

TICUA Policy Update
April 6, 2006

Lottery Bills Begin to Move...and Not

The House Higher Education Sub-committee took action this week on a number of bills that will impact the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Programs. TICUA's initiative to include the foster care student provisions for private colleges passed with no debate on a vote of 8-0.

Also passing onto the full Education Committee is a bill that will include nationally accredited, non-degree granting, for-profit colleges. The group is asking for access to the Wilder Nafieh Technology Grants. There is concern, however, that passage of this bill may make other for-profits claim the right to access the full compliment of lottery scholarship programs.

Education Chair Les Wunningham put his bill to increase the Hope scholarships off notice. Chairman Wunningham seemed concerned about the \$30 million fiscal note since they had just passed the bill with a \$20 million fiscal note that would include for-profit business colleges.

The Sub-committee has more bills to review, but the ones passed this week will move on to the full Education Committee. The Senate will begin their review this next week.

Student Emails Make a Difference

Nearly 800 emails have been sent to Tennessee's Capitol Hill on behalf of the Tennessee Student Assistance Award and the lottery scholarship programs. It is estimated that nearly 9,000 students attending TICUA member institutions are benefiting from these programs. It is critical that legislators understand the importance of these student financial aid programs to our families as the state's budget continues to be deliberated.

TSAA recipients can write their notes by going to www.tnsaa.org and clicking on Action Center.

TELS recipients can write their notes by going to www.ticua.org/action_center

Pressnell Testifies Before NCSL

TICUA President Dr. Claude Pressnell testified on behalf of independent higher education before the National Conference for State Legislatures during a hearing in Washington, DC. The "Commission on Maintaining Higher Education Access and Affordability in Tight Fiscal Times" is hearing testimony this week to develop suggested higher education financing strategies for all 50 states. Pressnell joined Maryland's Independent Colleges and Universities President Tina Bjarekull to offer testimony

concerning the benefits of providing robust student aid to students attending our nation's private colleges and universities.