

## TICUA Policy Update - Jan. 21, 2005

### Greetings!

*Welcome* to TICUA's weekly email newsletter on public policy issues important to Tennessee's independent colleges and universities.



### Changes Proposed to Lottery Scholarships

Senator Steve Cohen has come out early to recommend changes to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) programs. The most publicized change centers on the amount of the scholarships. Cohen is recommending a \$1,000 increase to each of the scholarship programs. This would move the base scholarship to \$4,000, the General Assembly Merit Scholarships total to \$6,000, the Need-based Supplement total to \$6,000 and the two-year college scholarship to \$2,500. Cohen is also proposing eligibility for students who sit out for one year after high school.

This proposal would make a positive step toward increasing the purchasing power of the scholarship. One concern with the proposal is that the current TELS programs are only partially implemented. TELS will not become fully mature for another two years when it is funding a full compliment of eligible students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities.

Governor Phil Bredesen has also hinted at changes to the TELS. The Governor has expressed interest in expanding the population served by reaching the non- traditional students. He also has plans to use the "excess" funds to start his proposed early childhood reading programs.



### Representative Chris Newton to be Honored

Students attending TICUA member institutions have benefited greatly from the efforts of Tennessee Representative Chris Newton. In 2002 Rep. Newton served as the House sponsor of the Education Lottery Scholarship Bill. He fought tirelessly for the inclusion of students attending a Tennessee private college or university in the lottery scholarship programs.

Please join us as we honor Rep. Newton during the TICUA Gala Event to be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2005. The Gala is a part of the TICUA Annual Meeting events to be held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville on Tuesday and Wednesday, February, 15 and 16, 2005.

**Register TODAY!**