



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2006
WASHINGTON, DC**

The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance will host a public hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Washington, DC. The hearing will be devoted to three topics:

- **NEW REPORT ON FINANCIAL BARRIERS.** This report will follow-up the Advisory Committee's *Empty Promises* report (2002) on the condition of college access and persistence. It will provide an update on the degree to which financial barriers prevent college-qualified high school graduates from low- and moderate-income families from attaining a bachelor's degree, and how these losses undercut America's long-term economic competitiveness. To access the *Empty Promises* report, please see the Committee's website (www.ed.gov/ACSFA) under the "Publications" link.
- **CONGRESSIONALLY REQUESTED COLLEGE TEXTBOOK COST STUDY.** The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA) and Congressman David Wu (D-OR) asked the Advisory Committee to conduct a one-year study on the rising cost of college textbooks and make recommendations on ways to reduce this financial burden for students. For more information on the college textbook cost study, please see the press release on our website under the "What's New" link, titled "Congressional Textbook Study."
- **FEASIBILITY OF RADICALLY SIMPLIFYING FEDERAL EFC DETERMINATION.** As part of the ongoing Innovative Pathways (IP) Study, the Advisory Committee will launch a one-year study of the extent to which the determination of the expected family contribution (EFC) for federal programs can be radically simplified without adverse effects on program costs, integrity, or delivery. For more information on the IP Study, please see our website under the "Innovative Pathways Study" link.

Each of these topics will be discussed separately in three sessions. A fourth session will be reserved for public comment. Five minutes will be allotted (in order of registration) to those who request the opportunity to comment on one or more of the topics above when registration for the hearing becomes available.

Please pass this information along to your colleagues.

Space will be limited. Registration information and a complete hearing agenda including a list of panelists will be available in the coming weeks on our website (www.ed.gov/ACSFA) under the "What's New" link.

A reminder will be sent when registration information becomes available.

**For more information, please contact:
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