



NYSOBBA

Quarterly

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A Word from the Newsletter Publisher

It is a great opportunity to have the first word in this issue of the newsletter as this is a very special issue. As you turn the page, you will note that our first newsletter editor, Tom Ryder, is retiring.

Tom served NYSOBBA in several ways. He was a founding member of this fine organization, in Fall 1977. Tom also served as Vice-President from March through October 1979. Tom became the second President of NYSOBBA in October 1979, and served in that position until October 1981. He took a short break and returned to the NYSOBBA Board as the first newsletter editor. Tom supported the newsletter for many years and passed it on to Barbara Dupre in 1988. In 1987, Tom wrote the original history of NYSOBBA and introduced it to the membership at NYSOBBA's 10th anniversary. This history was later updated by Richard Augustine in 1992. As you see, Tom is a pioneer!

I first met Tom in 1996, when I became newsletter editor/publisher. Tom immediately extended himself and offered to help. He shared a bit of the history with me and made himself available whenever I needed him.

He is now venturing off into another area. Tom will continue to serve Oneonta College as Executive Director of Ancillary Services.

Please read about Tom's retirement in the upcoming pages of this newsletter. Also, read about NYSOBBA's history in the NYSOBBA directory.

I am sure you will agree that without Tom and his vision, NYSOBBA would be a very different organization.

On behalf of our President, Shirley Walker, and the entire NYSOBBA Board, we want to thank Tom for his many years of service and congratulate him on his retirement.

Sincerely,

Michelle H. Brown-Nevers, Ed.D.
Newsletter Publisher



TOM RYDER RETIRES

Recently I retired from SUNY Oneonta where I was employed for over 33 years. Those of you who know me would certainly expect some sort of farewell. You also would know it won't be short! For those who do not know me, try to bear with me and if you get weary, just skip to another article!

I was hired as manager of the "Accounts Receivable" office in 1967 where four employees, all older than me, and getting along quite well without a young whipper-snapper of a boss, were not all that thrilled. If that were not enough of an imposition, I was going to take over a "spare room" they were counting on for file storage!

My first day I walked across the hall to see my boss to find out what I was supposed to do. He had somewhat less of an idea about my duties than I did. In a moment of inspiration that would allow him to get back to work, he handed me the full "New York State Audit and Control Procedures Manual" to read, which no living being has ever been able to either comprehend or finish, although some have died of boredom trying.

A few days later I was called by the President's secretary and told that I would be taking over vehicle assignments...from her! She didn't have time to take care of them anymore. I guess if I ever thought about leaving Oneonta, it would have been in those first few days.

However, things soon got better. My staff in "Accounts Receivable" learned to live with me as we moved into the incredible growth period of the 70s. We became the "Bursar's Office" and eventually "Student Accounts." I never did read the Audit and Control Manual, but I did learn what I had to, and read plenty of other manuals and regulations that blossomed in that decade. Within a few years, I found a younger "whipper-snapper" to take his turn with vehicle assignments!

Higher education grew in those years. And so did Oneonta. And so did the bureaucracy at the State and Federal levels. Financial Aid programs were funded and grew rapidly. Accountability was demanded by those providing the funds. State and Federal agencies scrambled to get a grip on processing and reporting. Unfortunately, consultation with the campuses ranged from zero to none, and the impact of compliance threw us all for a loop. Our minds were boggled and our resources stretched to the breaking point!

On a gray day in the Fall of 1977, I trudged off to Syracuse with my Financial Aid Officer and our counterparts from Hartwick College. We were headed for a "NYSFAAA" meeting at Drumlin's. Following that meeting of a well-organized group of financial aid professionals, there was an interest meeting for Bursars to consider a similar organization. About ten of us sat around and pondered the possibilities, got excited, and made plans. On that day NYSOBBA was born!

NYSOBBA grew rapidly and took on the major issues of financial aid payment processing and reporting, getting recognition from the agencies involved. Improvements followed within a year that made life easier for all of us. NYSOBBA continued to grow and expanded into the vital organization it has become today.

I'll not go into more detail because I have been honored that the organization has included my "History of NYSOBBA, 1977-1987" in its directory. It was my attempt to record some of the exciting moments in the life of this wonderful organization, which also played a critical role in my career and life. All the details are there!

So, what is Tom Ryder doing after retirement? Well... as you might suspect, I'm not quite retired. A few years ago I became involved in a process which eventually replaced our self-operated dining service with a contract service. I volunteered to sit on a food service committee, later became chair, was asked to handle the RFP process, then sat on the negotiating committee, acted as part time contract manager, then was asked to be interim general manager of auxiliary services, and eventually interim Executive Director. There had been an increasing commitment to auxiliary services while still performing my Associate VP duties on a slightly reduced basis.

A turning point was clearly at hand! Certainly I could not do both jobs forever. It was physically impossible and there was a conflict of interest between the two functions. I was offered a clear path back to my old job and also offered the job of Executive Director of Auxiliary Services. Many highly qualified people who had worked for me and with me over the years were waiting in the wings. They are the future of our institution and were ready to go! Each had been absorbing parts of my job as I took on more responsibility on the "other side." What a wonderful opportunity for them! What a great time for reorganization in our division! What a wonderful chance for a person near the end of his career to change jobs and move to a new and exciting area that will continue to be a challenge until the day he REALLY retires!

Well, folks, the handwriting was on the wall! While I enjoyed my job at the Associate VP level, loved the people I worked with and for, and was never bored a day in my time in that position, there was a great deal of excitement working in an almost completely different environment. My experience would serve me well, but the top job in auxiliary services challenged me in many ways. There was great opportunity for innovation and change. I was responsible for the full range of functions of a business operation. Once again there was interaction with students. But now they were students on our board of directors and various committees, not students who owed the College money! I have become deeply involved in renovations to our dining facilities. I learned about food safety. We just reopened our College Camp after being closed for 8 years. A new C-store was just opened a few weeks ago. It is exhausting... and exciting!

So my decision became clear, and had been arrived at through a series of open doors that my wife and friends encouraged me to walk through. I've retired from the College, walked across the campus and am now employed by the auxiliary service. I report to a Board of Directors, have a wonderful staff, and a great group of new friends. Best of all, I have not lost my old friends, and still work with some of them in my new role!

However, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell the NYSOBBA membership that the years I spent as a member, officer, newsletter editor, membership recruiter, and participant were the best of my career. Through my involvement with NYSOBBA I grew professionally, became a public speaker of sorts, and gained confidence in my abilities, all with the support of others. Perhaps most important, I made many friends I will never forget.

It's been a great ride!

Tom Ryder
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HESC NEWS

Governor George E. Pataki's 2001-2002 budget recommendations for Higher Education in New York, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and New York's College Savings Program, are available at the Division of the Budget Web site at: <http://www.state.ny.us/dob/pubs/executive/0102/html ebook/lb0102.html>.

HESC is pleased to announce the availability of the 1999-2000 HESC Annual Report. The Report can be found on HESC's Web site, www.hesc.com or at <http://www.hesc.com/pub/areport/annualreport2000/index.html>. The Report is available as a pdf file for downloading and printing or as an html document with links to more information.

The HESC brochures Pay For College, Borrowing For College, Your Rights and Responsibilities, and Paying Back Your Loan, as well as How To Apply, have recently been updated and are available via tnolan@hesc.com. The PLUS brochure will soon be delivered as well. Information fact sheets on more specific programs or circumstances will soon be available for you in a print-ready format at [hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com) for duplication and distribution as needed.

In support of the College Aid Awareness Network's public education effort, HESC modified its home page in mid-January to make it easier for students to obtain financial aid application and program information, <http://www.hesc.com/>. We have also added a link to CAAN information via [nysfaa.org](http://www.nysfaa.org) home page, http://www.hesc.com/whats_new.html. These are interim changes that will remain until the new [hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com) design becomes effective in late February.

Training and Outreach

HESC and the Consumer Protection Board are preparing a news release and hosting 2 news conferences (Manhattan & Albany) to alert people to "scholarship scams." If you or anybody you know has been a victim of or been approached by a "scholarship scam," will you please forward that information to Laurence Sombke at HESC (lsombke@hesc.com).

HESC's Electronic Workshops will resume in February and will be held monthly in Albany. These small group-training sessions cover the basic use of WinPATH and [hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com) to process TAP and loans, and new electronic transactions. Please note, regional training is also available upon request.

The second annual Lender Conference will be held March 6 in Albany. Lender operations staff will be invited to attend this workshop.

The existing TAP Modernization Group will reconvene February 12, a broad cross-section of financial aid officers, registrars, certifying officers, and bursars to discuss the future direction of TAP administration. Topics will include an overall discussion of HESC's modernization efforts to date, presentations on upcoming new services and processing advances for the 2001-2002 academic year, and a general discussion of remaining areas of concern to the schools.

New York College Savings

Progress continues with the development of New York College Savings Program fund disbursement procedures. During September and October 2000, the proposed disbursement process was evaluated during a series of focus groups with bursars and financial aid officers. Overall, the proposed process received favorable reviews from participants. Suggestions from these sessions have been incorporated into the disbursement process. Most notably, the "qualified withdrawal request form" which account owners will use to direct withdrawals from their accounts will be modified to include both federal school and campus codes to ensure that funds are disbursed to the appropriate location at multi-campus institutions.

Participants also utilized the sessions to identify questions and concerns about College Savings Program fund disbursement. Primary concerns identified included return/refund criteria and procedures, whether funds held in College Savings accounts need be reported on the FAFSA, and if so, where on the application these funds should be reported, and how disbursed funds are to be considered in federal needs analysis. A helpful question-and-answer memo was subsequently

delivered to financial aid administrators as a result of this input.

Focus group participants also evaluated the presentation in terms of its effectiveness as a training session to orient higher education financial aid and business officers to the College Savings Program and disbursement procedures. Numerous presentation slides which addressed needs analysis and financial aid issues were modified as a result of participant suggestions. The modified presentation was well received throughout HESC's "Administrative Workshops 2000" series held across the State during November and December.

HESC and TIAA staff are currently working to coordinate the technical and operational aspects of the EFT of disbursement data. Progress with this phase of the project is on schedule, and we anticipate that the disbursement process will be operational by October 2001.

Processing

HESC has started a school reporting project to make online TAP transactions available. These include adjustments to payment points and the ability to view and report income, academic progress, pursuit of progress, and residency. The project is being scoped; HESC will provide additional details as it develops.

HESC encourages schools to perform electronic transactions versus paper. Since schools and students received the ability to make changes electronically, the backlog in TAP changes have been greatly reduced.

Another initiative to reduce paper is a phased approach using an IBM print product to download and print rosters, Remittance Advices, and Student Status Listings, rather than rely on the paper process.

Grants and Scholarships is planning on publishing a processing schedule at www.hesc.com so schools will be aware of processing activities related to certifications, rosters, and Student Status Listings.

HESC encourages schools to use EFT for Grants & Scholarships. Forms are available online through the NYS Comptroller's Web site under "Hot Topics." For

more information, please contact Brian Matthews at (518) 473-3273.

Web Enhancements

Progress continues on enhancements to HESC's screens. TAP Inquiry Screens will be available in March. The Loan Screens will be available this spring.

ED CONTRACTS WITH VERISIGN TO PROVIDE STUDENT BORROWERS WITH DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Education Daily (Hardi, 11/27) reported that VeriSign has signed on as a subcontractor to implement federal agency efforts to allow students to conduct online transactions, including applying for and repaying student loans, using digital signatures. Under the electronic signatures law passed last June, federal agencies are required to accept unique digital identifiers in place of traditional signatures on paper. In response, the Education, Labor, and Veterans Affairs Departments and United States Postal Service are now working with AT&T to update their computer systems so they can accept the General Service Administration's Access Certificates for Electronic Services (ACES). VeriSign's expertise should augment the use of ACES certificates, which are computer files that act as a 'public key' in conjunction with a Web browser or other software. VeriSign already works with nearly 40 federal agencies to create government-wide standards for electronic signatures.

ED has issued more than 14 million personal identification numbers (PINs) to students who fill out financial aid forms online, but students must still submit their signature to receive the PIN. When used alone, however, PINs are not secure enough to authorize certain transactions, such as the signing of a promissory note. But with VeriSign certificates, students can conduct encrypted transactions. As a subcontractor to primary contractor AT&T, VeriSign will validate students' digital IDs in real time and communicate the results to government computers over systems that AT&T will develop.

"In helping our customers understand and use ACES [public key] services, AT&T and VeriSign are moving us closer to our goals of helping put America through school while cutting costs and increasing customer satisfaction," said Greg Woods, chief operating officer of ED's Office of Student Financial Assistance.

STUDY SUGGESTS THAT STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE GRANTS GIVE MORE AS ALUMNI

In an article published by the Chronicle of Higher Education, Jennifer Yachnin reports that a new study suggests that colleges that provide students with more aid in the form of grants instead of loans may end up with more-generous alumni later.

The study, conducted by researchers at the Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education at Williams College, examined giving by 3,000 Vanderbilt University graduates who entered college between August 1984 and August 1986.

Researchers focused on the link between undergraduate financial-aid packages -- including loans, scholarships, and grants -- and the likelihood that those students would donate to the college within eight years after graduation.

"The types of financial aid received [by a student] appear to be much more important than the quantity given," the report states. "Whether a student receives a scholarship or a loan, not the size of these awards, is what affects alumni donations."

Researchers found that students receiving need-based loans were 13 percent less likely to donate, while the probability of a donation from a student who received a need-based scholarship increased by 12 percent. The average donation by graduates in the study was \$32.

Researchers also found that variables in the college experience -- including membership in a fraternity or sorority, or on a varsity athletics team -- could positively affect donations by alumni. Factors like period of matriculation, and undergraduate major, also appeared to sway donation amounts.

"The more favorable experience a student has, the more likely she is to reward the university with charitable gifts," the report states.

In detailing the expectations of former athletes, the report continues: "As with Greek affiliation, participation on a varsity athletic team generates a stronger sense of attachment to the university through group membership," making former athletes 7 percent more likely to donate than non-athletes.

The report may be downloaded from the project's Website <<http://www.williams.edu/wpehe/abstracts.html> (requires free registration as well as the Adobe Acrobat Reader, <<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> also available free).

HOUSE GOP SHUNS SENIORITY RULES IN CHOOSING BOEHNER TO HEAD EDUCATION PANEL

*By Stephen Burd and Jeffrey Bratnard
Friday, January 5, 2001*

Washington -- Bucking the rules of seniority, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives late Thursday handed the chairmanship of the committee that oversees higher education to Rep. John A. Boehner, an Ohio Republican.

The decision, made as many committee leaders were selected by the steering committee of the House Republican Conference and ratified by a vote of all House Republicans, ends a two-month battle that featured three G.O.P. contenders. Mr. Boehner will replace Rep. William F. Goodling of Pennsylvania, who retired as chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee in December, at the conclusion of the 106th Congress.

It was widely assumed that Rep. Thomas E. Petri of Wisconsin, who was next in line to head the committee, would replace Mr. Goodling. But soon after the elections in November, two lawmakers who are more conservative than Mr. Petri -- Mr. Boehner and Rep. Peter Hoekstra of Michigan -- announced they would challenge Mr. Petri for the post.

They contended that their views on education were more in line with those of Gov. George W. Bush, now the president-elect. Mr. Petri has long had a reputation as an independent thinker who is not afraid to challenge the constituencies that members of his political party have traditionally favored. For instance, he has long supported the direct-lending program that President Clinton championed and that many Republican lawmakers -- and the bankers and student-loan-guarantee agencies that contribute to them -- have sought to eliminate.

Mr. Boehner is seen as particularly loyal, as he served in the House leadership under former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich of Georgia, from 1995 to 1998. Political observers had given Mr. Boehner an edge over Mr. Hoekstra because they believed that G.O.P. leaders wanted to appease Mr. Boehner for losing his position when Mr. Gingrich resigned as speaker.

In a statement released soon after the vote, Mr. Boehner vowed to "play a pivotal role" in pushing forward Mr. Bush's education proposals.

College lobbyists were not particularly happy about the Republican leaders' choice. They privately had been rooting for Mr. Petri, who they believed to be less ideologically driven, and more likely to work in a bipartisan manner with the committee's Democratic members.

However, many officials in the student-loan industry were ecstatic about the choice. "Lenders generally view Mr. Boehner as a stronger leader than Mr. Petri, and believe him to be more sympathetic to their views," said Jeff Andrade, a former Republican Congressional aide with the House committee that oversees the student-loan programs.

Aides to Mr. Petri were extremely disappointed by their colleagues' decision to ignore the seniority rules. "It is an unwise move of the leadership that will leave some members aggrieved," said Joseph F. Flader, Mr. Petri's chief of staff.

On Thursday, House G.O.P. leaders also named several other chairmen to lead committees of interest to universities.

Sherwood L. Boehlert of New York will lead the House Committee on Science. Mr. Boehlert is considered one of the most moderate G.O.P. congressmen, and, given their slim majority, Republican leaders may see his appointment as a way to improve relations with House moderates.

In a statement, Mr. Boehlert said he was aware of how his position could benefit colleges in his district, including, he said, State University of New York campuses at Oneonta, Delhi, and Morrisville.

His staff members have said that Mr. Boehlert is also interested in encouraging universities to work more closely with schools to improve science and math education.

The Ways and Means Committee will be led by William M. Thomas of California. Mr. Thomas has supported tax proposals that would help colleges, such as increasing the amount that families can invest tax free in education savings accounts.

As of Thursday, the leadership had not formally announced a chairman for the appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Education Department and the National Institutes of Health. The choice is expected to be Ralph Regula of Ohio. Mr. Regula has strongly backed certain areas of research, like cancer research.

James T. Walsh, a Republican from New York, was expected to remain chairman of another appropriations subcommittee that sets budgets for the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and AmeriCorps. Mr. Walsh is viewed as friendly toward university research.

GOVERNOR PATAKI'S 2001 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor George Pataki gave his State of the State Address which provides the themes around which his budget proposals for the fiscal year 2001 legislative session will center. The Governor proposed some new programs, but mainly emphasized expanding existing programs that have been successful. He placed a gro

emphasis as well on working in a bi-partisan manner, expanding tax cuts, strengthening crime enforcement laws, improving schools, expanding the high technology sector through university-industry partnerships, and improving the state's economy. He also mentioned examining New York State's electoral system.

The following are some of the specific items mentioned in the speech that may be of interest. If you would like to obtain the full address, please go to the governor's website at www.state.ny.us/sos2001text.htm.

Education

Governor Pataki noted that he would propose an increase in funding for K-12 school aid for the fourth year in a row. He will propose additional funding for school infrastructure, and a change the State school aid allocation formula to give schools flexibility in how they spend the funds. He would also propose a renewed focus on teachers, and double the funding for the "Teachers for Tomorrow" program which provides tuition assistance for teachers. The governor proposed allowing retired public employees to become teachers while still receiving retirement benefits, establishing school district report cards, and summer language immersion programs for new immigrants.

Higher Education

Governor Pataki spoke highly of the state's colleges and universities saying they have never been stronger and are conducting world class research. He mentioned that enrollment is up, and pointed to new programs that allows families to deduct tuition costs and save for college tax-free. The governor said that our universities can lead the way into the high-tech economy. He pointed out several examples of research at the first three Centers of Excellence at SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and the University of Rochester. Of major significance to universities was his proposal to establish a \$1 billion high-technology research initiative for universities. He also noted that he would be awarding six new Star Centers for research through NYSTAR.

Medicaid

The governor began by noting that New York's Child Health Plus insurance program for uninsured children is the best in the nation. He then proposed expanding the program to Family Health Plus so uninsured workers can have insurance. He also proposed new criminal background checks for nursing home employees. He would like to place increased emphasis on women's health care, including expanding coverage for cervical and breast cancer and heart disease.

Taxes

The governor renewed his commitment to making government smaller and smarter, and said he would direct agency commissioners to improve efficiency. He will also propose new tax cuts for the seventh straight year. Last year, the state expanded a program ensuring that seniors pay reduced school property taxes. This year he will propose cutting county property taxes.

Jobs

The governor pointed out that New York State's credit rating is the highest in 21 years. He plans to focus on strengthening the upstate economy. He would stop the exodus of companies upstate by continuing to reduce taxes and regulations, such as the recent abolition of the gross receipts tax on manufacturers. This year he would streamline the tax on manufacturers. The governor also mentioned a desire to protect against price spikes in energy like we had this summer, and to invest in the technical development of the workforce. He will also propose creating more and doubling the size of some empire zones from 2 to 4 square miles.

Crime

Governor Pataki proposed expanding laws to prevent and convict violent criminals. He would remove the statute of limitations for conviction of violent predators, and toughen penalties for those caught trafficking illegal weapons. He also proposed reforming New York's Rockefeller drug laws.

Welfare

After noting that the state has reduced welfare rolls by 600,000, Governor Pataki's major reform proposal in this area is to step up efforts to go after dead-beat parents in paying child support.

Environmental protection

The governor mentioned several examples of environmental restoration projects including Irvington's Hudson waterfront development and the Long Island Sound clean up. He spoke of the need to make critical investments in environmental restoration to protect long-term quality of life in New York. He proposed increased funding for the environmental protection fund. He would also encourage land conservation and the donation of easements on private lands. He mentioned the need to reauthorize the superfund program to clean up very contaminated sites, and proposed new State tax credits for brownfields redevelopment.

REPORT ON FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

*Clesson Bush, NYSED
January 2, 2001*

President-elect Bush has nominated Houston Superintendent of Schools Roderick R. Paige to be his Secretary of Education. Dr. Paige was appointed Superintendent in 1994 after having served as Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University. He was elected to the Houston Board of Education in 1989 and served as president in 1992. He has served on review committees of the Texas Education Agency and previously held positions with the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators. Dr. Paige earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State University and a Master of Arts and a doctorate from Indiana University.

In 1999, the Council of the Great City Schools named him outstanding urban educator. In 2000, he was named superintendent of the year by the National Alliance of Black School Educators and received a Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Many people credit Dr. Paige with motivating significantly improved student performance through various reforms, including a comprehensive accountability

system and the freeing of local administrators from district mandates to enable innovation. Dr. Paige also has supported aligned curriculum across the district, higher graduation requirements, performance-based contracts for principals, privatized nonacademic services, charter schools, and privately operated alternative schools for students with discipline problems.

ALLIANCE UPDATE

*By Clesson Bush
December 27, 2000*

Before Christmas, the House adopted an omnibus bill that incorporates several appropriations measures, including the one for the Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services. The House vote was 292-60, with 80 not voting. Twenty-five members of our congressional delegation were in favor, with the other six not voting. The Senate passed the bill by a voice vote. The final bill provides \$42.1 billion in discretionary funds for Department of Education programs, a record increase of \$6.5 billion over federal fiscal year 2000.

Nearly all education programs received increases. The big winners included special education, after-school, and class-size reduction programs. A new emergency school renovation program is included. The bad news, although not unexpected, was that Goals 2000 funding was discontinued. Additionally, schools and libraries participating in federal technology programs will have to take measures, including installing filtering technology, to prevent children from gaining access to adult Internet sites. There also is a new requirement that all districts receiving Title I basic grant funding must provide students in low-performing schools with the option to transfer to another public school or public charter school in the district, unless prohibited by state or local law or policy.

Highlights of the bill include:

- ◆ \$45 million for state education agencies (SEAs) to continue to develop and refine standards and assessments, as well as a \$91 million increase for Title I accountability grants for low-performing schools.

- ◆ \$6.34 billion for special education state grants, an increase of 27 percent, or \$1.35 billion. This increase will raise the federal share of the average per pupil expenditure to 15 percent, its largest contribution ever.
- ◆ \$1.2 billion to SEAs to be awarded competitively to school districts for urgent repairs to existing school facilities (up to 25 percent may be used for special education or education technology activities).
- ◆ \$845.6 million for after-school programs, an increase of \$392 million over last year's level, which could double the number of students served by this program.
- ◆ \$1.6 billion for class-size reduction, an increase of \$323 million. This increase will help school districts to improve teacher quality through professional development activities and to recruit, hire, and train new teachers.
- ◆ A new Pell maximum grant of \$3,750, an increase of 13.6 percent.
- ◆ SEAs and school districts now will receive Title I basic and concentration grants at the higher of the statutory formula or the 100 percent hold-harmless that has been in effect through appropriations bills for the past few years. This is a provision that we worked hard for and means that states like New York that have not received their fair share of Title I money because of the restriction against using updated poverty census data will not be disadvantaged in this year's allocations.

Other programs receiving substantial increases included Eisenhower Professional Development (up 45 percent or \$150 million from FY2000); Bilingual Education (19 percent or \$48 million); and Comprehensive School Reform (18 percent or \$40 million).

Programs that received smaller increases were Title I local grants (8 percent or \$661 million), vocational education state grants (4 percent or \$44 million), Title

VI Innovative Strategies block grant (5 percent or \$19 million), and Safe and Drug-free Schools (7 percent or \$44 million).

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.

NYSED FEDERAL UPDATE

January 25, 2001

by Clesson Bush

New Education Proposals

This week has been exceptionally busy in Washington. First, the Senate Democratic leadership introduced its education reform legislation. Next, on Tuesday, Senator Joseph Lieberman reintroduced his so-called "Three Rs" bill, which was presented as an alternative during the debate last year over reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Also on Tuesday, President Bush sent the Congress a 28-page summary of his education proposals. His intention is for the Congress to work with him to agree on a draft bill that will be introduced with bipartisan sponsorship. SED staff are reviewing the summary with the goal of submitting recommendations through the members of our congressional delegation who serve on the education committees, Senator Clinton and Representatives McCarthy and Owens. An Internet link to the proposal, titled "No Child Left Behind," is available on the opening page of the U.S. Department of Education web site, www.ed.gov.

Ensuring Student Loan Repayment: A National Handbook of Best Practices

In October 2000, Greg Woods, Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Education collaborated with several experienced professionals in the higher education community and began the first Student Loan Repayment Symposium. This group spent three days sharing their ideas for reducing student loan defaults that resulted in the production of a handbook.

During the symposium presentations and the discussion sessions, writers were recording best

practices and ideas for future improvements in the student loan programs. They compiled these best practices and ideas into a user friendly handbook. They organized the chapters of this handbook in the same way that the symposium discussions occurred. The handbook, *Ensuring Student Loan Repayment: A National Handbook of Best Practices*, can be found at the following website:
http://ifap.ed.gov/dev_csb/new/home.nsf

CREDIT SCORES

On January 20, 2001, the Washington Post reported that Fair Isaac and Equifax are teaming up to allow consumers to obtain their FICO credit score through Equifax. This service will be available beginning in March, 2001.

The full article can be read at the following site:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A15432-2001Jan18?language=printer>

Also visit the following web sites to learn more:

www.fairisaac.com
www.thecreditreportsite.com

This may be of value to your students.

NYSOBBA NOW ACCEPTS VENDOR ADVERTISEMENTS

As a pilot, NYSOBBA is accepting vendor advertisements for the next newsletter. All advertisements will be evaluated as they are submitted. The cost of each ad is as follows:

1/4 page ad, \$100 per issue
1/2 page ad, \$150 per issue
Full page ad, \$250 per issue

Advertisements can be submitted in electronic or hard copy format. Of course, electronic format is preferred. Advertisements must be sent to:

Dr. Michelle H. Brown-Nevers, Ed.D.
Director of Student Administrative Services
Columbia University-Health Sciences Campus

630 West 168th Street, 141 Black Building
New York, New York 10032
mhb14@columbia.edu

Payment for Advertisements must be sent to:

Mr. Larry Brennan, Bursar
SUNY Health Science Center
155 Elizabeth Blackwell Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

Interested? See page 13 for the Advertising Request Form.

THE JOB CORNER

Assistant Directors of Financial Aid

St. John's University is presently seeking two Assistant Directors of Financial Aid to join our Financial Aid Office. Below is a brief description of the two vacancies together with the desired qualifications:

Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Student Loans: Reporting to the Associate Director of Financial Aid, the Assistant Director will assist in the management of the student loan programs which exceed \$75 million annually. The student loan department is presently staffed with three financial aid administrators and two staff. The department is highly automated and fully operates utilizing the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) process.

Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Customer Service: Reporting to the Associate Director for Office Operations, the Assistant Director should be student centered and have the ability to work closely with students and parents. Responsibilities will include counseling students and parents on the various financial aid opportunities, reviewing aid eligibility and verifying financial aid files.

Qualifications: The candidate should be able to work independently and have a proven record of administrative and management skills. A Bachelor's degree and minimum three years of financial aid experience is required.

Interested candidates should send their resume with a cover letter and three references to:

Office of Financial Aid
St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Jamaica, New York 11439
Attention: Jorge L. Rodriguez, Assistant Vice
President and Executive Director of Financial
Aid

or email to: rodrigu@stjohns.edu

Cashiering Manager

University Bursar's Office

New School University is seeking an experienced banking professional to be responsible for the supervision and smooth functioning of all banking/cashiering functions at the University Bursar's Office. The University Bursar's Office manages a \$130 MM cashiering operation in a highly automated customer service environment.

Responsibilities:

- ▶ Oversee cash receipts, university petty cash fund, daily reconciliations, and cash control operations.
- ▶ Manage all banking functions and distribution of cash receipts to the General Ledger.
- ▶ Supervise and train 6 permanent and 14-16 temporary seasonal cashiers, in multiple locations.
- ▶ Produce cash flow reports on a need basis determined by the University Bursar.
- ▶ Control and post student refunds. Handle disbursement of federal and state aid.
- ▶ Maintenance of state of the art on-line credit card payment and refund operations.
- ▶ Train staff to provide an exemplary level of customer service.
- ▶ Interface with other University departments especially Financial Aid and Registration.
- ▶ Provide staff with system development.

Requirements:

- ▶ BS or B.B.A. in Accounting, MBA is preferred.
- ▶ At least 5 years management experience in banking, university receivables, or cashiering

operations with appropriate experience in cash controls and audit compliance.

- ▶ Expertise in mainframe and networked cashiering and receivable systems. Knowledge of SCT Banner software a plus.
- ▶ Experience in providing a high level of customer service in a not-for-profit environment.
- ▶ Knowledge of Federal Title IV disbursement regulations.
- ▶ Spreadsheet creations using either Lotus or Microsoft Excel products.

Benefits: One month vacation; free tuition, and comprehensive health insurance.

Interested persons should respond with cover letter and resume including salary requirements to Peter Ljutic, University Bursar, New School University, 65 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, 10003.

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Janet Gray (Fleet Bank) and her family ! Janet gave birth (prematurely) to a healthy baby Girl, Sara Nicole on December 28th! She weighed 4lbs 11 oz. and 17 ½ inches long. Both mother and Baby are doing fine. Janet wishes all of her colleagues to know she expects to be back to work February 20th!

Hold the Dates

NYSOBBA CONFERENCE

June 12 - 15, 2001

***Hudson Valley Resort and Spa
Kerhonkson, New York***

(The scholarship golf outing will be held at the resort on the morning of June 12th)

For information about the location see the following website:

www.hudsonvalleyresort.com

Deborah Weber Makes a Change/A Profile of a NYSOBBA Past President



Debby, known by many, has accepted a new position as Executive Director of Student Financial Services at Dowling College. In this capacity, she will oversee the Bursar's Office and manage the collection staff while working closely with the Financial Aid, Registrar and Enrollment Services offices. Dowling College's beautiful riverside campus is located on Long Island's South Shore and offers it's nearly 6000 students degrees at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels.

Debby's affiliation with NYSOBBA began just over 20 years ago when she received information about SAP, POP, and GAS, (topics near and dear to many!). She attended a meeting on Long Island in 1979 where she met Tom Ryder, NYSOBBA President and the rest is history. There were many meetings regarding these new regulations on satisfactory academic progress and specifically how they pertained to the TAP program. It was at these round table discussion groups that her long-term professional relationships took root. Enter Jeremy Weis, Brian Matthews, Jim Vetuskey, and John Karrer, Dick Augustine, all heavily involved in this hot, new issue! They all spoke this new language of TAP grids, SAP, etc.

Over the years, she was promoted to Bursar, having student billing, collections and Perkins under her auspices. While increasing responsibilities became apparent in bursar's offices, she became deeply involved in NYSOBBA, the sole group representing the Bursar's interests. She was elected President of the New York State Organization of Bursars and Business Administrators and served the organization well during her tenure. In years following her presidency, her involvement in NYSOBBA never waned, serving as Secretary, Regional Director and Conference Coordinator.

A true believer in Professional Development, through attendance at educational seminars and conferences, she remains on the cutting edge of changes within our industry. She is able to deliver comprehensive and timely compliance relating to fiduciary responsibilities in the student financial affairs area. In addition, considered by many as an expert in all aspects of the NYS Tuition Assistance Program.

Evident to many is her strong management and analytical skills in addition to providing both innovative and entrepreneurial leadership as she demonstrates a record of leadership in a customer service educational environment. Debby is very dynamic and surely a winner!

Most recently, Ms. Weber held the position of Acting Director of Student Financial Affairs at Nassau Community College. In that role she handled the day to day management of Student Grants, Student Accounting, and Student Finance and the Bursar's Office. Prior to joining Nassau Community College, Deborah presents herself with a rich history at New York Institute of Technology where she spent 14 years as the Director of Bursar Operations, Billing and Collections. Deborah also has experience in Bursar operations at Long Island University/ CW Post /Southampton College.

She holds a Master of Arts in Communications and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Debby and husband Howie have been married for nearly 36 years and are the proud parents of Mindy and Jamie and the boasting grandparents of Adam, Brandon and Jacob. Debby loves Broadway and travels the globe extensively. Right now her bags are packed for Italy! What's in her professional future? She will be pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Administration at her new home, Dowling College.

NYSOBBA 2001 Advertising Request Form

All fields must be completed

Vendor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Ad/Logo enclosed: Yes No (Send via E-mail attachment to mhb14@columbia.edu)

All ads will be considered as they are received. If your choice is not available, you will be notified by telephone or E-mail. You will be given the option to select another space or have your payment returned. Ads will not be considered without payment. We reserve the right to refuse any ad or solicitation that is not related to higher education or does not support the ideals and mission of the NYSOBBA.

Options & Costs

- _____ 1/4 page ad, \$100 per issue
 - _____ 1/2 page ad, \$150 per issue
 - _____ Full page ad, \$250 per issue
- (All ads will be printed in black ink)*

Newsletter publication preference

- _____ Summer/Fall (published by 9/30)
- _____ Autumn (published by 1/31)
- _____ Spring (published by 5/30)

Advertisements must be sent to: Dr. Michelle H. Brown-Nevers, Ed.D.
Director of Student Administrative Services
Columbia University - Health Sciences Campus
630 West 168th Street, 141 Black Building
New York, New York 10032
mhb14@columbia.edu

Payment must be sent to Mr. Larry Brennan, Bursar
SUNY Health Science Center
155 Elizabeth Blackwell Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

All checks must be made payable to **NYSOBBA Advertisement.**

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

2000-2001 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 _____

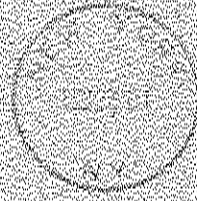
Region _____ Fax # _____

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

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