

TICUA Policy Update
February 10, 2006

Governor's Budget Holds TICUA's Interests Flat

Details of the Governor's budget revealed his plan to add no new appropriations to two key TICUA priorities: needy students and contract education.

Tennessee's bedrock need-based aid program (TSAA) will receive no new appropriations for the fourth year in a row. It is estimated that this will leave over 35,000 college ready low income students without help to attend a college or university for the fall of 2006. This could mean that needy Tennessee students must have their FAFSA completed within the next four weeks or be out of luck for the TSAA next year. TICUA is asking the General Assembly to take incremental steps toward fully funding the grant program. The first step is to provide a \$30 million increase to fund eligible needy students through the published May 1 application deadline.

Contract education will also receive no new funding. This cost savings program for Tennessee has suffered for years. Through this program the state is able to expand academic offerings without incurring the expenses of starting new campus programs. Currently, the state contracts with Southern College of Optometry, Meharry Medical College, John A Gupton College, Maryville College, and Vanderbilt University to ensure Tennesseans have access to the broadest academic programs available. TICUA is asking for \$3 million increase for this program in order to fund all available contract slots.

Students Encouraged to Take ACTION on TSAA

The *Tennessee Student Aid Alliance* launched a student writing campaign today. The Alliance is calling for students to write letters and emails to their state elected officials to highlight the importance of the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA). The campaign includes both public and private colleges and universities in Tennessee.

The Alliance, coordinated by TICUA, includes the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tennessee Business Roundtable, Tennessee College Association, Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and Edsouth. The Alliance is calling for a \$30 million increase in TSAA, as well as increased appropriations for the Ned McWherter Scholars Program and the Tennessee Teachers Scholars Program.

Mobilize your students by going to www.tnsaa.org and click on Action Center.

TELS Recipients Asked to Say "THANKS"

The Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship programs continue to make a significant impact in student aid for our campuses. To date, nearly \$45 million has been received by

students attending a private college or university in Tennessee. TICUA is asking for students and their parents to say THANKS for being included in this program.

TICUA has launched an email campaign on the Association's web based Policy Action Center. It is our goal to flood the General Assembly with notes of thanks for the financial help this program has provided.

Mobilize your students at http://www.ticua.org/action_center

Woodson Sponsors Bill to Expand Foster Care Provision to TICUA Members

State Education Chair Jamie Woodson has introduced a bill to include TICUA member institutions in the foster care provision of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship program. As drafted, the bill would pay an amount equal to the average public two-year/four-year (respectively) tuition, maintenance fees, student activity fees, and required registration or matriculation fees after other aid to an eligible independent postsecondary institution.

This bill corrects last year's exclusion of independent colleges and universities from the provision. We are currently requesting House Education Chair Les Winningham to be the House sponsor of the bill.