for Thee Ohio State University, but she is very happy to be back with us at Xavier!

Photo Contributed by CLARE BUNNING



Left: Clare Bunning

Right: Liz Bellman

Pet Corner

His name is Bernie Mac...he's a Boxer.

He is my best friend, whom I rescued when he was 6 years old. He is now 10 yrs old. He was a "puppy mill" stud who no longer did his job, so they quit feeding him and took him to the pound. He suffered through pneumonia, and malnutrition. He weighed 38 pounds when I picked him up, and he is now "FAT & HAPPY"! (about 75 pounds worth).

Please make it a habit not to "purchase", but to "rescue"!

Happy Spring!!!

Contributed by

LUCY BERRY

Kent State University



Pa Pet Corner

This is Eleanor Roosevelt Bunning. She is a 5 year old yellow Labrador. She brings her family lots of joy (for the most part). She is very naughty and enjoys chewing up anything and everything. She spends her summer months relaxing poolside.



Contributed by CLARE BUNNING
Xavier University

Kim Derrenkamp is Assistant Bursar at Xavier University. These are her daughters' tortoises. Ally's is the bigger one and she's named Callie and Kelly's is named Sheldon. Kim believes they are both girls.

They live indoors in a terrarium but they also go outside in the summer to play in their garden and get some sun. They like to eat kale, carrots, radicchio, tomatoes, mustard greens, and cantaloupe for a treat. They're really cute and they also like to soak in lukewarm water to stay hydrated. They especially like it when some carrot baby food is mixed in the water!



Contributed by KIM DERRENKAMP
Xavier University

Kids Corner



Here's my new baby! His name is Nicholson and maybe the most adorable baby you've ever seen! He was born 9/19/14.

Contributed by NICOLE MORGAN
University of Cincinnati



Guess what Christy Egler, Bursar at Ohio Dominican University, did?

By HENRY SAAS

Reliant Capital Solutions, LLC., is proud to announce the addition of Christy Egler as Regional Sales Manager. Christy will begin her new job and career on April 13, 2015. Christy has been Bursar at Ohio Dominican University for the past 9 years and has nearly 18 years in higher education overall.

As she put it, "It was time for me to exercise different mental muscles. When this opportunity presented itself after the departure of Sara Giuliani, I thought it would be a wonderful way to combine my bursar experience with my desire to learn a new side of our business. While my territory will include Ohio (I'm letting you all know in advance that I'll come a knockin'), I'll also have several other states in the east and southeast. I've done business with Reliant Capital for several years and I know, first hand, that Margie Brickner, President and CEO, is hands-on and works hard to create a solid, high integrity, and successful collection agency. She understands that her customers are our alums and that these relationships matter. I'm grateful to all of you who have supported me throughout the years. I've enjoyed my time as an OBA Board member and encourage all of you to get involved with the Board. Let me also say that I have so appreciated these years with all of you, my peers, as we have learned, grown, commiserated, laughed, and shared many fun times together; I intend to continue to share many experiences with each of you in my new role. This isn't goodbye, it's I'll see you later. In fact, I'll see you all at the OBA Spring Conference as a Business Partner representing Reliant Capital Solutions. Be sure to stop by our display table to say hello."

[Editor's Note: Congratulation Christy! Much success in your new adventure!]

TouchNet COMTEC Fall Conference



Top Left

Patrick Lockett, Eileen Day, Jeff Cisco, Beth Gloekler, Theresa Shidaker



Top Right

Eileen, Christy, Beth, Theresa



Bottom Left

Eileen, Christy, Patrick, Theresa



Bottom Right

Eileen, Christy, Patrick, Theresa

This photo was taken in November 2014 in Kansas City, MO at the TouchNet Comtec conference

Photo Contributed by CHRISTY EGLER

Recipe Corner: Julie's Mint Cookies

Contributed by JULIE STARKWEATHER

What you need

- 1 pkg. (2-layer size) chocolate cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- 125 g (1/2 of 250-g pkg.) *Philadelphia* Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 1/4 tsp. mint extract
- 12 to 15 drops green food coloring
- 2-1/4 cups sugar



Make It

Heat oven to 350°

Beat cake mix, eggs and oil until blended; roll into 48 (1-inch) balls.

Place, 2 inches apart, on parchment-covered baking sheets.

Bake 8 min. or until centers are set. Cool on baking sheets 3 min. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Beat cream cheese, extract and food coloring in large bowl with mixer until blended. Gradually add sugar, mixing well after each addition. Spoon into a resealable plastic bag. Cut small piece off one bottom corner of bag; use to pipe about 1Tbsp. cream cheese mixture onto bottom side of each of 24 cookies. Cover with remaining cookies, top sides up.

Staffing Updates

By KATHY MIMS

We do have some Bursar changes in my world of Student Accounts Receivable:

I have assumed Stina's former position of Manager of Student Accounts Receivable (effective Jan 15). Previously I was Supervisor of SAR.

Two of my Student Accounts Receivable Specialists have been promoted to Supervisor of SAR. They are Rhonda Sublet and Samantha Ittel, effective Feb 9.

Rhonda and Samantha will be attending the OBA conference so they will get to meet everyone then. I will be staying behind to

hold the fort in my area, so be gentle with my rookies . :)

By DOUG SCHANTZ

I was recently appointed to the NACUBO President's Council for Student Financial Services - the principal charge of this 12 member group is to advise the NACUBO President and staff on student financial services-related issues in the areas of legislation, regulations, process management, and programs. I look forward to contributing toward the cause of that group and helping to shape the future of higher education.



Open Positions in the OBA

Greetings future OBA Board Members. The following positions will be vacant soon and it is time to begin thinking about volunteering and how you can add value to our wonderful organization. If you are on the fence, I encourage you to reach out to our Board Members for guidance, we would be happy to answer your questions. You will find that being on the Board is a very rewarding experience and the friendships you make along the way are absolutely amazing! I look forward to hearing from those who are willing to serve. Email me at stephanie.blausey@utoledo.edu.

Regards,
Stephanie S. Blausey, President Elect

President-Elect (Currently held by Stephanie Blausey-University of Toledo)

The President-Elect shall be the chairperson of the Nominations Committee.

The President-Elect shall be responsible for the spring meeting of the Ohio Bursars Association. The spring meeting shall be held at the institution represented by the President-Elect; although, selection of an alternative site may be made with approval of the Board of Trustees.

The President-Elect shall prepare and present a budget for the President-Elect's term as President, for the approval of the Board of Trustees, during the prior Spring Board of Trustees' meeting. Expenses may only be committed and paid for under an approved Budget.

Additional responsibilities of the President-Elect are as assigned by the President.

Treasurer (Currently held by Georgia Gichenko-Lakeland Community College)

The Treasurer shall receive, safe keep, and disburse Association monies.

The Treasurer will only disburse funds under an approved budget.

The Treasurer will only invoice dues and assessments or changes in dues and assessments after approval by the Association.

The Treasurer shall present a treasurer's report at each of the three quarterly Association meetings and a written report at each Board of Trustees meetings.

The Treasurer shall present a written treasurer's report to the President and President-Elect at the end of each year.

To officially end the term of office, the Treasurer shall present the new Treasurer and President-Elect, with a written Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer shall maintain the official OBA list of institutional members, guests, their standing, and who are the primary or voting representatives and alternate representatives.

Two-Year Public (Currently held by Annetta Keller-Columbus State Community College)

Facilitate Roundtable Discussions at General Meetings and Conferences for our membership as assigned by the President.

Membership At-Large Representative (Currently held by Christy Egler-Ohio Dominican University)

The Membership At-Large Representative chairs the membership committee and is responsible for conducting and coordinating an annual membership drive with assistance from the Board of Trustees.

The Membership At-Large Representative is responsible for updating and maintaining an adequate supply of membership applications and promotional materials.

The Membership At-Large Representative is responsible for securing hosts for the regional meetings and supporting them in developing their agendas.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE (currently vacant)

The Associate Member Representative is a non-voting position on the Board of Trustees appointed by the incoming President each spring to serve a one-year term running concurrently with the President's term of office. The Associate Member Representative:

Serves at the pleasure of the President.

Acts as a liaison and represents the viewpoints of the Associate Members to the Board of Trustees. Offers assistance to the Membership-At-Large Representative in coordinating and conducting the annual membership drive to obtain new members for the Association.

Performs any other duties or tasks as assigned by the President.

OBA Board of Trustees 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

Lori McKee

Controller

North Central State College

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Stephanie Blausey

Director: Loans & Special Accounts

University of Toledo

PAST PRESIDENT

Henry Saas

Bursar

Xavier University

TREASURER

Georgia Gichenko

Assistant Controller

Lakeland Community College

SECRETARY

Lee Blanton

Bursar/Director, Student Business Center

Shawnee State University

FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

Teresa Schmidt

Assistant Director: Loans & Collections

University of Cincinnati

FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVE

Julie Starkweather

Bursar

Tiffin University

TWO-YEAR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

Unfilled Position

WEBMASTER

Kara Dolansky

Asst. Director/Financial Analyst

University of Akron

MEMBERSHIP

Christy Egler

Bursar

Ohio Dominican University

BUSINESS PARTNER REPRESENTATIVE

Sara Giuliani

Regional Sales Manager

Reliant Capital

Across

3. Central State University
4. Cleveland State University
5. Edison Community College
8. Ohio Wesleyan University
9. Notre Dame College
10. Cincinnati Christian University
13. Wilmington College
14. Central Ohio Technical College
17. Hocking College
19. Owens Community College
22. Ohio Dominican University
23. Lake Erie College
26. Lakeland Community College
28. Urbana College
32. Oberlin College
33. The University of Cincinnati
37. Ohio Northern University
41. The Ohio State University

Down

1. Youngstown State University
2. Marietta College
3. Xavier University
6. Miami University
7. The University of Akron
11. College of Wooster
12. Capital University
15. University of Dayton
16. Muskingum University
18. Lourdes College
20. Denison University
21. Ohio University
24. University of Toledo
25. Sinclair Community College
27. Tiffin University
29. Wittenberg University
30. John Carroll University
31. Columbus State Community College
34. Wright State University
35. Kent State University
36. Mt. Carmel College of Nursing
38. Clark State University
39. Baldwin Wallace University
40. The University of Findlay
42. Shawnee State University

Happy Halloween!

As we publish Between Bursar's bi annually we get the pleasure of reliving Halloween in March! Please enjoy photos from our very own Youngstown State University's spooktacular Halloween bash!



Batgirl – Becky Jasinski – Resolution Analyst

Witch – Susan Beiling – Manager, Financial Analysis and Perkins Collection



At YSU the Bursar, Registrar, and Financial Aid celebrated with a floor party. It was a great way for all three offices to come together and celebrate. Contributed by Gloria J. Kobus



On the left Marylynn Britt – Customer Service, Financial Aid

On the right Nakia Burch – Customer Service, Bursar Office

Happy “National Make a Payment on your Tuition Bill & get a Piece of Candy” day!

Wittenberg University creates their own holiday!

Left: Janine Dotson, Admin Assistant for Student Accounts

Right: Mallory Roth, Intern for Student Accounts and A/P

Photo Contributed by Doug Schantz



Welcome A-Board Member!

The OBA Board welcomes Annetta Keller in the role of the Two-Year Public Representative. Annetta has been the Supervisor in Cashier and Student Accounting for 15 years at Columbus State Community College. During that time she has lived through a system conversion (went to Datatel/Ellucian), a couple of department re-organizations, and a record high of 30,000 students (at one time). She has also helped the school move from quarters to semesters. Annetta directly supervises the part-time and full time cashiering staff and Accounts Receivable accountants (Third Party).

Personally, she has 2 cats and a number of hobbies that include reading and sewing. She enjoys yard work during the warm weather and for some odd reason enjoys shoveling some snow during the winter but she gets tired of it real quick.

Thank you!

By HENRY SAAS

With this issue of *Between Bursars*, I have completed 99.9% of my OBA Board responsibilities. Stephanie Blausey, President-Elect, has assigned me a task or two at the Spring Conference and after that, I'm out to pasture. I think I've been on the Board 100 years so it's time to take my final bow.

I want to thank you for supporting me, particularly during my role as President-Elect, when I was responsible for the Spring Conference. Like planning the Conference, my time on the Board has been a team effort. The Board members work through difficult issues. We don't always agree with one another and

the organization is better for it. Serving on the OBA Board has been a wonderful growth and learning experience for me. I'd highly recommend it for anyone. I'd like to give a shout out to Clare Bunning and Liz Bellman. These two were kind enough and actually excited to assist me in putting together this newsletter. You can read more about them in this newsletter under "New Additions to Xavier." I would also like to extend a thank you to Debbie Schneider for doing the final editing of this newsletter.

COHEAO Update – March 2015



By MICHAEL MIETELSKI COHEAO Communications Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a COHEAO update and share some recent and noteworthy highlights within and around COHEAO. For the past 32 years, COHEAO has served as a coalition of colleges, universities, and organizations dedicated to promoting the Federal campus-based loan programs and other student financial services. Committed to the preservation and improvement of the Federal Perkins Loan and Health and Human Services Loan Programs, COHEAO advocates for their continuance as well as for increased annual appropriation levels.

COHEAO recently held a free webinar on the Status of the Perkins Loan Program. Over 400 participated in the event. If you were unable to participate, we encourage you to view the webinar, which will be available on COHEAO.org soon.

*It is obvious that there is still a great deal of confusion and misinformation regarding the **potential expiration** of the Perkins Program, especially in light of the Dear Colleague Letter recently issued by the Department, which was titled "Wind-down of the Federal Perkins Loan Program". I can't stress enough that **the FATE of the Perkins Loan Program has NOT yet been determined and can ONLY be determined by Congress, NOT the Department of Education.***

If you value this Program as a critical and unique source of funding for your students, PLEASE get involved in our advocacy efforts because it is not too late. As a matter of fact, the timing for you to act couldn't be better than right now. Congress needs to hear from you NOW, as both the House and Senate Education Committees are engaged in drafting their reauthorization bills.

COHEAO is working with schools all across the country in organizing calls to Congressional Members and their Staff to convey the importance of reauthorizing the Perkins Program. We encourage you to join COHEAO in our current advocacy efforts - participate in a Congressional call, send an email to your congressional representative and engage colleagues on your campus to ensure the Program's survival. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of the COHEAO board members for guidance. For more detailed information on the rules for awarding and disbursing Perkins, please see the Perkins update below.

Maria Livolsi

COHEAO President

Director, State University of New York

Leadership

The new Board of Directors took office at the conclusion of the Annual conference in D.C., with Maria Livolsi of the State University of New York beginning her second term as President and Carl Perry of Progressive Financial Services beginning his second term as Vice President.

In addition, COHEAO welcomed three new members to its Board: Financial Literacy Chair - Todd Woodlee from iGrad; Co-chair of Membership - Claude Payne from Weber State College; and Co-chair of Operations - Nancy Paris from Recovery Management Systems. All three members began their two-year term at the conclusion of the Annual Conference.

COHEAO also honored outgoing Board members Kris Alban and Diana Day at the Annual Conference and presented each with a plaque in appreciation of their many contributions to COHEAO. Check the website <http://www.coheao.org> for the full list of COHEAO's Board of Directors and their areas of contribution to the organization.

Congratulations to Jan Hnilica of Wheaton College for winning the COHEAO Institutional Member of the Year Award and also to Karen Reddick of National Credit Management for winning the COHEAO Commercial Member of the Year Award

The Agenda Committee organizes two conferences a year and at least one webinar each month. These events are designed to provide timely information to COHEAO members to assist them with regulatory and legislative updates, best practices and other topics of importance in Higher Education.

Our last webinar on March 4th was Free, addressed the REAL Status of the Perkins Loan Program and was attended by over 400 participants from over 360 Colleges and Universities nationwide. COHEAO is pleased to announce its next webinar, which focuses on the SCRA (Service member Civil Relief Act), featuring David Head from Weltman, Weinbert & Reis and scheduled for March 31st at 2:00 PM ET.

Save the Date for the 2015 COHEAO Mid-Year Conference in Chicago!!

Set for July 26 – 28 at the Fairmont Hotel in beautiful downtown Chicago, the COHEAO Mid-year Conference is one you don't want to miss. In addition to professional development and networking opportunities, the Mid-Year Conference will focus on the latest activities affecting the Perkins Loan Program as well as campus-based accounts receivable, financial literacy, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and many other pressing issues in higher education.

Preview the [Mid-Year Draft Agenda Here!](#)

Federal Perkins Loan Program

The Department recently issued guidance with regards to the “*wind-down process*” in the event that the Perkins Loan Program is allowed to expire on September 30, 2015. This guidance, which was issued as a preparatory measure, has left many in the higher education community confused as to the “*current*” status of the program. You can read the full DCL at: <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1503.html>. To assist with clarifying the rules for awarding and disbursing Perkins today and going forward, below is a summary of the guidance.

It is important to note that the Department has issued this guidance in light of the current expiration date – September 30, 2015. However, should Congress reauthorize the Program prior to the expiration, or extend the expiration date as it continues the reauthorization process, this guidance will also change.

Absent Congressional action, schools may not make Perkins Loans to **NEW** borrowers after September 30th, 2015, except in the following circumstances:

First: If a school makes a Perkins Loan **first disbursement** to ANY eligible student for the 2015-16 award year **prior to** October 1, 2015, that school may make any remaining disbursements for the 15-16 award year. Therefore, any eligible student can receive a Perkins Loan in 2015-16 as long as you award and disburse the **first disbursement** by September 30th. If you meet that timeframe, you can also disburse the remaining funds after the expiration date of the program as long as it is during the 15-16 academic year.

In addition to that option, schools may make additional Perkins Loans to already existing and qualifying Perkins borrowers for up to 5 years (through 9/30/20) under a grandfathering provision. The Department of Education has interpreted the grandfathering provision to include the following conditions:

First: the school must have disbursed at least one Perkins loan to the student by June 30, 2015.

Second: the student is enrolled at the same school where their last Perkins loan was disbursed

Third: the student is enrolled in the same academic program as when they received their last Perkins disbursement and for this you base the program on the first 4 digits of the CIP code.

Fourth, the Perkins is awarded to an eligible student who has unmet need and has exhausted all of the subsidized Direct Loan funding for which they are eligible.

The grandfathering provision currently applies **only** to students who received their first Perkins Loan for the 2014-15 award year or prior. If the student meets these criteria, they can continue to receive Perkins up until 2020. This is important information to take into account as you are in the process of awarding Perkins for next year. It is also worth noting that should the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act not be completed by September 30, 2015, which is extremely possible, any extension of the HEA that includes Perkins will also likely extend the dates for grandfathering students going forward.

As Maria mention in her address earlier, COHEAO will be organizing some call-in days with institutions in key districts in the coming weeks. We continue to encourage you to visit your local congressional offices, write letters and encourage your president and/or the government relations office on your campus to get involved now. Additional information about COHEAO’s grassroots initiative is available online: <http://www.coheao.com/advocacy/the-future-of-perkins-loans-what-you-can-do-to-help/>

COHEAO Scholarships

COHEAO is pleased to offer up to four \$1,000 scholarships for the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Eligible applicants are students entering their sophomore year through graduate studies who are enrolled at COHEAO-member colleges and universities. Please find a list of COHEAO members, the application, FAQs and a poster that COHEAO members can display in the appropriate places on your campus.

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2015 and scholarships will be awarded in June 2015. If you have any questions regarding the COHEAO scholarship and how to apply for it, please send an email to [Wes Huffman](#) of the COHEAO staff or [Jeane Olson](#) of Northern Arizona University, Scholarship Chair for COHEAO.

[Click here](#) for a list of COHEAO members

[Click here](#) for the 2015-2016 COHEAO Scholarship Application

[Click here](#) for the 2015-2016 COHEAO Scholarship FAQs

[Click here](#) for the 2015-2016 COHEAO Scholarship Poster

Accounts Receivable Management

COHEAO is also extremely active in the area of campus accounts receivable. We are committed to promoting discussion and sharing best practices in several areas regarding the current challenges that campuses face in managing accounts receivable, including collection regulations, TILA, institutional loans, TCPA, and cash management.

TCPA News: A coalition of dozens of national associations, including COHEAO, and business groups sent [a letter](#) on February 2, 2015 to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking the regulator to address the issues raised in the numerous petitions that have been and continue to be filed with the Commission regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). The letter shows the negative impact the outdated TCPA has on several industries.

While [the letter](#) is ultimately asking for clarification from the FCC on a number of issues that have been raised through previous petitions, it is also a plea to the regulators to allow the use of predictive dialing technology to reach cell phones for non-telemarketing purposes, which would include debt collection calls. In addition to COHEAO, the coalition of signers includes other higher education-focused groups like the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and more.

The FCC, in response to the letter, said it is “actively” working on the TCPA issue.

Financial Literacy

We want to thank and acknowledge Kris Alban, from iGrad, for all the great work he accomplished while serving as Chair of the COHEAO Financial Literacy Task Force. Kris was instrumental in COHEAO earning National Recognition for its commitment and thought leadership in the area of Financial Literacy. We are excited and honored to have Kris’s colleague, Todd Woodlee, also from iGrad, take over as the new Chair of COHEAO’s Financial Literacy Task Force. Todd is a champion and visionary in the brave new world of Financial Literacy, as evidenced by his years in the industry and his contributions to our Annual Conference which featured a robust variety of Financial Literacy sessions and delivered insightful information and discussion! Welcome Todd!

COHEAO continues our conversations and commitment to shining a light on the many facets of Financial Literacy. Last month's Financial Literacy newsletter took a closer look at the mental and physical toll of Student Loans. As the use of student loans continue to escalate, so too do conversations about the possible ramifications of increasingly high debt for young Americans. It's widely known that inability to pay student debt can result in a host of problems, like damaged credit or garnished wages. A new study from the University of South Carolina suggests that some ill effects, such as increased stress levels or feelings of depleted health, can surface just from accumulating student-loan debt. However, the study suggests that sometimes certain debt, like, student loans, can serve as a catalyst for obtaining higher socioeconomic status, which would ultimately help individuals.

That may be why students from poorer backgrounds with higher cumulative levels of student-loan debt in the study from the University of South Carolina performed better when it came to mental health. This could suggest that, among students with poorer families, higher student-loan debt reflects an improving social standing. Researchers also postulate that it might also mean that poorer students who are able to attend college possess personality traits that may make it easier for them to deal with the strain of student loans. The researchers write: "Those who are able to enroll in college despite their early-life disadvantages may be in better mental health or possess personality characteristics that increase their odds of attending college, such as being future-oriented or highly motivated."

As college becomes an increasingly expensive proposition and the level of student loans continues to rise, [some research](#) shows that college is still a [good investment](#), and for many, the best hope for future success. And, although loans could potentially be bad for you during early adulthood, [other studies](#) have found higher levels of education may lead to better self-reported mental and physical health in the long run... [Click here to read the entire article.](#)