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Subject: CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service) Update

Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) first announced the new project to develop a centralized postsecondary HOPE GPA calculation system on May 25, 2017 (DCL 2018-02). The new system, referred to as CHECS (College HOPE Eligibility Calculation Service), will include checkpoint determinations and HOPE calculated GPAs for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant programs for all eligible postsecondary institutions.

The initiative to create the centralized system is well underway and has been a collaborative effort among the University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), Georgia Independent College Association (GICA), GSFC and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). CHECS will be developed and managed by GSFC.

Current Milestones:

- The Joint Application Development (JAD) Group, consisting of USG, TCSG, GICA and GSFC members, has met seven times during Summer and Fall 2017. The team has been instrumental with the scope and development of CHECS.
- CHECS files and layouts, supported file types and file transfer options have been determined.
- During September and October 2017, six training sessions were conducted for staff members at eligible institutions through several different meetings.
- A technical specifications and user manual, "[The CHECS Guide](#)", and a timeline of requirements, "[The CHECSlist](#)", were developed to assist institutions in preparing their data files and systems. These resources are available in SURFER in the User Information section.
- The location of the CHECS module on GAfutures has been determined and a new My GAfutures menu will be released in mid-November to facilitate the preparation for future CHECS access.
- CHECS business rules, logic and web screen layouts are under development.

Upcoming Timeline:

- Continue meetings with the JAD Group
- Pilot 1 Testing (identified pilot institutions): November 2017 through Spring 2018
- Training Sessions: Spring, Summer and Fall 2018
- Pilot 2 Testing (all institutions): Spring and Summer 2018
- Full Deployment: End of Fall 2018 (FY 2019)
- The first HOPE GPA calculation by CHECS scheduled for the end of Fall Term 2018

Initiative Highlights:

- GSFC is responsible for the programing in accordance with current program laws and regulations, as well as future changes to HOPE laws and regulations.
- The calculation will be used for HOPE program postsecondary academic eligibility determination by all HOPE eligible postsecondary institutions.
- Participation is mandatory for all postsecondary institutions participating in the HOPE programs.
- All postsecondary institutions participating in the HOPE programs must report transcript data for their students.
- Postsecondary institutions will continue to collect all transcripts from transfer students from a non-HOPE eligible Institution and will submit all course data (attempted hours) to GSFC, regardless of what credits are accepted.

Please review the CHECS Guide and CHECSlist for full information. If you have questions relating to the CHECS project, email cheecs@gsfc.org or contact Pennie Strong, Vice President, Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or pennies@gsfc.org. We appreciate your preparation efforts and partnership as we all work towards the successful launch of this new system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caylee Noggle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caylee Noggle