

TO: Secretary Paige  
FROM: Theresa S. Shaw, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid  
RE: FSA Weekly Report  
DATE: November 4, 2002

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**First 2002 EAC:** The first of two 2002 Electronic Access Conferences (EACs) convenes today in Orlando. FSA's Theresa Shaw will open the meeting this morning with her first major address as COO. OPE Assistant Secretary Sally Stroup will speak to conference attendees on Wednesday, November 6. About 1,260 attendees, most representing schools, registered for this first EAC, which runs November 4-7. The second 2002 EAC will be held December 3-6 in Las Vegas and almost 1,640 people have registered.

**Software Developers Conference:** Following the EAC this week, FSA CIO hosts a Software Developers Conference in Orlando. The meeting is designed for third party software developers who create financial aid software for schools. About 115 people have registered for the conference.

**OMB e-Gov/eLoans:** The President's Management Council e-Gov Subcommittee meeting, which was postponed, has been rescheduled for November 7. The inter-agency eLoans team, led by ED, anticipates submitting the eLoans Business Case to the subcommittee as soon as OM Assistant Secretary Bill Leidinger approves the document.

### **KEY NEWS**

#### **PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

**FY02 Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act Report:** FSA submitted its portion of the FY02 FMFIA Report on October 29 and recommended the removal of two material weaknesses—Audit Tracking and Resolution Processing and Foreign School Recertification. FSA continues to work on improvements to data quality and subledger. This year's report will be submitted to OMB as part of the A-11 reporting requirement.

**Audit of Implementation of Electronic Signatures:** An entrance conference for this OIG audit was held November 1. The audit is to focus on ED's current and planned e-sign implementations to ensure they adequately validate the identities of recipients and provide protection from fraud. The objectives are to: (1) evaluate how ED is implementing appropriate electronic authentication procedures for loans, grants, and procurement funds, and (2) for selected programs, evaluate how ED has established adequate internal controls and computer security strategies to ensure that computer systems employing e-signatures adequately protect the programs from fraud, waste, and abuse.

#### **COLLABORATION WITHIN ED**

**Transfer of Telecommunication Services:** On October 31, FSA CIO met with OCIO to begin discussing moving FSA's telecommunication services to OCIO so they become enterprise-wide services.

## **KUDOS**

**PostNewsweek Government Information Technology Agency Award:** On October 30, FSA formally accepted this award at a dinner in Washington. The award was presented to FSA "for excellence in information resources management." PostNewsweek says the awards "are conferred on government agencies with a record of excellence in the application of IT to improve service delivery." Selections are based on group performance rather than individual accomplishments.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

**FSA Reconciliation Effort:** FSA CFO has identified many systemic and business process issues with the Operating Partners, (i.e. ACS, EDS, Raytheon, Tsys) as a result of the FSA reconciliation efforts. The list was provided to the COO and General Managers. Meetings with the CFO, system owners, COTRs, and operating partners will be scheduled over the next couple of weeks to discuss these issues.

**FY2003 Splitter:** FSA CFO is beginning work with FSA FMS & OCFO FMO & Budget Service to identify and define all splitter requirements for FY03.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact Joe Aiello at 377-4002 or Lisa Cain at 377-4003 with any questions.