



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON: THE STUDY OF INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS TO BACCALAUREATE DEGREE ATTAINMENT

APRIL 4, 2006 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance will host a hearing on April 4, 2006, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Washington Court Hotel, in Washington, D.C., to launch its **Study of Innovative Pathways to Baccalaureate Degree Attainment**.

Throughout this three-year initiative, we will identify creative programs and strategies that increase the likelihood that low- and moderate-income students attain a baccalaureate degree. This study falls under the Advisory Committee's charge from Congress to make recommendations that will maintain access to postsecondary education for low- and moderate-income students. Over the course of this study, we will conduct several focus group meetings and regional hearings. Findings will be included in a series of reports for Congress and the Secretary of Education that highlight exemplary approaches to increasing baccalaureate degree attainment that policymakers might support and encourage.

This hearing will be the first in a series of events to launch and conduct the study. The last session will be a roundtable discussion on innovative pathways to degree attainment among Advisory Committee members and all panelists. A limited amount of time will be reserved for public comment. Prior to the hearing, five minutes will be allotted (in order of registration) to those who request time to comment.

TO REGISTER FOR THE HEARING, PLEASE CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/acsfa/registration/edlite-index.html>

This hearing is open to the public. Please share this announcement with colleagues.

Space is limited so please register early.

A hearing agenda and list of panelists will be available on our website (www.ed.gov/ACSFA) under the "What's New" link

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

SESSION	DESCRIPTION
SESSION I	Innovative Pathways in Middle School and High School. This session will highlight efforts in middle school and high school to increase low- and moderate-income students' chance of attaining a baccalaureate degree, such as ensuring that all students have access to a college-prep curriculum, aligning standards between K-12 and higher education, and linking early financial aid information with high school reform.
SESSION II	Innovative Pathways in the Transition from High School to College. This session will examine innovative strategies designed to streamline the transition from high school to college for low- and moderate-income students. Programs featured in this session will include credit-based transition and dual enrollment programs, such as Early College High Schools.
SESSION III	Innovative Pathways in Higher Education. This session will highlight programs in higher education that increase the number of low- and moderate-income students that attain a bachelor's degree. Panelists will discuss strategies for streamlining the transfer and articulation process from two-year to four-year institutions, and, in particular, programs designed to reduce the associated financial barriers.
SESSION IV	Roundtable Discussion and Public Comment. During this session, Advisory Committee members and panelists from the previous sessions will participate in a roundtable discussion on the Innovative Pathways Study. Members of the public are also invited to provide comment on this study to the Advisory Committee.

Please join us on April 4 in Washington, D.C.

Washington Court Hotel, The Executive Room, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW

For more information, please call 202-219-2099 or email: ACSFA@ed.gov