

July 24, 2002

MEMORANDUM

OSFA State: #02-03:04

TO: Public and Private High School Guidance Counselors
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program District Contacts
Administrators at Postsecondary Institutions Participating in the
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

FROM: Monya Newmyer, Director
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

SUBJECT: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program 2002 Legislative Update

The 2002 Florida Legislature appropriated \$218,970,000 to fund the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program during the 2002-2003 academic year. Please note that:

- **funds were not budgeted to make awards for the 2003 summer term.**
- the Florida Merit Scholars award has been renamed to the **Florida Medallion Scholars** award.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is coordinating with the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support (FACTS) to provide a Bright Futures evaluation for students online through the FACTS.org website. FACTS is Florida's official statewide advising system, which offers K-12 and postsecondary students comprehensive information on career planning, postsecondary admissions, academic planning, diploma/degree evaluations, financial aid and other student services. More information will be presented at the State University Admissions training sessions scheduled in September.

The 2002 Florida Legislature made three major changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Testing Program (Testing Program):

1. **The penalty for reduction of scholarship hours was deleted** in the School Code Rewrite, which becomes effective January 7, 2003. Please also note it is expected that the Legislature will address Testing Program noncompliance during the next legislative session.
2. **2002-2003 Testing Program participants have until the end of the 2003 spring term** to meet their attempts requirement. This change is included in general appropriations proviso language, which is effective as of July 1, 2002. Please note that the School Code Rewrite does not provide this extension to future Testing Program participants.

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3. **The Legislature created one fund to provide for payment of CLEP test administration and examination fees**, also effective July 1, 2002. OSFA will administer the fund to reimburse eligible test centers \$15 per eligible examination administered and pay College Board on behalf of eligible institutions \$46 per eligible examination.

Eligible test centers are defined as those state universities, community colleges and public high schools that offer CLEP testing to all Testing Program participants. Please note that test centers may give priority to students enrolling at their institutions.

Eligible institutions are defined as those state universities and community colleges that provide Testing Program participants access to academic advisement and comply with Testing Program degree acceleration intent.

The following contacts are available to assist you with Testing Program questions:

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| Wanda Wannall | Florida Bright Futures Program | 1-888-827-2004 |
| Nell Kelly | Division of Colleges and Universities | 850-201-7210 |
| Heather Sherry | Division of Community Colleges | 850-488-0555 |

Thank you for your support as we move forward with these 2002 legislative changes. Please call me at 850-410-5173 if you have any questions.

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