



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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AGENCY UPDATES AND INITIATIVES

Staff Updates:

The Tuition Grants Commission staff continues to participate in state, regional, and national trainings, and professional development opportunities to ensure our agency has updated and relative knowledge and skills required to successfully administer the Program. The agency is excited to announce that Kira Demery, Program Coordinator, has been accepted by the SC Department of Administration into the LeadSC Program, a year-long training program for emerging leaders in state government that will begin in September.

Gena Miles, Financial Officer, has continued to research and implement efficiencies in the financial aspects of Tuition Grants disbursements and other financial transactions. The latest process improvement is the ability for institutions to submit Tuition Grant refunds, when required, back to the agency electronically, eliminating the need for a paper check to be generated and sent in the mail. Gena sent information to each institution about this option on June 5th.

Deputy Director Zachary Christian is wrapping up his term as President of the SC Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA) later this week and has had a very successful year. He presided over his final Executive Board Meeting on June 11th, and the Association is hosting a Virtual Training Summit under his leadership this week. Many of the training and professional development events held during Zach's year as President have broken recent attendance records. Zach is planning to prepare for the Financial Aid Administrator Certification (FAAC) designation through the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) later this year.

Executive Director Katie Harrison is serving as Conference Co-Chair for the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) and has been busy planning for the Association's annual conference this October. She has secured session presenters from numerous state aid agencies in addition to notable organizations such as SHEEO, NCAN, and the Hope Center at Temple University. Katie continues to serve as part of the leadership planning team for the combined NASSGAP and SHEEO collaboration project to assist state agencies with their FAFSA Simplification efforts.

Updates and Enhancements to myTG:

Additional updates and enhancements are continuing to be made to the Commission's Student Information System, "myTG," as the 2024-2025 awarding cycle moves forward. The Commission began sending eligibility notification emails, which direct students to create and login to a myTG Student Portal Account to view their tentative eligibility status and award amount, if applicable, beginning May 8th. Over 3000 students have created a myTG Student Portal Account. In addition to viewing their eligibility status, the myTG Student Portal enables students to directly message Commission Staff, and, if needed, securely upload documentation for eligible appeal requests, rather than emailing those documents in. College users also can

securely upload documentation for specific students, further strengthening the Commission's data privacy and information security posture.

Zach and Kira continue to meet with our Nelnet representatives, weekly, to review projects nearing completion and request new functionality and features as needed. Recently, a "Student Transfers" report was made available to all college users, and additional ways to improve existing reports are being reviewed carefully.

House Legislative Oversight Committee Process Update:

As previously disclosed to all college presidents and other interested parties, the Tuition Grants Commission was selected last year as one of eight state agencies to undergo an extensive and formal review by the House Legislative Oversight Committee. Public input was gathered regarding the agencies involved in 2023, and the Tuition Grants Commission completed all initial requests and reports to the HLOC in March 2023. According to HLOC staff, the full review of the Tuition Grants Commission will occur during next year's legislative cycle since the Committee was unable to begin the process before the end of this year's session. Agency management will provide a presentation and updates to the requested information to HLOC staff in December, at which time they will review and work on scheduling the agency's first hearing before the Committee.