

# nassgap

**national association of state student grant and aid programs**  
[www.nassgap.org](http://www.nassgap.org)

**Marie A. Bennett, Director, Washington Office**  
202-776-2599 [Marie@nassgap.org](mailto:Marie@nassgap.org)

## MEMORANDUM

January 7, 2009

To: President Elect Barack Obama Transition Team  
Mr. Robert Shireman  
Mr. Jon Vaupel

From: Lee Andes

The National Association of State Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) appreciates this opportunity to meet with you and provide input on matters important to the support of college students and their families across the nation. We recognize that quick, effective action that will support recovery is needed in this time of economic turmoil. NASSGAP believes that the support of college students is a critical part of those efforts if we are to get our citizens back to work and not sacrifice a generation of students. As Education Secretary designee Arne Duncan said, education is the “civil rights” program of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. NASSGAP members stand ready to expand their efforts to support these necessities.

To that end we urge the transition team to consider the following matters which NASSGAP believes are the immediate priorities.

- Increase support of the LEAP/SLEAP/GAP programs to the authorized level of funding to expand the need based financial aid programs and to implement the new activities under GAP focused on the neediest, at risk students.
- Extend the authorization of the College Access Challenge Grant.
- Simplify the financial aid application and delivery process by means that insure the continued use of the federal application system by all partners including states and schools.
- Restore healthy communications among all the principle partners in the higher education community including institutions, states and the U.S. Secretary of Education by appointing a senior official charged with that goal.

NASSGAP is in the process of developing an expanded statement with rationale and support data to assist the transition team in their assessment of these priorities. Your input on the information you need and the questions these matters raise is important to us. Please don't hesitate to call.

#### President

**Lee Andes**  
State Council of Higher  
Education for Virginia  
101 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monroe Bldg, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 225-2614  
[leeandes@schev.edu](mailto:leeandes@schev.edu)

#### President-Elect

**Lois Hollis**  
Texas Higher Education  
Coordinating Board  
PO Box 12788  
Capital Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
(512) 427-6345  
[Lois.hollis@thehb.state.tx.us](mailto:Lois.hollis@thehb.state.tx.us)

#### Secretary

**Stephanie Butler**  
Alaska Commission on  
Postsecondary  
Education  
PO Box 110505  
Juneau, AK 99811  
(907) 465-6743  
[Stephanie.butler@alaska.gov](mailto:Stephanie.butler@alaska.gov)

#### Treasurer

**Ritchie Morrow**  
Nebraska Coordination  
Commission for  
Postsecondary Education  
140 North 8<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 300  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
(402) 471-0032  
[ritchie.morrow@ccpe.ne.gov](mailto:ritchie.morrow@ccpe.ne.gov)

#### Past-President

**Marilyn Cargill**  
Vermont Student  
Assistance Corporation  
P.O. Box 2000  
10 East Allen St  
Winooski, VT 05404  
(802) 655-9602  
[cargill@vsac.org](mailto:cargill@vsac.org)

#### Member-at-Large

**Julie Leeper**  
Iowa College Student  
Aid Commission  
200 10<sup>th</sup> St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 725-3420  
[Julie.leeper@iowa.gov](mailto:Julie.leeper@iowa.gov)

#### Member-at-Large

**Andrea Mansfield**  
Maryland Higher  
Education Commission  
839 Bestgate Rd,  
Ste 400  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-4558  
[amansfie@mhec.state.md.us](mailto:amansfie@mhec.state.md.us)