

## Education Bi-Weekly Update

March 30, 2010

### FAME News

#### Boothbay Region Elementary School voted 2010 winning school of WGME's Kid Correspondent!

WGME broadcasts school kids from around the state of Maine as kid correspondents who show viewers inside their school and report about why they think their school is special. Viewers select the winning school through online voting. As a sponsor of WGME's Kid Correspondent, NextGen® provided a scholarship to the winning school of up to \$500 toward attendance at the Fostering Financial Literacy in Maine Schools Summit, being held at the Augusta Civic Center on May 7, 2010. The scholarship can be used to cover the cost of registration, as well as classroom substitute teacher(s), travel expenses, overnight accommodations, and other costs incurred by Boothbay Region Elementary School for its teachers and counselors to attend the Summit.

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **FAME Board of Directors** is scheduled to meet on **April 15, 2010**.
- ◆ The **FAME offices** will be closed on **April 19, 2010** in observance of Patriots Day.

### Ask FAME

**Q:** Does an institution need to perform a Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation when a student requests a leave of absence (LOA)?

**A:** An LOA must meet certain conditions to be viewed as a temporary interruption in a student's education instead of being viewed as a withdrawal requiring a school to perform an R2T4 calculation. The conditions are:

- The school must have a formal written policy regarding leaves of absence;
- The student must follow the school's policy in requesting and being approved for the LOA;
- There must be a reasonable expectation that the student will return from the LOA;
- The institution may not assess the student any additional institutional charges, the student's need may not increase, and the student is not eligible for any additional federal student aid during the LOA;
- The LOA together with any additional leaves of absence must not exceed a total of 180 days in any 12-month period;
- With the exception of a clock-hour or non-term credit-hour program, a student returning from an LOA must resume training at the same point in the academic program that he or she began the LOA; and
- If the student is a Title IV loan recipient, the school must explain to the student, prior to granting the LOA, the effects that the student's failure to return from an LOA may have on the student's loan repayment terms, including the expiration of the student's grace period.

A student granted an LOA that meets the above conditions is not considered to have withdrawn, and an R2T4 calculation is not required to be performed by the institution.

A student granted an EOA that meets the above conditions is not considered to have withdrawn, and an R2T4 calculation is not required to be performed by the institution.

The 2009-2010 FSA Handbook, Volume 5, Chapter 2, pages 32-38 provides further clarification.

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## State Education Programs

### GEAR UP Program

Institutions should be able to view students on EPIC who are eligible for the GEAR UP Scholarship in AY 2010-2011 the week of April 5th. Please see the attached GEAR UP Guidelines for 2010-2011 which include the eligibility criteria and the award amounts.

### Other Program Information

FAME encourages institutions to finish certifying students for the 2010 spring semester for all FAME Programs. Please remember, the 2009-2010 State of Maine Grant EFC cut-off was increased to 4600 from 4100. Please review your records for any new students who may be eligible. Students must have been enrolled in the spring semester in order to be retroactively paid for the fall semester.

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## State Legislative Update

On Monday, March 22, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee unanimously approved a \$310 million plan to close the state budget shortfall. The bill if passed will balance the state's two-year, \$5.7 billion budget. Passage in the House and Senate is expected sometime during the week beginning March 29.

Declining revenues and the national recession have left less money for the state. In recent weeks, a boost in federal funding and a small uptick in revenues reduced the budget gap from \$438 million to \$310 million.

The budget voted on Monday, to run through June 30, 2011, would cut \$48 million from K-12 education, \$23 million from health and human services, and \$16 million from cities and towns. It also would restore longevity pay for state workers and eliminate three unpaid shutdown days for state workers that were originally proposed in December by Governor Baldacci.

The committee restored \$500,000 for adult education, which had faced a \$580,000 cut. The committee also restored money to the Maine chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, substance-abuse treatment facilities, and the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The committee also received some good news from the fiscal office, which estimates there is \$6.5 million in unallocated funds. That money will be set aside, and if it is not used by April 30, it will automatically go into the state's rainy day fund.

In other legislative news, nearing final enactment is a bill that would repeal last year's law that broadly prohibits certain data collection and marketing to minors. LD 1677, *An Act to Protect Minors from Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices*, as amended, is a necessary correction to a law that has concerned many in the higher education community. To read the text of the amendment, please visit: [http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills\\_124th/billtexts/SP064902.asp](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/billtexts/SP064902.asp)

Legislative leadership is still planning on concluding the session sometime during the first two weeks of April. The official statutory date for adjournment is April 21, however. To follow the proceedings of the Legislature and its various joint standing committees, please visit: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/schedules.htm>

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## Washington D.C. Update

### **Final Funding Authorizations Posted**

On April 1, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education will post the 2010-2011 final funding worksheets and statement of account for each campus-based program on the e-campus based website.

The total 2010-2011 federal funds available to schools for campus-based programs are as follows:

Federal Work-Study:	\$974,492,000
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant:	\$757,465,000
Federal Perkins Loan:	\$ 0

The link for the e-campus based website is:

<https://cbfisap.ed.gov/ecb/CBSWebApp/>

The January 29, 2010 electronic announcement establishing tentative 2010-2011 funding levels is available at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/012910Tentative1011FundingLevelsforCB.html>

### **Federal Work-Study Program Announcement Posted**

On March 22, 2010 the U.S. Department of Education published the procedure that schools must use to request a waiver of the community service expenditure requirement under the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program for the 2010-2011 award year.

As a reminder, each school that participates in the FWS Program is required to expend at least seven percent of its total FWS federal allocation to compensate students employed in community service activities. In addition to meeting that seven percent community service expenditure requirement, one or more of the school's FWS students must be employed as a reading tutor for children or performing family literacy activities. [34 CFR 675.18(g)(1)]

The Dear Colleague letter detailing FWS community service requirements is available at:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/CB0708.html>

If an institution chooses to request a waiver of the requirement it may do so on the e-campus based website at:

<https://cbfisap.ed.gov/ecb/CBSWebApp/>

The deadline for electronic submission of a school's waiver request is 11:59 P.M. (ET) on Friday, April 23, 2010. Transmissions must be completed and accepted by 12:00 midnight.

### **Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) provisions: Did you know...?**

The HEOA has revised certain provisions concerning the TRIO Program as follows:

- Extends the length of TRIO awards from four to five years;
- Requires the U.S. Department of Education to consider the number, percentages, and needs of eligible participants and institutions when making awards;
- Modifies the program requirements to allow different campuses of an institution, or applicants that propose to serve a different population from the existing grantee, to apply for funding as a separate grantee;
- Establishes an appeal process for institutions that have evidence that their peer reviewed (field reader) grant application scores were affected by a specific administrative, technical or scoring error. Those institutions may now request a second review;
- Provides specific outcome criteria to be used to determine prior experience points and program performance; and
- Identifies new groups of students that TRIO can serve, including foster care and homeless youth.

A full summary of the HEOA provisions are available on IFAP at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0812FP0810.html>

## GOALS

Careers of the 21st Century held its annual event March 15 – 18 at Southern Maine Community College. Sophomores and juniors from area high schools attended the event to learn about careers, college and financial aid. FAME participates in the event each year by teaching a class on financial aid and money management. Over the four days, Trisha Malloy worked with 57 students. The event will be repeated in May for other area high schools.

Islesboro Central School hosted two events for students and parents on the Island. The fifth and sixth grade classes participated in FAME's Get A Life program. Additionally, seniors and their parents attended a presentation ("What Happens Next") to help them understand what steps they need to take after filing the FAFSA. Over 20 people attended the two sessions facilitated by Mila Tappan. Mila also offered "What Happens Next" to fifty seniors at Ellsworth High School.

The Upward Bound program at University of Maine at Presque Isle worked with Mila to offer the Get A Life program to their students. Three sessions were offered during the Saturday event and 88 students participated.

Washington County Community College offered a class to their college students that focused on Money Management. While only five students attended the session conducted by Mila Tappan, it was reported that everyone had a great time and they hope to do it again.

The "What Happens Next" presentation was held at Washington Academy and Mila worked with seven of their seniors.

Junior Achievement held "JA in a Day" at the University of Maine in Augusta. Students from Cony High School attended the event to learn about financial literacy and money management. FAME participated by having Trisha teach classes focused on money management. The event was also highlighted in the Kennebec Journal: [http://www.kjonline.com/news/credit\\_2010-03-22.html](http://www.kjonline.com/news/credit_2010-03-22.html).

Work with the Adult Education programs is getting busier as requests for presentations and workshops are increasing. Pam Crate is working with several groups to help encourage adults to pursue postsecondary education opportunities and we are excited to be assisting this group of students.

Trisha presented financial aid and college preparation information to attendees of the College and Career Resource Fair in Portland last week and in Lewiston this week. This free event, offered to the public, focused on displaced workers and was a collaborative effort of several organizations, including the Maine Department of Labor.

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Finance Authority of Maine  
5 Community Drive  
P.O. Box 949  
Augusta, ME 04332





## GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2010-2011

These guidelines are applicable to GEAR UP students who have been confirmed by the Maine Support Network (MSN) as meeting the minimum requirements for consideration of a GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP. Academic year guidelines are published annually by FAME, based on available funding, as soon after January 30 as possible.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, GEAR UP scholarship recipients must:

- Be a Maine resident.
- File the 2010-2011 FAFSA (no deadline imposed). Based on the results, the student must have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), confirmed by their school, equal to or less than \$7500
- Attend an eligible Title IV institution in the United States
- Enroll at least half time in an eligible program at an eligible institution. An eligible institution must be a FAME approved:
  - Public, private, independent, for profit or nonprofit institution in the United States, authorized to offer undergraduate degrees, certificates or diploma programs and also approved by the U.S. Department of Education to administer Title IV programs.
- Meet the institution’s Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- Meet the age requirement necessitating recipients to be less than 22 years old at the time of their first award. For the 2010-2011 academic year, any student who will be 22 during the calendar year 2010 is not eligible as a first time recipient.

Processing Guidelines:

- Students enrolled at an eligible out of state institution MUST contact FAME to inform them of their intent so that proper procedures can take place ensuring payment to the school.
- Summer and other mini-sessions are not considered periods of enrollment for purposes of disbursement of scholarship funds.
- Students will receive points for the amount of scholarship received as indicated on the chart below. A student may not receive a scholarship for more than the equivalent of 8 full-time semesters (16 points).
- In the event a student has received grant aid in excess of the student’s cost of attendance, the State of Maine Grant funds must be reduced prior to any reduction of GEAR UP Scholarship funds.

<b>Award Amounts - 2010-2011 with EFC cut off at \$7,500</b>			
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Fall 2010 Semester</b>	<b>Spring 2011 Semester</b>	<b>Points Assigned</b>
Full Time	\$2,775	\$2,775	2
Three Quarter Time	\$2,082	\$2,081	1.5
Half Time	\$1,388	\$1,387	1