

TICUA Policy Update January 25, 2008

Lottery Dominates Education Committees

Both the Senate and House Education Committees continue their discussion about possible changes to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship programs.

The Senate Education Committee announced that there will be two sub-committees working on lottery bills. The first committee will deal with possible changes that will be paid for out of the recurring lottery ticket revenue. The committee voted to set a target of \$22 million to fund any changes that would be funded out of the recurring revenue. Members of the sub-committee include Senators Bill Ketron (chair), Reginald Tate, and Randy McNally. The second committee will review bills that propose expenditures out of the \$400 million plus lottery reserve. Members of this second sub-committee include Senators Jim Tracy (chair), Bill Ketron, and Joe Haynes.

The House Education Committee has yet to review any bills but Chairman Les Winningham informed the committee that he has recalled HB653 to the committee. HB653 was the lottery scholarship bill that the House passed in the final days of the last session. Winningham recalled to bill so that the committee might be able to reconsider its action and propose a new bill that will be in keeping with the new lottery revenue estimates.

TICUA to Testify Before Education Oversight

On Monday TICUA President Claude Pressnell will testify before the Joint Education Oversight Committee for Proprietary Schools. This fall the committee has been reviewing the current law and rules governing proprietary schools in Tennessee. At question is the necessity for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to provide oversight of these institutions. Current law states that if an institution is regionally accredited it does not fall under THEC supervision. Most proprietary schools are nationally accredited versus regionally accredited and therefore fall under THEC's purview. Dr. Pressnell will testify to the rigor of the regional accreditation model.

TICUA Annual Meeting Deadline Fast Approaching

The deadline to secure the TICUA discount rate at the Historic Hermitage Hotel for the upcoming TICUA Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 19 and 20, 2008 in Nashville. Reservations made after January 31st will no longer be eligible for the reduced rate. Make your reservations today by calling 1-888-888-9414 and tell them you are with TICUA.

Even though the morning and early afternoon of Tuesday, February 19th are closed sessions for TICUA member presidents, the afternoon federal and state policy sessions are open to staff and guests. As well, the early evening TICUA Gala Reception is open to guests. Traditionally over 60 legislators attend the evening reception and this year TICUA will be honoring US Senator Lamar Alexander. Please register online today to join us for this important event!

Register by going to: www.ticua.org/annual_meeting