Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

Finance Authority of Maine

Education Bi-Weekly Update

October 28, 2009

In This Issue

FAME News

Ask FAME

State Education Programs

Washington, D.C. Update

GOAL$

Upcoming Events

- The **Educators for Maine Advisory Committee** will meet via conference call on **November 5, 2009**.
- **Showcase Maine**, FAME's Annual Meeting, will be held **November 10, 2009** at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine.
- The **Advisory Committee on Dental Education** will meet on **November 12, 2009**.

FAME News

Check out the new FAME Web site and the recent launch of the Maine College Search at: Maine College Search

This search allows students to explore Maine colleges based on criteria they identify or they are able to explore each Maine College and University from a comprehensive listing with institutional details.

Ask FAME

Q: Does an unborn child count within a student's household for financial aid purposes?

A: Yes, if a child is born within the July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 timeframe and will receive more than half of his/her support from the student, regardless of where the child lives, then he/she should be included in the number of dependents in the student's household for financial aid purposes.

To view additional information concerning the above question, please proceed to the 2009-2010 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Application and Verification Guide, page 36.

State Education Programs

All Maine institutions should have received their log-in information for the EPIC system. FAME is currently working on providing access to all out-of-state schools that participate in the Education Programs. All programs included in this phase of the EPIC rollout (EFM, GEAR UP, Byrd and the State of Maine Grant) are now available on EPIC for certification and payment processing. Several schools have successfully processed payment requests using both the send file and on line certification process.

FAME held EPIC Training Webinars on October 22 for both in-state and out of state institutions. Those institutions who participated found the webinars informative and helpful. Another webinar will be held on November 3, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for institutions who may not have had the opportunity to participate on October 22. If you have any questions regarding EPIC please feel free to contact Lisa Bongiovanni, Claude Roy, Robin Miller or Pam Crate at FAME.

Also if you have any suggestions regarding enhancements to the website portal, please send them to us as we plan for the next phase of the EPIC rollout.

EPIC Internet Explorer 8.0 Fix

Users who have upgraded to Internet Explorer 8.0 (the most recent version) are experiencing some issues

when saving in EPIC. FAME will be looking at fixes for long-term compatibility; however, in the interim, the issue may be fixed by clicking on the "Compatibility Mode" button which, in Internet Explorer 8.0, is located directly to the right side of the address bar next to the Refresh button.

Washington D.C. Update

Federal Work Study Reporting Guidance Issued
On October 9, 2009, The U.S. Department of Education posted an announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website concerning reporting guidance for schools that received, as part of their 2009-2010 Federal Work Study allocation, at least $25,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The U.S. Department of Education announcement can be viewed at:
http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/100909ARRAReporting.html

Attached to the announcement is a Tip Sheet that can be viewed at:
http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/100909AttachDraftWorkStudyARRATipSheet.pdf

College Board Releases 2009 Trend Reports
The College Board released two reports on October 20, 2009: *Trends in College Pricing* and *Trends in Student Aid*. According to the *Trends in College Pricing* report, the average annual cost of tuition and fees at four year public colleges rose by $7,020, a 6.5% increase from last year. The *Trends in Student Aid* report indicated that total student loan amounts increased by $4 billion between the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 academic years.

The following link contains comprehensive data on tuition and fees, student loans and grant aid:
http://www.collegeboard.com/html/trends/?excmpid=MTG1-PR-1-pr

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) provisions:
Did you know...?
That the HEOA's provisions require the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that the electronic Free Application for Federal Student Aid's (FAFSA) data collection and distribution method comply with the Privacy Act of 1974. In addition:

o Any entity using the electronic version of the FAFSA must maintain reasonable and appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the information;

o The entity must also protect against security threats or unauthorized use/disclosure of the FAFSA information;

o FAFSA data may be used only for the awarding and distribution of federal student aid, state aid or aid provided by an eligible institution; and

o Institutions of higher education, guaranty agencies and states may receive FAFSA data for the sole purposes of processing loan applications and determining a student's need and eligibility for federal, state and institutional funds.

A full summary of the HEOA provisions are available on IFAP at:
http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0812FP0810.html

GOAL$

Mila Tappan attended the EASFAA Council Meeting in New Hampshire on October 11 and 12. Ellen Cost from University of Maine at Fort Kent was also present. Mila is the current Leadership Committee Chair and Ellen is the current EASFAA representative from Maine.

Mary Dyer presented "Get A Life" to 49 students at Glenburn School on October 13 and 21.

On October 14 Lewiston High School and Leavitt Area High School held financial literacy and paying for college information sessions for seniors. Trisha provided financial aid basics to 325 students. Mila presented "Get A Life: What's in Your Future" to 148 students at Leavitt High School.

FAME 's Wednesday Webinar this month was held on October 14. Mary provided federal student loan training to 10 financial aid officers. **Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, our November Webinar is cancelled**. Our next Wednesday Webinar will be held on Wednesday, December 9. If you have suggestions for future Webinar topics, please contact Mary Dyer.

Mary Dyer attended Beal College's BC101 on Thursday, October 15. Mary provided 23 students financial literacy information with an emphasis on loan repayment and budgeting.

Angela Dostie attended the Kents Hill School annual parent weekend event on Friday, October 16. She reviewed the financial aid process with 12 parents and explained how to complete the FAFSA.

MASFAA's Annual Fall Conference was held on October 19 and 20 at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. In addition to FAME participating as an exhibitor, Martha Johnston provided the FAME Update, Mila Tappan presented a session on the ACG program, Mary Dyer provided a Stafford loan overview and Angela Dostie participated in a panel discussion describing various outreach initiatives in Maine.

Trisha Malloy attended the Oxford Hills Area College Fair on Tuesday, October 20. More than 800 students from three area high schools attended the fair and received financial aid information. The participating schools were: Leavitt Area High School, Oxford Hills High School, and Poland Regional High School. After travelling to South Paris for the Oxford Hills Area College Fair that day, Trisha then went to Portland and presented to 28 attendees at a financial aid night at Casco Bay High School.

A Fairview Elementary School third grade class began a Career Exploration Project on October 21. Trisha worked with 21 students to begin discussing college and career goals.

Poland Regional High School hosted their financial aid night on October 21. Trisha attended and presented to 47 attendees.

Livermore Falls High School offered a workshop on "Preparing Early for College" on Thursday, October 22. Trisha presented ideas for saving and explained the impact that income and savings have on the EFC.

Trisha also attended the Hyde School Parent Day on Friday, October 23 and provided financial aid information to 28 parents.

NextGen College Investing Plan®

FAME and the Alfond Scholarship Foundation hosted their first Casting Calls for the "Future Faces of Maine" at the Auburn Mall on October 17 and Bangor Mall on October 24. Over 100 babies received a free photograph at each event and FAME staff assisted over 100 families in receiving the Alfond Grant, 50 in Auburn and 126 in Bangor. These events were a huge success and we look forward to the final two events. See details below:

"Casting Call: Future Faces of Maine"
Maine babies under 1 year of age can receive a free professional portrait and may have the opportunity to appear in future Harold Alfond College Challenge advertising.

Join FAME at the Aroostook Centre Mall (Presque Isle) October 29, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or at the Maine Mall (South Portland) October 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

For more information on the Harold Alfond College Challenge visit www.500forbaby.org.

Business & Education at Work for Maine

Contact Information:

Finance Authority of Maine
5 Community Drive
P.O. Box 949
Augusta, Maine 04332-0949

www.famemaine.com

education@famemaine.com

Tel: (207) 623-3263
(800) 228-3734
Fax: (207) 623-0095
TTY: (207) 626-2717

Forward email

Safe Unsubscribe

This email was sent to jviolette@famemaine.com by jviolette@famemaine.com.
Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Email Marketing by

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