

State Update

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Today's Topics

- Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS)
- Grants
- Residency
- Governor's Budget
- Early FAFSA
- Outreach
- Other Initiatives

Forgivable Education Loans

- Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS)
 - Disbursed ~ \$24 million in 15-16
 - Anticipate ~ \$22 million in 16-17
- Eligible fields of study—fields experiencing critical shortages of workers
 - Allied Health
 - Medicine/Dentistry
 - Nursing
 - Teaching in shortage fields

Grants--30 Hour Incentive

- Statute currently requires SEAA to implement payment schedules that encourage students to take 30 semester hours/year
- **Effective for the fall 2016 semester...**
- Payment schedules have been published that include a separate payment amount for students enrolled in 15 or more semester hours.
 - UNC will target certain students for summer school aid to keep them on track for graduation.

Residency

- Residency determinations will continue to be handled by the campuses for fall 2016 fall enrollment.
- Students who are already enrolled will be grandfathered if they stay continuously enrolled.
 - Continuously enrolled in general means no break in enrollment for more than 2 semesters (excluding summer)
- Launch anticipated in late fall/early winter

NC Grants and Residency

- Only NC residents are eligible for state grants
- Current procedure: colleges affirm that students are residents when the grant is certified
- When the centralized residency service goes live, the grant system will receive information from the residency service regarding grant eligibility

Governor's Budget—FY 2017

- Higher education (aid) initiatives include:
 - Scholarship for prospective STEM teachers
 - \$2M (\$6,500/student)for 300 students to “earn degrees in education and teach math and science in the state’s public schools.”
 - Scholarship for university students in STEM fields
 - \$5M for new competitive merit scholarship pursuing science, math, engineering and health degrees at our universities
 - Produce workers to help fill shortage of skilled workers in these fields

Early FAFSA

- What do we know?
 - Federal Department of Ed encouraging colleges to let students know about aid eligibility earlier
 - Pell Schedule will not be released earlier in the cycle
 - Timeline for establishing tuition *might* shift slightly
 - Fall enrollment information key to state aid projections for the next year
 - Some institutions will make awards in Nov/Dec without final schedules and revise awards in February

Early FAFSA

- What is still unknown?
 - Fund Projections
 - Will more students apply for aid?
 - State grant programs will likely be exhausted earlier
 - Remedy could include lowering awards for all
 - Status quo for state grants; institutions modify awards to extend funds longer.
 - When will the state grant payment schedules be ready?

Outreach

FAFSA Day 2016 (February 20):

FAFSA submissions	1,564
Volunteers	429
Sites	68

Of those who completed evaluations (354):

- 56% of students are first generation
- 39% had income below \$40,000
- 72% reported they could not have done the FAFSA without help

FINISH the FAFSA!

- SEAA led initiative providing information to high school counselors about the FAFSA status of their seniors
- Using tools available on CFNC.org, counselors can see which of their high school seniors have completed the FAFSA and prod non-completers
- 12 School districts –116 high schools currently piloting

Outreach

- SEAA School counselor advisory group
- 2016 Summer Internship program for school counselors at 22 colleges and SEAA
- Fall Counselor Training Workshops--October
- New FAA Training—May 18-20
 - Space remaining for 10-12 participants
 - Jane Kanipe overseeing training for May

Other New Initiatives

- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
- State Education Loan for Students/Parents

NCSARA

- National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)
- Participating states authorize institutions to offer **distance education** in any participating SARA state without institutions having to seek approval from each state.
- Home state will continually monitor participating institutions' compliance with SARA baseline standards.
- Consumer protection: student complaints submitted to SARA for follow up and investigation.

SARA in North Carolina

- UNC Board of Governors licenses institutions in North Carolina to operate
- NC Community Colleges, Independent Colleges and UNC General Administration requested an independent entity to operate SARA
- SEAA agreed to serve in that role; operation is receipt-supported
- Cost savings for institutions to only have to submit application to SEAA rather than agencies in multiple states

SARA Implementation

- Target date of October for North Carolina colleges to begin applying to SARANC
- First: North Carolina must submit an application to participate
- Second: Institutions submit applications to SEAA

New Education Loan

- Loan for students and parents with North Carolina nexus
 - NC resident going to school out of state
 - Out of state resident enrolled in a NC institution
- Credit-based loan. If student does not have credit or credit score is too low , will need a co-signer with eligible credit score.
- Loan will provide an option to PLUS loan for parents and graduate students
- Operational details being finalized; expect loan for enrollment periods beginning after January 1

Questions?