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FAFSA on the Web and Students.gov Take *More* Awards

FAFSA on the Web and Students.gov continue to rake in the kudos. The latest is an E-Gov 2000 Pioneer Award for FAFSA on the Web and a Trail Blazer Award for Students.gov, both presented by IT Direct, an organization that specializes in electronic government, plans electronic government conferences and publishes E-Gov journal.

The Pioneer award recognizes e-government best practices that increase productivity; reduce cost; and improve the quality, timeliness and accuracy of services provided to the public. FAFSA on the Web was one of 20 programs selected for this award.

The Trail Blazer is a new award program that recognizes exceptional public-sector solutions in the e-government community. Students.gov was one of only 24 programs out of 93 nominated to receive this new award.

The programs nominated were judged by a panel of government and industry leaders in electronic government programs. The E-Gov 2000 selection committee included representatives from GSA, the National Partnership for Reinventing Government and the Department of Commerce, as well as private sector industry counterparts.

Commerce Secretary William Daley will present the awards on July 13 at the concluding ceremony at the E-Gov 2000 Convention and Expo at the Washington Convention Center. (The expo will focus on the skills, applications and technology needed to transform the way government does business.)

The E-Gov Awards are only the latest commendations FAFSA on the Web and Students.gov have hauled in. FAFSA on the Web was also named a "Best Fed on the Web" by GovExec.com, and Students.com has won accolades such as the "Hammer Award" from the Partnership for Reinventing Government. (An SFA ceremony for the formal presentation of the Hammer Award is being planned by CIO Innovations.) Students.gov was also named a Yahoo "Site of the Week," earned a grade "A" from *Education World*, was cited by GSA as one of the 10 best federal government Websites and got three stars from AOL's GovernmentGuide.com.

FAFSA on the Web was created to facilitate and streamline the application process for Title IV student financial aid. FAFSA on the Web enables students to securely submit their financial aid applications online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More than one

million applications have already been submitted via FAFSA on the Web for the 2000-2001 school year.

Students.gov was developed as part of the National Partnership Review's Access America initiative. The site was designed as a user-friendly gateway allowing students easy, free access to federal government services, such as the application for student financial aid, registration for Selective Service and many other government services online.

Please join us in congratulating the FAFSA on the Web Team: Jeanne Saunders, Amy Luycx, Nina Colon, Colin Sellar, Marilyn LeBlanc, Priscilla Zink-Mulford, Paul Mathis, Mike Rockis, Angie Iwanicki, Paula Valentin, and the contractors at National Computer Systems; and the Students.gov team: Charlie Coleman, Lynda Folwick, Diana Davidson, Amy Henne, Ron Hodges, Steve Macielinski, Sandy England, Carole Kuriatnikova, Ted Van Hintum from the Veterans Administration, Michael Norton from the Department of Labor, and David Temoshok from GSA