

**From:** Welch, Mary Ann  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:22 PM  
**To:** 'National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs'  
**Subject:** Education Summit

Hello NASSGAP Colleagues:

I just wanted to give you an update on some recent activities that have taken place and some that are happening soon.

- On March 21-22, Bart Astor, Theresa Antworth, Diane Barrans, and I attended Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' Education Summit in Washington, DC. The summit was quite impressive, with Secretary Spellings and Under Secretary Sara Martinez Tucker both speaking eloquently about developing plans to carry out the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The majority of time was spent with attendees dividing into work groups to discuss specific issues. One very significant recommendation that came out of the two "Increasing Need-Based Aid for Access and Success" work groups was to strengthen the partnerships among federal, state, institutional and private sectors to leverage and maximize need-based aid. It was encouraging that in each of the work groups LEAP and the proposed SLEAP replacement - Grants for Access and Persistence (GAP) - were recognized as programs that are designed to accomplish such a recommendation. I recently sent Under Secretary Tucker the *attached* letter thanking her for inviting NASSGAP members to the summit, reinforcing the fact that LEAP/GAP programs address the recommendation proposed at the summit, and directing her to the LEAP Report on our website that counters findings of the LEAP/SLEAP PART analysis.
- I will be traveling back to Washington on April 18th to attend the last General Provisions negotiated rulemaking session. Prior to the 18th I am supposed to be receiving proposed regulatory language that was suggested at the prior two rulemaking sessions to share with you for comments before the meeting on the 18th. I haven't received anything yet, but will forward on whatever I receive when I get it. As I relayed in my prior update to you concerning negotiated rulemaking, the issues discussed under General Provisions don't really *directly* affect state agencies, (i.e. LEAP/SLEAP; FAFSA questions; need analysis formula, etc.) but I will share any comments/concerns you may have with the proposed language - which I will hopefully be sending you prior to the 18th!
- The Executive Committee and individual committee chairs recently met in New Orleans to discuss important NASSGAP issues and to prepare for our upcoming Spring Conference (*which I know everyone is planning to attend in Washington DC from May 27 to 30 - plug, plug!*). Whether it be on issues ranging from simplification to membership to budgeting to federal relations to research to the NASSGAP survey, be assured that your Executive Committee and individual committee chairs and members are working hard to insure that NASSGAP continues to be a vibrant organization whose voice is heard in DC and that offers the opportunity for its members to share best practices and information that helps each of us in our daily work. An update of all of our activities will take place at the spring conference business meeting.
- You have seen recently where various polls have been sent to members to help in developing NASSGAP's position on simplification. Additional polls will most likely be sent in the near future to ascertain members' thoughts on issues such as Senator Reed's GAP bill. I can't stress how important it is to respond to these polls and I thank all of you for doing so. Keep those responses coming! It's the only way we can develop positions/comments on issues that accurately reflect the views of NASSGAP members.
- And finally, speaking of polls, I'm encouraged to see more and more members using the polling/survey feature of our website. By doing so (rather than polling members via the listserve) we are able to automatically capture and retain polling responses and have those responses analyzed statistically. As more members use the polling feature, a robust history of surveys and responses will be at your fingertips via the website! If you

are not sure how to set up a poll or survey, there is a help button on the virtual office page of the website that takes you to a well-written step-by-step user's manual. Need more help? Contact Dennis Obergfell, our Web Committee Chair, at [dobergfell@ssaci.in.gov](mailto:dobergfell@ssaci.in.gov). Better yet, come to our spring conference to see Dennis demonstrate the website! (*Yes, another plug for the conference*).

I hope things are going well in all your offices.

See you soon in DC (*Three plugs in one email!*)

Mary Ann

Mary Ann Welch, NASSGAP President  
Director of Program Administration  
Rhode Island Higher Education  
Assistance Authority  
560 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 736-1171  
FAX: (401) 736-1178