



NYSOBBA

Quarterly

Issue XI

Winter 1999

Board of Directors

President

Shirley Walker

Vice President

Paul Danieu

Secretary

Kim Sprague

Treasurer

Larry Brennan

Past President

James Sunser

Conference Coordinator

Jack Edwards

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Brown Nevers

Regional Directors

Central

Kathy Owens

Genesee Valley

Sandy Argentiari

Long Island

Deborah Weber

New York City

Jean Belmont

North East

Carol Gladding

Mid-Hudson

Diane Lucchesi

Western

Richard Augustine

A Word From Our President

I'd like to take this opportunity to give the membership some insight into what the NYSOBBA Board does for the organization. I think that it's important for the membership to have a sense of the types of things we do when we get together. Also, I would like to include in each newsletter, portions of the bylaws, which will reiterate the purpose of this organization and how NYSOBBA operates. Included within this newsletter is a reprint of the purpose of our organization. The bylaws can be found at the end of your member directory.

The NYSOBBA Board gets together 2-3 times a year at meetings held in alternating locations (Albany and Syracuse). All board members, which include regional directors, attend this meeting. We usually start on a Thursday evening, meeting through dinner and until we've covered most of the agenda. The following morning we gather again and try to finish up before noon.

For each meeting there is an agenda to work through. Typically, the first meeting of the year, which is held in October, includes a review of the financial statements from the June conference. But no sooner than we put the last conference to bed, we must get into the details of the upcoming conference. The conference coordinator and the regional director will inform the board of the plans for the upcoming conference, including the site, tentative program and entertainment. This takes a substantial amount of time, as the board is very serious about providing the most comprehensive and relevant program, in addition to watching the dollars and planning for a good event.

Other items on the agenda include reports from various members on things such as the status of membership. Regional directors are asked to make follow up contact to their members to get renewal forms in as well as to recruit new members. We talk about the newsletter and are reminded to get our articles in on time.

Scholarship winners are announced and projections for the next year are made. Discussions and decisions about the funding, amounts, application, criteria, and awarding of the scholarship are finalized at the board level. Each regional director oversees his or her region's selection process.

A Word From Our President (Continued)

Kathy Crowder represents HESC at the board meeting. Kathy brings updates to the group and has arranged for the HESC staff to attend our meetings or for us to visit their site as necessary. This has proven to be a beneficial and efficient mechanism of communicating our needs to HESC by having access to the HESC decision-makers.

If we are in an election year for an office or region, the appropriate board member acts as chairperson of the nominations and elections committee. This individual works diligently to put together a slate of candidates to be voted upon at the June conference.

I have attempted to share a few of the many things that the NYSOBBA Board members try to address in our meetings. If anyone should have any questions or wants to learn more about the meetings, minutes are available. But please feel free to speak with any board member or myself at any time.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Walker
Shirley J. Walker

From the Desk of the Conference Coordinator:

Greetings All:

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and that fall 1999 registration was a huge success. For those of you who had the opportunity to attend the 1999 Annual Conference at Roaring Brook Ranch and Tennis Resort, I hope that it met all your expectations. I know that this property was much more rustic compared to prior conferences.

Overall your evaluations indicated the conference as a success. In reviewing the written evaluations that were received, most rated the accommodations as fair to good and the rest -- exhibitors, entertainment and the overall conference -- was rated good to excellent. My thanks go out to all who submitted an evaluation form. This always provides the next year's conference committee and me with valuable information in meeting your needs and expectations for future conferences.

I want to thank the following people for their hard work in planning this past year's event:

Cheryl Alting, Finger Lakes Community College
Sandra Argentieri, SUNY, Geneseo
Linda Chrzan, SUNY, Brockport
Kathy Cole, Rochester Institute of Technology
Peg Ehmann, University of Rochester, School of Medicine
Laurie Freeman, SUNY, Brockport
Mary Beth Nally, Rochester Institute of Technology
Prakash Patel, Finger Lakes Community College
Jim Vetusky, SUNY, Brockport

As many of you already know, the Millennium Conference, June 2000 will be hosted by the Western Region and is expected to be held in the Buffalo area. I know that I had previously mentioned Niagara Falls. However, the area will not meet our expectations. We should have a decision on the hotel shortly. The Western Region has already met and is hard at work in planning the conference. If you should have a particular topic of interest that you would like to see on the agenda please send E-mail, fax or call, and I will make sure it is forwarded to the program committee.

Most sincerely,

Jack Edwards

HESC NEWS

Message from President Peter J. Keitel

I am very happy to be back at HESC. This Agency and the financial aid professionals it works with provide an exceptionally important function for the State of New York by helping people obtain the information and financing that they need to obtain an education and to improve their lives. It is an honor to be able to lead the team that does such meaningful work. Being away from HESC for a while has made me appreciate even more the great job this Agency does and the great people who make it all happen. I look forward to again working with HESC staff, NYSOBBA leadership, and its members.

Hold and Release Update

Many schools have contacted HESC regarding missing disbursements. Following is background information and a brief summary of the steps HESC and New York's lenders and servicers are taking to address this situation:

As you know, HESC developed Hold and Release capabilities to help schools comply with the new cash management regulations which went into effect July 1999. As with any major new initiative, there have been start-up challenges, particularly in processing Hold/Release change transactions. HESC and the loan community are working together to fix these delays.

HESC believed, based on information received from our FFEL partners, that all loan providers would be ready for Hold and Release processing. We have since learned that some loan providers found it more difficult than expected to process change transactions. Although HESC's records indicated the changed status (most frequently a change from Hold to Release), some providers' systems were unable to use this electronic information to update their systems.

HESC advises lenders/servicers to take the following steps:

- Lenders/servicers who can accept electronic changes will receive new summary files with schools' current Hold or Release status.

Lenders should use these files to update their systems and generate disbursements, if needed.

- Lenders/servicers who cannot process Hold and Release transactions should be releasing funds based on the school's anticipated disbursement dates.

The purpose of these reports is to reconcile with HESC's records regarding Hold/Release, and to ensure that all disbursements have been made. If there are any discrepancies, the providers must make updates to their systems. We anticipate that this action will generate the missing disbursements to schools.

A list of electronic Hold and Release providers is available on HESC's website, www.hesc.com.

Questions regarding this process should be directed to the Solutions Team at 1-888-NYSHESC then press 2, 4, and 2.

Tap Redesign Update

Despite the protracted budget debate, this has been a great year for the Tuition Assistance Program, from several vantage points:

Improved TAP Processing Over the Last Year

- New application layout — easier to understand
- Newly revised instructions, newly revised and updated TAP manual of policies and procedures.
- Successful migration to a new TAP mainframe processor, which has reduced overall processing times — enabling HESC to get students on rosters with verified awards faster than ever before, and despite the late budget.
- Pre-printed student histories on TAP applications and change forms — students are confirming pre-printed information HESC

pulls from FAFSA data. Results in fewer errors and more rapid awards processing

Multi-year signature release, setting the stage for multi-year TAP awards processing.

Current TAP Projects

- Multi-year processing — returning students will have their awards derived entirely from FAFSA data, and will go immediately to an award certificate or a pre-budget letter. If their profiles do not significantly change from year-to-year, returning students will never have to receive, fill out and sign the annual TAP application, once HESC has their authorization on record.
- TAP payment by term, rather than by roster — breaking the old, process-heavy ritual of balancing TAP payments by roster, rather than by term, is underway. This change will reduce paperwork for the schools and for HESC, and will eliminate the confusion between multiple payments and refunds - changes that have been long sought by NYSOBBA.
- Electronic funds transfer as a means of more efficiently and effectively paying out TAP to the schools. In conjunction with the Office of the State Comptroller, EFT should be a reality over the next few months.

Customer Service

- New change form/RFI tracking and processing system, coupled with additional support for change form data entry, have measurably cut down on change form backlogs and turnaround times.
- Appointment of a new TAP Field Services Director, Patricia Ronan, has helped HESC reach out to schools, help them use TAP processing tools more effectively, and receive feedback and helpful suggestions.

- More than twice the usual number of TAP customer service calls were answered this year over last year, due to the newly opened consolidated customer service center, and the incorporation of the Integrated Voice Response System (IVR).

HESC Extends Deadline and Enhances Tax Reporting Service

For the 1998 tax year, HESC offered a new service to produce the necessary student and IRS reports for potential recipients of Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning credits. HESC worked with schools and the National Student Loan Clearinghouse to collect data, print and mail a 1098-T tax form (with school identification and 1998 student attendance and financial information) to each student before February 1, 1999. HESC also sent a cumulative electronic file of all 1098-T forms to each school for follow-up and audit purposes, and electronically transmitted a cumulative file for all schools to the Internal Revenue Service.

HESC is offering 1999 tax reporting on a national basis, and plans to enhance the service for schools nationwide without any major increase in fees charged. Many schools expressed interest but were concerned about missing the October 15 deadline. Accordingly, HESC is extending that deadline to the end of November.

Those enhancements include:

1. Use of a double-windowed mailing envelope for the 1098-T form so that incorrect student addresses can be updated by the school, instead of being "dead lettered";
2. Multiple processing runs, so schools can provide student files to HESC as early as November 15, 1999 and as late as January 21, 2000 to meet the January 31 student mailing deadline;
3. Ongoing corrections processing whereby schools may submit updated student information, to correct original information

submitted to HESC. Schools would then have HESC (for a fee) mail the corrected 1098-T form to the student and forward it electronically to the IRS;

4. File transfer capabilities through HESC Web to facilitate school transmission and receipt of student tax reporting information;
5. On-demand printing and mailing of duplicate 1098-T forms by HESC (for the normal processing fee).

HESC will also be offering schools access to data entry software, via our Web site, to facilitate student tax reporting record creation for smaller schools with limited electronic capabilities. And, as in 1998, schools will be given the option (no extra cost) of including "Net Qualified Expenses" data on the 1098-T form.

These activities will fulfill each school's IRS requirements for the 1999 tax year. HESC will charge schools 55 cents for each student record provided directly to HESC (no start-up fee), and an additional 25 cents per record if the school elects to have HESC obtain student data from the Clearinghouse. These fees covered HESC's direct costs for the service.

If your institution is interested in working with HESC, please contact HESC by E-mail to ctreadwell@hesc.com or fax (518) 474-3342. For additional information, call HESC at (518) 402-3371.

HESC Announces New Cohort Action Report

HESC is pleased to announce the availability of the new Cohort Action Report (CAR). The CAR will help default managers and financial aid professionals lower institutional cohort default rates by tracking potential student loan defaulters. Although similar to the familiar Default Activity Report, the new CAR includes many additional features requested by financial aid administrators and default managers. Available on EFAN as well as in hard copy, the CAR will show:

1. Date Entered Repayment - Calculated by HESC, it is based on the grace-period-expires-date-plus one day.
2. Cohort Year - Based on where the above "date entered repayment" occurs during the federal fiscal year. All loans within a cohort year will be displayed together.
3. Lender Servicer Name & Phone Numbers - Obtained from HESC records.
4. Borrower Place of Employment & Phone Number - Obtained from HESC records, if available.
5. Reference Information & Phone Number - Obtained from HESC records, if available.
6. Default Status - Code with explanation.
7. Aversion Code - Code with explanation.
8. Status Change Indicator - Borrower with changed status from a previous CAR will be marked with an asterisk ("*").

The new Cohort Action Report will be a cumulative report, showing borrowers' accounts by cohort year for the two most current years.

The CAR is a service from which many schools can derive benefits. By reducing default rates:

- ▶ Schools who bring their cohort default rate below 20% can eliminate the requirement that a program review be conducted by the guaranty agency.
- ▶ Schools with a cohort default rate less than 10% for three years can provide a single disbursement for loans of not longer than one semester, trimester or quarter. They can also avoid delayed disbursements for first-time, first year borrowers. Both of these exemptions can be applied to students in a program of study abroad approved by the home institution, if the home institution has a

cohort default rate of less than 5% for one year.

Training on use of the Cohort Action Report as well as other HESC program, processing, and product updates will be discussed in November/December during HESC's Annual Administrator's Workshop Series. Look for a workshop schedule via mail or HESC's website.

HESC Fall Training

The following statewide schedule of workshops offer a once-a-year, close-up look at HESC program and processing information - a good opportunity for staff training.

Training and update information will be provided on the new 2000-2001 master application and promissory note for FFEL loans; a review of Hold & Release to assist schools select the process that best fits their institution; the changing TAP application and payment processes; on-line processing for HESC programs; and the application of New York State's College Savings Program funds.

If you have not received your registration material, contact HESC Training Services at (518) 473-4563.

EYE on DMI

Earlier this year, as part of its Debt Management Initiatives (DMI), HESC opened the new Advocate Unit. This Unit provides a dynamic service to help borrowers manage their debt, repay student loans, and avoid default. Staffed by representatives with years of student loan experience, this critical response unit not only handles questions, but also develops solutions for borrowers who are struggling with the repayment process. The Advocate Unit can be reached at 1-888-215-0196, loanadvocate@hesc.com or www.hesc.com/advocate.html.

Another new initiative from HESC and the New York State FFEL Consortium of Lenders and Loan Servicers to make the student loan process clearer -- and easier--for parents and students is a new Consortium Standard Forbearance Form that will

make it easier for students to request forbearance from any lender or loan servicer.

Looking Back and Moving Forward: HESC and TAP Turn 25

Look for your copy of our Annual Report, celebrating all that the Higher Education Services Corporation has achieved since it was created 25 years ago. HESC anticipates a vibrant, new century of helping students attend college and go on to a lifetime of personal, economic, and professional fulfillment.

The Higher Education Services Corporation was created to provide New York State students and their families with a single source for loans, grants, and scholarships. Now HESC also offers an important new program to help families save money for college, and has expanded information and counseling initiatives. The College Savings Program took its first contributions in September of last year and 63,000 accounts totaling \$235 million have already been established. There are account holders in every state in the nation.

The Tuition Assistance program (TAP) provided just under \$79 million to 236,000 students in 1974-75 and now provides over \$600 million to 263,000 students. The program remains strong and is a vital source of funding for students attending all sectors of higher education.

The loan program has experienced even more dramatic growth in the past 25 years. In 1974-75 \$178 million in State loan guarantees were provided to 131,000 students. By 1998-99 HESC guaranteed \$1.8 billion in loans for almost 400,000 loans to students and parents. Also, these amounts do not include loans provided by out-of-state guarantors and the Federal Direct Loan Program.

Recently HESC has been busy with the Year 2000 effort. Soon, however, we will be able to redirect our work and accelerate the development of electronic services to students, schools, and lenders. Expansion of Internet access for both information and processing will improve service and at the same time reduce operating costs.

This Annual Report reflects the efforts of the employees of HESC, lenders, and colleges - all of whom share a common goal of enabling students to afford a college education. We continue to partnership with students, parents, lenders, and colleges to make that goal a reality.

NYS EDUCATION FIRST ALLIANCE

October 12, 1999

Congress has passed a continuing resolution to keep the government running at current program levels through October 21. To date, only 6 of 13 appropriations bills have been enacted, although work is progressing on several others. By far the most contentious bill has been the Labor, HHS, Education bill, the largest domestic spending measure. Both the Senate and House took action on differing versions of the bill last week, only after agreeing to the use of advance funding, emergency designations, and other budget gimmicks to provide modest growth in spending for several politically popular programs.

The Senate approved its version, providing a \$1.8 billion (5 percent) increase for discretionary education programs, which is \$538 million above the President's request but significantly less than the education community's call for a \$5 billion, 15 percent increase. Increases were approved for IDEA state grants (\$700 million), Title I (\$324 million), Adult Education (\$103 million), after-school grants (\$200 million), Safe and Drug-Free Schools (\$70 million), GEAR-UP (\$45 million), TRIO programs (\$30 million), and a \$200 increase in the maximum Pell Grant. Most other key programs are frozen at 1999 levels. However, library programs are reduced by \$11.5 million and School-to-Work by \$70 million.

The Senate bill also provides a freeze at \$1.2 billion for the class-size reduction program, but makes the funding contingent on enactment of an authorization for the program next year. The bill also includes language requiring Title I state and local education agency grants to remain at 100 percent of their funding level for 1999, thus negating the use of updated census data to direct funds to areas of growth in the number of poor children, such as New York. Inclusion of this "hold harmless" language prevents

New York from receiving an additional \$48 million in Title I funds.

Although bipartisan passage of a Senate funding bill with modest education increases moves in the right direction, it contrasts sharply with the party-line approval of a House bill in their Appropriations Committee. The House would reduce education funding by \$209 million. The bill also eliminates funding for Goals 2000, Eisenhower professional development grants, and the class-size reduction program and provides \$1.8 billion for the House-passed Teacher Empowerment Act, a \$200 million reduction from the combined antecedent programs. Several other programs are eliminated, including School-to-Work, GEAR-UP, Star Schools, LEAP (formerly SSIG), and teacher training in technology. Library programs are reduced by \$17 million. The bill also includes language requiring local school districts to install Internet filtering software on any computer purchased with Federal funds.

The House increases funding for IDEA state grants (\$500 million), Pell Grants (\$125 increase in the maximum grant), 21st Century Community Learning Centers (\$100 million), and Impact Aid (\$33 million). Most other key education programs are frozen. The Administration threatens a veto, based largely on inadequate funding for education.

The bill is scheduled for House floor debate as early as October 13. Before the bill can move to the floor, House leaders must find offsetting cuts to comply with the spending caps imposed by the 1997 balanced budget agreement. House leaders have proposed an across-the-board cut on all remaining appropriations bills to bring compliance. It is estimated that cuts between 2.7 percent and 9 percent would be needed to meet the caps, depending on which, if any, budget areas would be exempt. Federal education programs in New York State could be cut between \$70 million and \$234 million under this scenario.

Although the House and Senate are moving on the individual Labor, HHS, Education spending bills, it is speculated that final allocations will be included in an

omnibus appropriations measure that will combine other unfinished bills at the end of the month.

Senate and House conferees also are working toward completion of a final Interior appropriations bill. The Senate includes \$103 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and \$115.7 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, a \$4 million increase each over 1999. The House level funds both.

It still is not too late to contact the members of the New York congressional delegation and urge them to reject the low education funding in the pending House bill.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Clesson Bush at 518-474-1235; fax 518-473-9466; e-mail cbush@mail.nysed.gov.

REPORT ON FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

October 29, 1999

Elementary and Secondary Education Program Reauthorization. The House passed The Student Results Act, H.R. 2, which would reauthorize Title I compensatory education, bilingual education, and several smaller programs. This is the second large bill that the House has completed in their continuing effort to review Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs. While the measure generally follows the standards-based approach adopted in the 1994 Improving America's Schools Act, which we support, there are some specific concerns that we feel should be addressed during the eventual conference committee. The Senate has yet to draft legislative language and may not do so before their planned recess the week before Thanksgiving.

Immediately after the resolution of H.R. 2, the House seemingly undid all of their work by also passing H.R. 2300, The Academic Achievement Act (Straight A's) bill. In its original form, this bill would have consolidated funding for most elementary and secondary education programs, including Title I, and sent the money to governors and state legislatures to distribute with little targeting or accountability.

Republican moderates managed to get the full House to scale back that effort into a voluntary ten-state demonstration program, which we still oppose. Of nine Republicans in the full House who opposed the demonstration program, five were from New York (Representatives Sherwood Boehlert, Benjamin Gilman, John McHugh, Jack Quinn, and John Sweeney).

There is significant Senate pressure to include some form of "Straight A's" in their reauthorization package. Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT), Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is having great difficulty fending off the more conservative members of his Committee. The death of moderate Senator John Chafee (R-RI) could harm his effort. However, the President is likely to veto the bill if the Senate and House both pass it.

Education Funding. The Congress passed a third continuing resolution to maintain current level funding for education and other programs until an acceptable Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill can be negotiated with the President. Although House and Senate leaders have worked out an appropriations measure that was approved by the House October 28 (the deadline for the second continuing resolution), President Clinton has threatened a veto because the bill will impose a one-percent, across-the-board cut in all discretionary programs in the budget, including education. Such a cut would reduce education \$400 million from agreed-upon levels.

Overall, the bill includes a \$1.1 billion increase for selected education programs over last year's levels, or about a three-percent increase. In addition, the House-Senate agreement continues \$1.2 billion in funding for the President's class-size reduction program, but would allow local districts to spend the funds on any "reform" activity. Many other education programs would be frozen or cut from 1999 levels, with increases for selected programs such as IDEA, after-school activities, Head Start, Pell Grants, GEAR-UP, and college work-study.

If you have any questions, contact Clesson Bush

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECALL FAFSAS DUE TO ERRORS

The higher education community had a brief scare last month when The U.S. Education Department learned of errors on the FAFSAs it sent to colleges. Most of the mistakes were in the instructions pages detailing where applicants should provide certain financial data. Errors were found on the instruction pages telling applicants where they should list certain tax information, including deductible payments they have made on their Individual Retirement Accounts, and payments they have made to tax-deferred pension and savings plans. Errors were also found on the instructions for the form that applicants applying for financial aid by telephone must fill out, sign, and submit to the department. Department officials were alerted to the mistakes by college aid administrators.

Distribution of the 2000-2001 FAFSA resumed on October 20, 1999, after it was temporarily halted on October 15. The Department of Education tested the corrected FAFSAs on their customers-student interns. They were given sample info, completed the form, and gave it a thumbs up. The Department is confident the FAFSAs are now accurate and the printing error should NOT Affect Student Aid Delivery

Y2K – ARE YOU READY?

Kathie Owens, Ithaca College

By now, you probably are tired of hearing about the Y2K issue. You may have decided that the world is *not* coming to an end, you have received assurances that we will have electricity, your computer folks have completed all the necessary programs to change that 2-digit year to a 4-digit one, and on and on! Of course, you have read the numerous jokes and even seen cartoons showing bugs coming out of computer screens, etc. And wouldn't you know that the whole thing has turned into a marketing opportunity. The funniest item I have seen for sale (\$8.99 no less) is an 8" stuffed, multi colored creature labeled the "The Y2K Bug." So, no doubt, you and your institution have completed all the possible Y2K preparations and everyone is ready to take a breather.

BUT what if some of the assurances turn out to be false – do we really need to complete some contingency plans? According to the Department of Education's website (<http://www.ed.gov/Y2K>) there are several reasons why it may **not** be necessary to complete Y2K contingency plans. For example, the confidence that institutions are indeed Y2K ready, the size and scope of the project along with a lack of financial and staff resources, and other priorities taking precedence, such as the 3-day rule for posting loan disbursements.

However, they also note that, since enrollment is a top priority for all institutions of higher learning, "anything that may adversely affect enrollment needs special attention." In a group discussion headed by the Department of Education, it was agreed that the "most important areas that should be covered by contingency plans" for institutions of higher learning "are disbursement and student aid applications and eligibility."

In this light, therefore, it would seem to be prudent that Bursar offices prepare a contingency plan. At Ithaca College, we decided to prepare a plan because we are hoping for the best but are planning for the worst. Within the Office of the Bursar, we are planning to run the same procedures, along with a hard copy, that we would normally prepare at the end of the fiscal year. The resulting reports would include billing reports showing all anticipated financial aid, debit/credit listings, and student account statements that show the past financial history. Also, we are suggesting that the Financial Aid Office process and print off any TAP colaward, pending Pell, and any pending loan information. Our Registrar's Office is also planning to prepare paper copies of registration and demographic information. All computers, phones, and security systems on campus have been tested and declared to be Y2K compliant by our technical departments.

Therefore, just in case we do have a problem and information is lost, we would have a starting point to **reconstruct** student billing information. That is an absolute dreadful and terrifying thought!! However, it is the consensus within Ithaca College (there is a task force with representative from every area on campus

that has been meeting since 1998) that we need to be prepared for the worst case scenario.

Naturally, the Ithaca College preparations may not be inclusive of all the items that would be pertinent for your institutions. Every institution should decide what preparations need to be done, or if, any concern and/or preparation is even necessary.

So, if you are interested in reading further about Y2K preparation suggestions, there are many, many websites available. For example, I went into the *Yahoo* search engine, typed in "Y2K," and got 759 possible references. Of course, especially applicable to education issues, is the www.ed.gov/Y2K site. This site contains not only the Contingency Plan for the Department of Education, but suggestions how to contact vendors, what to look for in programming necessities, what other institutions of higher education are doing, etc. In addition, there have been volumes of information in magazines regarding the "Millennium Bug."

In closing, we wish anyone the best of luck, a Happy New Year, and "may the Force be with you!!!"

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND Y2K COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW

The Department of Education has developed a process of bringing its mission-critical and non-mission-critical systems into compliance. All of the 14 mission-critical systems have completed renovation, validation and implementation, including independent verification and validation and have been phased into production.

All of the 161 noncritical systems administered by the Department, have been fully renovated, validated and implemented and phased into production. Although the work has been completed on all of the systems, the Department is rapidly expanding end-to-end testing, contingency planning and outreach.

For more detailed information regarding the Department's Y2K compliance efforts, please refer to our most recent Year 2000 Quarterly Report to the Office of Management and Budget, dated May 14,

1999. This can be found at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCIO/year/a1.html>

COUNSELING SERVICES TO HELP WITH ENTRANCE/EXIT INTERVIEWS

Many institutions are enhancing the services they provide to students for entrance and exit interviews. In a recent internet discussion, an institution asked for some suggestions for counseling services that would assist in the process. Here is a brief summary of services used:

Consumer Credit Counseling Service's (CCCS) is an organization that helps people with financial counseling. It is fair in size and has lots of clients. They are trained and paid to counsel people in financial difficulty and to keep them out of default and bankruptcy. The website is <http://www.powersource.com/cccs/>. To find one in your area call 800-540-CCCS or (1-888-462-2227).

Credit Counseling Centers have materials and speakers willing to talk to students about this issue. The web address is <http://www.debthelpnow.com>

Consumer Credit Counselors of America (CCA) have information and a website <http://www.consumercounseling.org/>.

One institution used *the College Board* and found College Credit Tip sheets helpful for exits. They had a couple of Tip Sheets regarding credit cards. Their website is www.collegeboard.org.

A final recommendation was *BuCCs -- Budget & Credit Counseling Services, Inc.* They have been in business since 1976. This organization provides presentations and workshops for schools. Their web address is <http://www.buccs.com/>.

There are many other credit counseling services available. Just search the web or check your local yellow pages. Please note that this is informational only and is not an endorsement for any of these services.

NYSOBBA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

by Larry Brennan

Winners of the 1999-2000 John Karrer/NYSOBBA scholarships were announced. They are listed below by region.

CENTRAL

Dillon, Meghan Herkimer Community College
Payne, Diana Bryant & Stratton

GENESEE VALLEY

Janine Little SUNY Brockport

MID HUDSON

Drazek, Krzysztof SUNY New Paltz
O'Brien, Allison Marist College

NEW YORK CITY

Pinskaya, Yelena SUNY Fashion Institute
Stroud, Orales Technical Career Institute

NORTH/NORTHEAST

Averill, Heather Clarkson University

WESTERN

Clancy, Jennifer Erie Community College
Polycn, Jake Hilbert College

Congratulations to all!

UPCOMING NYSOBBA CONFERENCES

By Shirley Walker

Conference sites for the next five years have been set. Regions should keep these dates in mind for potential conference sites. Northeastern region, you're next!!

<u>Year</u>	<u>Region</u>
2000	Western Region
2001	Northeastern
2002	Central
2003	Mid-Hudson
2004	Long Island

SOME CHANGES FOR OUR MEMBERS

Lisa Marrano has been named Interim Director of Student Accounts and **Judy Langworthy** named Interim Assistant Director of Student Accounts at SUNY Fredonia. **Barbara Servatius** has taken advantage of the early retirement incentive. Her last day at SUNY Fredonia was August 31, 1999. Barbara expressed her gratitude to NYSOBBA for the experiences she had over the last fifteen years. "The organization is vital to our leadership abilities. The people are certainly what makes the organization a great one," states Barb.

Deborah Weber former Director of Bursar Operations at New York Institute of Technology has accepted a new position as Director of Student Financial Affairs at Nassau Community College. She started her new position on Monday, August 16th. Debbie is now on E-mail. Her address is weberd@sunynassau.edu.

Lucy Wiertel has assumed a new position as Hilbert College. Her new title is Vice President of Enrollment. Lucy is the first female to hold such a position at this institution.

Michelle Brown-Nevers has accepted the position of Director of Student Administrative Services at Columbia University's Health Sciences Campus. In this position, Michelle is responsible for Student Accounts, Cashiering, Registrar, Classroom Management and Student Financial Planning.

THE JOB CORNER

Polytechnic University, a private co-educational institution and a leader in telecommunications & information technology is seeking an enthusiastic & energetic Assistant Director of Financial Aid for its Brooklyn Campus. The Assistant Director will be responsible for all aspects of the Federal Family Education Loan Program and act as Office Manager for the clerical & counseling staff.

Other responsibilities will include: counseling prospective and current students and parents concerning financial aid, assisting with packaging a

verification, assisting with further implementation of the Financial Aid Module of People Soft, the university's new student administration system, and other duties as assigned by the Director of Student Financial Services.

Excellent organizational, written and verbal communication skills are essential. Individual must be detail-oriented and have the ability to be successful in a fast-paced office environment. A Bachelor's Degree is required and 2-3 years of experience in financial aid with a working knowledge of the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to M. Langbart, Director of Student Financial Services, Polytechnic University, 6 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Cover letter and resume can be faxed to (718) 260-3052 or sent via e-mail to mlangbar@poly.edu

The Spelman & Johnson Group, a search firm serving higher education, is currently working with *Mercy College* on their search for a Director of Financial Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

Mercy College is a non-sectarian, independent, co-educational institution, with a main campus located on the banks of the Hudson River in Westchester County, New York. The College offers degrees at the associate, bachelor and master level. With additional campuses and extension sites throughout lower New York State, Mercy College attracts students from primarily the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area as well as from around the United States and 67 other countries.

Reporting to the Vice President for Enrollment Management, the Director oversees a financial aid operation of 35 employees across four sites, servicing 9,500 students. The Director plans, develops, interprets, and implements policies, procedures and delivery systems for aid, including loans and grants. In addition, the Director is responsible for the preparation and submission of various internal and external reports, the planning and implementation of staff training and development programs, and the

oversight and management of services to students in a customer-oriented atmosphere.

The successful candidate will possess a bachelor's degree, and three to five years of experience in student financial aid, with a thorough knowledge of current financial aid regulations. Familiarity with financial aid computer systems, and strong interpersonal, management and administrative skills are all important contributing factors in the selection of the Director.

Applications for this position should include two copies of a resume, a cover letter and three references

to: The Spelman & Johnson Group
MC - Director of Financial Aid
Katherine Johnson, Vice President
38 Mulberry Street, Box 304 Leeds, MA 01053
Phone: 413-584-7089
E-mail: mail@spelmanandjohnson.com

Applications may be received on-line at <http://www.spelmanandjohnson.com>. Visit the Mercy College website at www.mercynet.edu. Mercy College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Yeshiva University seeks a detail oriented professional to fill a challenging position in their loan and tuition collection department. Responsibilities include the collection and reconciliation of loan and tuition portfolios. Yeshiva University has Perkins and their own loan program. Lots of contact with former students, their billing service and collection agencies. Excellent communication and computer skills are necessary. Knowledge of Financial Aid a plus.

Interested candidates should contact:

Jean Belmont, Bursar
Yeshiva University
500 W. 185 St.
New York, New York 10033
Telephone (212) 960-0899
Fax (212) 960-0037
e-mail - jbelmont@ymail.yu.edu

Look for us on the web.

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/services/stu-acc/nysobba/>

PURPOSES

SECTION 1 - Name: *The name of this corporation shall be the New York State Organization of Bursars and Business Administrators, Inc. (NYSOBBA).*

SECTION 2 - Purposes: *The purposes of the corporation shall be:*

- (a) *To provide training and instruction for bursars and business administrators (or other comparable personnel) of institutions of higher education throughout New York State, both public and private, to improve principles and practices in the administration of student-related economic and financial practices, to the end that those institutions may accomplish their educational and fiscal objectives more efficiently.*
- (b) *To provide for interchange of ideas and information in order to assist members in formulating and implementing more effective approaches in matters pertaining to educational business administration.*
- (c) *To develop ideals and standards and to educate and instruct its members concerning them in order that they may represent the business operation in their educational institutions as a profession.*
- (d) *To promote such systematic studies, cooperative experiments, conferences and other related educational activities desired or required to fulfill the purposes of this corporation.*
- (e) *To provide educational information and training in matters relating to student-related business administration to any institution of higher education in New York State having a member of the corporation.*
- (f) *The corporation shall be organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its not-for-profit purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in, (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.*

**NEW YORK STATE ORGANIZATION OF
BURSARS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS**

1999-2000 INDIVIDUAL/INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this section if you are requesting an **INDIVIDUAL** membership and attach payment of \$60.00. Make check payable to NYSOBBA. Please write/print legibly.

NAME last _____ First Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss _____

Title _____

Institution _____

Address _____ City, State
Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Region _____ Fax # _____

Please complete this section if you are requesting an **INSTITUTIONAL** membership and attach payment of \$175.00. Make check payable to NYSOBBA. Institutional memberships allow five (5) members on NYSOBBA database.

NAME Last _____ First _____

Title _____ Telephone # _____

NAME Last _____ First _____

Title _____ Telephone # _____

NAME Last _____ First _____

Title _____ Telephone # _____

NAME Last _____ First _____

Title _____ Telephone # _____

NAME Last _____ First _____

Title _____ Telephone # _____

Institution _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Region _____ Fax # _____

Please return this form with your payment to: **Mr. Larry Brennan, Bursar**
SUNY Health Science Center
155 Elizabeth Blackwell Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

REGIONS: Western New York City Genesee Valley Long Island Central Mid-Hudson Northeast

NYSOBBA

c/o Office of Student Administrative Services
Columbia University - Health Sciences Campus
630 West 168th Street, 141 Black Building
New York, New York 10032



Peg Ehmann
Bursar
University of Rochester - Med/Dent
601 Elmwood Ave, Box #601
Rochester, NY 14642

Highlights of what's inside.....

<i>HESC NEWS</i>	Page 3
<i>Message from President Peter J. Keitel</i>	Page 3
<i>HESC Extends Deadline and Enhances Tax Reporting Service</i>	Page 4
<i>HESC Fall Training</i>	Page 6
<i>NYS Education First Alliance</i>	Page 7
<i>Department of Education Recalls FAFSAs Due to Errors</i>	Page 9
<i>Y2K Are You Ready</i>	Page 9
<i>Counseling Services to Help with Entrance/Exit Interviews</i>	Page 10
<i>Some Changes For Our Members</i>	Page 11
<i>The Job Corner</i>	Page 11
