

nassgap

11/23/1999

Mr. Barry Morrow
US Department of Education
7th and D Streets SW
ROB 3
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Barry,

On behalf of myself and the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) I wish to thank you and Cameron for taking the time to meet with us in Chicago. We are encouraged by the opportunity to forge a new understanding and relationship between the state grant agencies and the Department.

I was pleased by the range, tenor, and openness of the discussion and the role you played in making that possible. I was especially pleased that you described state grant agencies and the Department as "partners." This is a good start.

We agreed to certain follow-up tasks. NASSGAP promised to compile a bulleted list of issues that states have had with the federal aid delivery system and with federal policies. You offered to follow up with a letter suggesting next steps that we may take together including the opportunity to meet with Cameron and others to review the Blueprint from the perspective of states. This will allow both of us to continue discussing the issue of providing state grant agencies with adequate representation and contact within the Department. In addition, we are hopeful that a temporary interagency personnel agreement is an option that we can continue to explore.

The relationship of states to the Department is a significant and challenging issue that has a long history of dissatisfaction. We are pleased with this new beginning. Again, thank you for taking the time and effort.

Sincerely,

Dennis Obergfell
President NASSGAP

CC: Cameron Ishaq – address the same as Barry Morrow's
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