



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

September 30, 2005

Dear President:

Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed October 2005 to be **"Student Loan Default Prevention Awareness Month."** During this month the statewide Default Prevention Task Force, an initiative of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) and the financial aid community, has planned activities to raise awareness of student loan default issues. On behalf of the Default Prevention Task Force, we would like to invite your institution to participate in this statewide effort. A copy of the Governor's Proclamation is enclosed.

We will send a similar letter to your Financial Aid Office offering assistance in planning events for Default Prevention Awareness month. Examples of activities in past years include default prevention fairs, workshops, and public awareness.

The goal of this project is to increase awareness and education of students regarding student loan issues, including the repayment of student loans, student loan default, debt and money management. This event is not only open to your students, but to your surrounding community as well.

As college costs continue to rise student loans will become more necessary than ever for students pursuing a higher education. As additional students need access to financial aid, the need for accurate information increases. Please support your Financial Aid Office in their efforts to reach more students and prospective students in the month of October.

Thank you for providing Georgia students with the educational opportunity to succeed. Let us work together to ensure that the Georgia student loan cohort default rate trend will continue to decline as we work to prepare responsible borrowers now and for the future.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Connell

TAC:mlc
Enclosure
cc: Financial Aid Directors

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STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of the state to encourage citizens to continue their education. While, in that pursuit, people may need financial aid and student loans. However, many students end their college careers thousands of dollars in debt, which can be a significant challenge for many recent graduates just beginning their careers and families; and
- WHEREAS: Loan defaults can have a devastating effect on a person's career and credit rating, including suspension of occupational licenses; and
- WHEREAS: The Default Prevention Task Force, an Initiative of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), was created in 1999 with a goal to develop strategies and products for reducing student loan defaults in Georgia; now
- WHEREAS: During the month of October, the Task Force will foster increased awareness and education about the issues of student loans, default and repayment. The Task Force requests all higher education schools, colleges and universities in Georgia to conduct a default prevention activity during October; and
- WHEREAS: Higher education institutions also are encouraged to participate in the GSFC sponsored "Chat Night" that will be held October 25th, whereby financial aid professionals will answer questions via the Internet and telephone regarding student loans, default, debt and money management; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2005, as STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia, and I encourage all citizens to continue their pursuits in higher education.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand five.