

TO: Secretary Paige  
FROM: Theresa S. Shaw, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid  
RE: FSA Weekly Report  
DATE: November 25, 2002

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**GAO High Risk List Meeting:** A meeting between ED and GAO (General Accounting Office) is scheduled for November 25. FSA's COO and senior management from OPE, OCFO, and other ED offices are to meet with GAO to present plans designed to get student aid programs off the High Risk list. The goal of the meeting is a common understanding of GAO's expectations and ED's activities moving forward.

## **KEY NEWS**

### **PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

**Government-wide Suspensions:** On November 12, FSA sent notices suspending Leon Rabinovich and Abraham Weinstein of New York, New York, from participating in any covered transactions under procurement and non-procurement programs and activities of any federal agency. The suspension is based on the four-count indictment alleging that in their respective capacities as president and executive vice-president of Globe Institute of Technology of New York, they participated in a conspiracy to influence Department of Veterans Affairs employees to refer veterans for enrollment at Globe Institute. They have 30 days from receipt of the notice to submit written information in opposition to the suspension, which will otherwise remain in effect pending the outcome of the criminal proceedings resulting from the indictment.

### **COLLABORATION**

**One-ED Audit Review Team Site Visits:** A representative of FSA CFO is working with OCFO on the team looking at internal audit processes. The goal is to determine how the current process might be reengineered to run more efficiently and cost effectively. Six site visits have been scheduled beginning November 22 through December 3 at Georgia-Pacific, Department of Labor, FDIC, City of San Francisco, City of Richmond (VA), and Dupont. They were selected as benchmark candidates based on recognition they have received from other professional organizations.

### **NO STUDENT LEFT BEHIND**

**Students.gov & AOL:** FSA last week provided AOL's GovernmentGuide with an outline of links and resources for them to use in a January feature on the federal student aid application process. Based on our past experience with GovernmentGuide features, we anticipate a large increase in visits to students.gov and the other featured sites. AOL has invited the students.gov to work with them on an ongoing series of monthly GovernmentGuide promotions related to seasonal student interests that would highlight

the many government resources available to students through students.gov and other sources.

## **STUDENT AID OPERATIONS**

**National Student Loan Data Systems II (NSLDS):** The task order has been defined for the reassessment of NSLDS platform, which includes new hardware and new software. The work is scheduled to begin on December 2 with the appropriate participants. The team includes FSA, IBM, CSC, Raytheon and Accenture. They are in a position to accomplish the work in 2 weeks as planned.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

**Record Pre-Registration:** A record 2,026 have pre-registered for the second 2002 Electronic Access Conference, which will be held December 3-6 in Las Vegas. This will be the largest EAC that FSA has ever held.

**Shaw to Speak at SWASFAA:** COO Theresa Shaw will speak at the Southwestern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators meeting in Dallas on December 11.

**Default Conference:** The joint Eastern/Northern region Default Aversion Conference is scheduled for December 17-18 in Indianapolis. USA Funds, Inc. is the primary co-sponsor, with other guaranty agencies volunteering support.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact Karen Freeman at 377-4001 with any questions.