

## From the KASFAA President

### My View from Dodge City

We have another great spring conference coming up April 6-8, 2005 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. I know budgets are tight, but I hope you saved back enough to be with us. Myra Pfannenstiel and her committee have been working hard to insure that you get the most for your money. I always enjoy our annual awards banquet. Of course, the transition of power will take place during our banquet too. I am really looking forward to that. Registration is open right now on our **new website**.



That's what I'm talkin about! (I had to force my processor to accept "talkin". I hate it when my computer tries to correct the stuff that I really want.) Isn't our new website fantastic? Carol Williams and her committee have done a really fine job with the transition to ATAC. It is your website. It's all about communication. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities that this powerful medium provides.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the KASFAA Core Values Identification Exercise. I have begun tallying the data and I plan to present it to the KASFAA Board at the spring conference.

Marion Jones and the College Goal Sunday Committee produced another truly successful financial aid event on February 13, 2005. This is one of the most fun committees we have in KASFAA. All of the previous chairs have poured their hearts into this project. It has been a thrill to watch them each year with all of their enthusiasm and dedication. They have set a pace that will keep us on our toes. If you have not been involved in College Goal Sunday in the past, please consider getting involved in 2005-2006.

President Bush is scaring me to death with his proposed budget and all of the cuts that it carries. We are going to have to be diligent during the coming months and stay in touch with our Congressional delegation. We need to keep the heat on them on behalf of our students. I urge you to use any influence you may have to promote strong financial aid programs for the future.

From Dodge City, I want to wish all of you a happy and healthy spring holiday season.

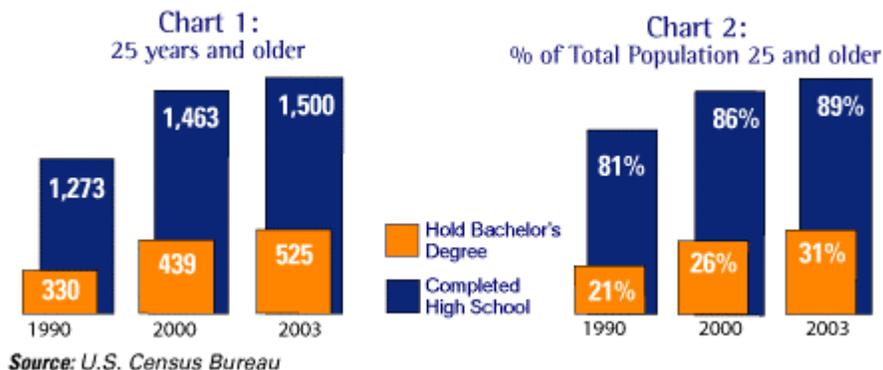
Anthony Lyons

## Education is on the Rise in Kansas

Submitted by Kent Wolfe, Research Unit, National Student Loan Program

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Kansas adults entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with considerable improvement in their educational standing. Between the 1990 census and the 2003 census supplement, the number of residents age 25 and older with high school degrees rose from over 1.2 million to 1.5 million. Over the same period, the number of residents with Bachelor's degrees expanded from 330,000 to 525,000. (Chart 1)

### Educational Attainment in Kansas



Of Kansas residents age 25 and older, 89% were high school graduates as of 2003 compared to 81% as of 1990. Even more praiseworthy is that the proportion of the state's adult population holding Bachelor's degrees expanded from 21% in 1990 to 31% in 2003. (Chart 2)

Due to the relatively larger gain in residents with Bachelor's degrees than with high school diplomas, the proportion of the state's high school graduates who earned a Bachelor's degree rose from 26% in 1990 to 35% in 2003. (Table 1)

Table 1

Population 25 and Older	
Census Year	% of High School Graduates with Bachelor's Degrees
1990	26%
2000	30%
2003	35%

Congratulations Kansas students, parents, and educators! Every state knows a well-educated population is the key to its economic future, and your efforts are making Kansas' future brighter.

For more information about educational attainment in Kansas, contact Kent Wolfe at 800-735-8778, ext. 6940 or Mark Krings, ext. 6835.

## **NASFAA Launches National College Goal Sunday Web Site**

### **[www.CollegeGoalSundayUSA.org](http://www.CollegeGoalSundayUSA.org) Provides Student Financial Aid Guidance**

Washington, D.C. (January 31, 2005) – The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) launched a Web site at [www.CollegeGoalSundayUSA.org](http://www.CollegeGoalSundayUSA.org) that provides essential information on financial aid for college. College Goal Sunday, currently offered in 18 states and the District of Columbia, is a free program that helps students and parents complete the universally required financial aid application form.

Over the past 15 years, College Goal Sunday has already helped more than 100,000 students clear the paperwork hurdle when applying for college financial aid. One day each year, traditionally a week or two after Super Bowl Sunday, qualified volunteers fan out to selected community sites across a state to help families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required to determine eligibility for most federal and state aid programs.

Rigorous public relations campaigns along with outreach strategies unique to each state are developed to reach the targeted population, which includes students from low-income families and those who are the first in their families to enroll in college. The success of College Goal Sunday depends on the volunteer efforts of financial aid administrators and professionals from other organizations and community agencies working together to increase access to postsecondary education.

The national College Goal Sunday Web site links to participating states' College Goal Sunday sites, where details on dates and locations are provided. For those states that do not yet have an active program, site visitors will find a link to financial aid resources in the state as well as a link to NASFAA's financial aid resource page for students and parents at [www.StudentAid.org](http://www.StudentAid.org).

The College Goal Sunday Web site also provides technical support both for states that currently offer College Goal Sunday programs and states that are planning a program. Financial support for planning and implementation is provided by grants from Lumina Foundation for Education. NASFAA works with Lumina Foundation to provide training for new states.

Additional support is provided through a College Goal Sunday electronic communications network, which connects states to each other to share best practices. An "E-Newsletter" is also planned.

With Lumina Foundation support, NASFAA undertook management of the College Goal Sunday program in 2004 with the expectation of expanding it to at least 15 more states over a three-year period. "The response has been greater than we expected," said NASFAA President Dallas Martin. "We are delighted that states are contacting NASFAA in large numbers for assistance in applying for grants."

College Goal Sunday began in Indiana in 1989 and has proven effective there ever since. The program was originally a joint project of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. Over the years, Lumina Foundation and its predecessor organizations have co-funded the Indiana program and led the expansion into other states. In 2005, programs will be offered in Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wyoming, plus the District of Columbia. Eight additional states are planning programs for 2006.

For more information about College Goal Sunday contact Marcia Weston, Director of College Goal Sunday Operations, at (202) 785-0453, ext. 111, or at [westonm@nasfaa.org](mailto:westonm@nasfaa.org).

**About NASFAA.** The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 11,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. Each year, members help more than 8 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. In addition to its member Web site at [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org), the Association offers a Web site with financial aid information for parents and students at [www.StudentAid.org](http://www.StudentAid.org).

**About Lumina Foundation.** Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based, private, independent foundation, strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access and success in education beyond high school. Through grants for research, innovation, communication, and evaluation, as well as policy education and leadership development, Lumina Foundation addresses issues that affect access and educational attainment among all students, particularly underserved student groups, including adult learners. The Foundation bases its mission on the belief that postsecondary education remains one of the most beneficial investments that individuals can make in themselves and that society can make in its people. For more details on the Foundation, visit its Web site at [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org).

## News from the Kansas Board of Regents Office

Spring is around the corner and we are definitely looking forward to some warmer days. There are a few items that we wanted to make you aware of....

- We have made a few changes in the way that high school counselors submit their curriculum complete information for the Kansas State Scholarship program. This was necessary for security purposes. If you should receive any questions from high school counselors about this process, please just direct their questions to our office. Though you may not think that this really pertains to you, we wanted to let you know that we will be implementing a similar process next year in how schools will be submitting tracking information for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant (KCG) and Kansas State Scholarship (KSS) recipients. Look for more information to come.
- Speaking of tracking.... Remember we are now asking you to submit information for KCG and KSS recipients only **once** a year in April. If you have any corrections, please just submit the corrections, not your entire list again. This will make the process so much easier for us.
- This spring is the first year that our office will be pulling in the federal FAFSA data rather than having the University of Kansas Computing Center do this for us. So far, so good, though it is very early in the process. If you don't see us at KASFAA it may be because the whole thing has blown-up on us ☺.
- This is a reminder that the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship renewals no longer have to complete a separate renewal application. They only have to complete the FAFSA and the state application form.
- This spring will be interesting for the Kansas National Guard Tuition Assistance Program. Effective October 1, 2004, the Federal Army National Guard Tuition Assistance program started paying 100% of tuition and fees with a cap of \$250 per semester hour and \$4,500 per fiscal year. (Prior to October 1, the assistance was 75% of tuition and fees with a cap of \$200 per semester and \$4,000 per fiscal year.) The new policy applies to all accredited schools in the nation and provides educational benefits for the soldier up to his first master's degree. After much lobbying from the education services officer in many states, the National Guard Bureau decided to implement a new policy which now puts the National Guard assistance at the same rate as that received by the active duty soldier. When the federal program funds are exhausted the soldier will have to rely on state assistance. We are urging all schools in Kansas to encourage their Army National Guard students to apply for the federal assistance as well as state

assistance. This should allow more state money to be available for the Kansas Air National Guard students so they too may receive 100% of their tuition and fees. Thanks to all the schools who are using the latest Kansas form – AKGS Form 6006 – dated August 2004. This makes the processing of the forms easier for us at KBOR. The form is available at our website at: [www.kansasregents.org](http://www.kansasregents.org). Don Wimpelberg administers this program and will answer any questions that you might have. You can contact him directly at 785-296-3518, or [donw@ksbor.org](mailto:donw@ksbor.org).

- The Governor's FY 2006 budget includes an additional \$1 million dollars for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant program. Though we asked for additional funding in some of our other programs, this was the only one that was included in the Governor's budget. We are grateful for this, especially as we don't know the future of the federal LEAP program, which we have used to supplement KCG for several years.
- Some of you may recall that I have been talking about the Workforce Development Loan program for some time now. This was a program that was approved during the 2002 legislative session but because of a variety of obstacles we've been unable to implement. This will be a loan program that would be available to students at vocational-technical schools and community colleges. We plan to roll out this program for the fall 2005 semester. Watch for more information about this loan program in the very near future.

We look forward to seeing you in Topeka in April. We always cherish the time that we get to spend with our KASFAA friends.

## **KASFAA College Goal Sunday Update**

On February 13, 2005, as many as 230 KASFAA members joined together as volunteers to provide quality assistance to almost 1500 attendees at 20 sites across the state of Kansas. While our attendance was somewhat lower than the previous year, the number of students assisted was down by only 49. The feedback has been wonderful so we know we are providing a great service to our high school seniors and their families.

Several of our volunteers made radio presentations and TV presentations in promoting CGS and their efforts are much appreciated. At a recent ceremony in Topeka, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed February as financial aid awareness month.

Much appreciation is expressed to all who volunteered their time and efforts to continue with this valuable contribution to Kansas students. We'll be gearing up soon for CGS 2006.

Marion Jones  
KASFAA CGS Chair 2005  
Emporia State University  
Emporia, KS.  
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## **NASFAA Partners with Michigan Guaranty Agency to Provide Financial Aid Peer Reviews for Michigan Institutions**

Washington, D.C. (February 28, 2005) – A partnership to provide peer reviews for Michigan’s postsecondary institutions was announced by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and the Michigan Guaranty Agency. The reviews will take place under NASFAA’s Standards of Excellence (SOE) Review Program. The agreement is effective immediately and will provide subsidized reviews through September 30, 2006.

The Standards of Excellence Review Program is an objective, confidential peer review program that assesses an institution’s delivery of financial aid. Customized on-site reviews are designed to highlight strengths and recommend improvements.

“The Michigan Guaranty Agency is proud to launch this new outreach program for Michigan’s institutions,” said Agency Director Diane Todd Sprague. “We especially look forward to helping schools identify good practices.”

“Ultimately, our students are the real winners,” Sprague noted.

Under the terms of the partnership, the Michigan Guaranty Agency will subsidize 50% of the cost associated with each SOE review at Michigan institutions, which will be selected on a first-come, first served basis. All Title IV-participating institutions in Michigan are eligible to request reviews.

NASFAA President Dallas Martin expressed enthusiasm for the NASFAA-Michigan partnership. “We recognize that many institutions want to undertake SOE reviews but are challenged to secure funding to underwrite the costs,” he said. “We are pleased to include Michigan in the growing number of state agencies that embrace the benefits of the SOE program.”

Other state agencies currently partnering with NASFAA include Kentucky and North Carolina.

### **About the Standards of Excellence Review Program**

The Standards of Excellence process begins with defining the scope of the review in a letter of engagement between the institution and NASFAA. Comprehensive reviews look at all aspects of Title IV program administration including student service and

satisfaction; program compliance, operations, and delivery; systems, automation, and technology utilization; and human resources and facilities.

The institution submits demographic data and other information to NASFAA and a preliminary institutional assessment is conducted. NASFAA then selects a customized peer review team composed of highly experienced financial aid administrators who visit the institution and perform an in-depth, on-site review of the financial aid operations. The review team spends two days to one week on the campus.

Following the on-site review, the team compiles an evaluation of the institution's financial aid program and presents its findings in an exit interview to administrators designated by the institution. Finally, NASFAA prepares and submits a confidential written report summarizing the peer review team's observations. The report identifies the institution's good financial aid practices, cites any compliance issues, and suggests improvements.

For more information on the Standards of Excellence Review Program, visit <http://www.NASFAA.org/SOE.asp> or contact Program Coordinator Susan Luhman at (202) 785-0453, ext. 147, or at [luhmans@NASFAA.org](mailto:luhmans@NASFAA.org). Michigan institutions seeking subsidized reviews under the NASFAA-Michigan Guaranty Agency partnership program should contact Luhman directly.

If your organization is interested in providing financial support to enable SOE reviews at postsecondary institutions generally or in specific sectors, contact NASFAA Vice President Tim Christensen at (202) 785-0453, ext. 146, [christensent@NASFAA.org](mailto:christensent@NASFAA.org).

*The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 10,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. Each year, members help more than 8 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. In addition to its Member Web site at <http://www.NASFAA.org>, the Association offers a Web site with financial aid information for parents and students at <http://www.StudentAid.org>.*

## Insight in to Potential Industry Changes

Submitted by Mary Lafferty, Nelnet

It has been apparent for a while that higher education financing is in need of some change. The costs of college is continually rising while the available aid is not, making the financial gaps bigger every year and potentially reducing the number of students able to go to college.

President Bush's recently released Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Proposal for student loans gave us some insight into what those changes might entail.

The plan proposes to increase annual subsidized loan limits to \$3,500 for first-year students, \$4,500 for second-year students and \$12,000 for graduate students. In addition, the Pell Grant maximum award would increase to \$4,150, eliminating the current shortfall.

Furthermore, the proposed plan would offer more flexible extended repayment plans for all student loans, providing even more choices for the student once they enter repayment.

The plan proposes to maintain a variable interest rate on both unsubsidized and subsidized Stafford loans and to make collection of the guarantee agency insurance fee mandatory.

One of the big questions surrounding the anticipated changes to the industry deals with consolidation loans. Currently, interest rates on consolidation loans are the lowest they have been in history, which has been very advantageous to borrowers. Bush's proposed change is to require a variable rate on consolidation loans, thereby aligning the interest rates on all loan types. The budget also includes a change that would allow borrowers to reconsolidate on multiple occasions, subject to a one percent origination fee payable to the federal government.

Things can be said for all of these proposals and arguments can be made on each and every issue. These proposals represent just the first step in the federal budget process, but they have raised awareness of higher education financing to very high levels.

## Across the State

### Emporia State University

Thad Davidson has joined the Emporia State University financial aid office as Assistant Director. He is to be our systems manager.

Prior to coming back to ESU Thad worked for Emporia State Bank. Thad is an ESU graduate and was a student assistant in our office for four years.

### Newman University

Pat Roman was hired in November as the Financial Aid/Student Accounts Assistant at Newman University.

Victoria Tillotson was hired in January as the new Financial Aid Counselor at Newman University. Victoria was also married on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

### Washburn University

Carol Prim has re-joined the Washburn University Financial Aid Office as a Financial Aid Assistant. We are pleased to have her back.

### University of Kansas

New Financial Aid Counselor at the University of Kansas:

Jose Trujillo has worked in higher education since 1993, in Records Management and Graduate Admissions, most recently at Wheaton College. Jose completed his second Master's Degree in 2004 and has extensive higher education professional experience with presentations, recruitment and retention, customer service and even some financial aid experience. He is fluent in Spanish and has been eagerly participating in the new Mi Familia, Mi Futuro: Dia Del Colegio Program.

Laura Hutchinson taught in West Africa for two years before beginning her work in higher education in 1994 and completing her Master's Degree in 1997. Laura has a wide variety of student affairs experience, most recently at the University of Virginia. Her higher education professional background includes experiences in student leadership, coaching, residence life, advising and also a bit of work in financial aid. She will continue to be a great asset to the OSFA not only in contributing her counseling abilities but also with her help and support with our assessment process.

Promotion:

Mandy Peterson was promoted to the position of Assistant Director in September 2004. She has been in the Office of Student Financial Aid for nearly 3 years and has been active with KASFAA serving as Electronic Resources Committee Chair and Secretary. She will complete a Master of Science in Education in May 2004 from KU.

## **This and That...**

Did you know??

If it isn't moving a frog can't see it. If the frog can't see it, he won't eat it.

Source: <http://www.hookedonfacts.com>