

TICUA Policy Update
February 23, 2006

Excess Lottery Funds Discussed

Higher education leaders from TICUA, University of Tennessee, Tennessee Board of Regents, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation discussed how to handle the \$200 million lottery excess funds during a conference call this past Wednesday. The general consensus was to keep the funds in the current state based student aid programs.

At the present time the prevailing scenario is to place the excess funds in the care of the TSAC and allow the interest off the funds to supplement the need-based aid program (TSAA). Simultaneously, lottery scholarships would increase and future scholarships amounts would be tied to a certain percentage of the tuition at public universities. If the amount of the scholarships ever exceed the lottery revenue TSAC could access the corpus of the lottery excess fund to meet the demands of the scholarships.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission staff plan to provide cost projects of this proposal before next Wednesday's Senate Education Committee hearing.

Keep Those Student Emails Coming!

Students benefiting from either the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) and/or the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) programs are being urged to write their elected officials. Two separate web-based action centers have been set-up for student action. We have over 9,000 students benefiting from these programs but so far only 30 students have written thank you emails!!

TSAA recipients are asked to join their public student counterparts by going to the Tennessee Student Aid Alliance's Action Center to write notes concerning the need-based aid program. Go to www.tnsaa.org and click on Action Center.

TICUA member TELS recipients are urged to go to the TICUA website's Action Center to write notes of thanks for Hope scholarship program. They can reach the Action Center by going to www.ticua.org/action_center

Please encourage your students to take action today!