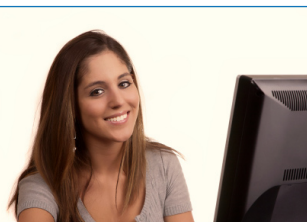


IN THIS ISSUE:

- + Virginia launches
- + New study says



Graduate School Loans

Visit us on the Web

www.graduateschoolloans.com

- + Use our interactive interest rate calculator
- + Sign up for our weekly e-newswire
- + Download our latest, FREE E-Book!

Graduate School Loans Testimonials

Annie W., Miami FL

Nearing graduation, I did not want to deal with the stress of my private student loans, especially because I didn't even have a job yet, Graduate School Loans was able to process my application and hold until graduation I didn't have to worry about several payments right out of school.

VIRGINIA LAUNCHES SIX-YEAR PLAN TO ALIGN K-12 STANDARDS WITH UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EDUCATION

- NIHIT AURORA

It's no secret that Americans depend on schools to prepare their children for higher education and gainful employment. Recently, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) proposed a six-year plan to match K-12 teaching with university-level education. The plan, which would begin in 2007, aims to improve schools so that the schools, in turn, can better prepare students for college educations and ultimately enable them to become members of what the plan hopes will be a stable, dynamic workforce. Among the plan's goals is also improving financial aid for Virginia's students, in addition to the following:

- Making detailed information about higher-education opportunities in Virginia available to students and their families, especially those who belong to under-represented groups.
- Highlighting details about financial aid opportunities.
- Motivating students to pursue higher education in Virginia.
- Providing scholarships for students who wish to enter careers in high demand.
- Determining tax revenue from university graduates versus non-graduates.
- Assessing the current quality of degree programs in the state.

- Increased levels of support for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program.
- Expanding financial aid to match the increase in college-level tuition.
- Further improving and advancing the Virginia College Savings Plan (VSCP).
- Tailoring existing programs such as the American Diploma Project and the College Board Standards for College Success to match the educational standards of public schools in Virginia with colleges and Universities in Virginia.
- Creating better research opportunities in-state and enhancing research funding.

Virginia hopes to generate a productive workforce by preparing current K-12 students for higher education so that they can then become the torchbearers for productive employment.

On the Net:

Virginia: Panel Calls for Increased Financial Aid, Alignment of K to 12 Standards with College Curricula
www.hewi.net/news/news.asp?Type=States

Preparing Our Children: Math and Science Education in the National Interest
www.nsf.gov/pubs/1999/nsb9931/nsb9931.txt

NEW STUDY SAYS CITIZENS IN A DILEMMA

- SURAJIT SEN SHARMA

A new survey by Country Insurance & Financial Services shows that citizens are split over the goals of their savings. Out of 3000 adults surveyed, 43% say that saving for their children's college educations is more important than anything else, while another 43% considers saving for their retirement more important. Moms ruled

overwhelmingly in favor of their children, with 49% of moms saying that saving for the education of their children is more important than other considerations, compared to 39% of dads who agreed on the issue.

The survey also found that in spite of rising

Continued on page 2

costs in college education:

- Most Americans (78%) view college education as good investment.
- 62% of parents plan to shoulder the bulk of college education costs for their children.

According to the survey, 56% of young adults ages 18- 29 are more concerned with saving for their children's college education, while only 33% of people ages 30-64 years show similar inclinations.

The survey also showed that:

- 40% of adults are unsure about the what financial decisions to make in saving for college.

- 25% of Americans surveyed think that it costs less than \$50,000 to send children to college.

The funding survey was based on a national telephone survey and Rasmussen Reports, LLC, an independent research firm compiled the results. The results of the survey can be downloaded at www.countryfinancialsecurityindex.com/media/200707/CountryCrosstabsTrendJuly.pdf

On the Net:

Retirement or College? America has Split Priorities
digital50.com/news/items/PR/2007/07/17/AQTU033/retirement-or-college-america-has-split-priorities.html

Retirement or College? America has Split Priorities
www.countryfinancialsecurityindex.com/trendrelease.php?tid=3

NEWS IN BRIEF

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY RAISES TUITION

Eastern Michigan University's governing board has approved a combined 8% increase in tuition and fees. Tuition alone will be raised by 9.5%, but there will be no increase in mandatory fees. For a typical resident undergraduate student, tuition and fees will cost nearly \$7,500. The state, which may see a \$1.6 billion deficit for the fiscal year beginning in October, has cut or postponed financial aid to colleges. Eight of the 15 Michigan public universities have raised tuition for next year, while the rest are expected to follow suit.

EMERSON COLLEGE FIRES DEAN OF ENROLLMENT

Boston's Emerson College has fired its dean of enrollment, Daniel Pinch, alleging that he took \$36,000 as consultation fees for a loan company that the college recommended to students for consolidation of their loans. Not only did Pinch allow the company to use his and the college's name for marketing purposes, but he also established his own loan company. A report released by the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor,

and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, revealed Pinch's relationship with the loan company. According to the report, the company offered \$50,000 as an investment in Pinch's company, though it is not clear whether the deal went through.

ROBIN HOLMES NAMED UNIVERSITY OF OREGON'S VP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Robin Holmes has been named vice president for student affairs at the University of Oregon. Having conducted a national search to fill the vacancy created by Anne Leavitt, who left the post in 2005, the university appointed someone from its own campus. Holmes will oversee seven departments, including financial aid, student housing, admissions, student conduct, the health center, and the Erb Memorial Union. Interim student affairs head Mike Eyster will take on Holmes's earlier post as director of student housing. Located in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, the University of Oregon offers students opportunities in the fields of architecture, art, business, education, journalism, law, music, and dance.