

***TICUA Policy Update***  
***April 19, 2007***

***Higher Education Community Testifies On Lottery Scholarships***

Representatives from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, University of Tennessee, and the Tennessee Board of Regents served as a panel of lottery scholarship discussants for the House Education Committee. The panel reviewed their respective positions on each of the nearly 50 bills introduced to impact the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship programs. The review of the bills took two and one-half hours.

Generally, the higher education community is united in their position on the bills. Differences arose, however, when the Board of Regents questioned the validity of replacing the TELS GPA with the institutional GPA and moving the eligibility benchmarking from 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 semester hours to end of each academic year. TICUA argued in favor of the changes which reflect the consensus of the financial aid community. As well, TICUA was the only panelist defending the possibility of allowing two year residential colleges to receive the four year grant amount.

The House Higher Education Subcommittee and the Senate Education Committee have lottery bills on their respective calendars for next week.

***Student Loan Issue To Be Discussed***

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation has been requested to call a meeting with the state level higher education community to discuss the student loan controversy which began in New York. (See the April 6, 2007, TICUA Policy Update). The meeting will be held on Tuesday April 24, 2007 and will also include the Tennessee Attorney General's Office and the Tennessee Division of State Audit.