

DISCUSSION/ACTION
October 25, 2010

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #11-14

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID
PROGRAMS**

HEAB ADMINISTERED FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs is directed to review current laws relating to financial aid for higher education in order to improve student access to higher education, maximize utilization of higher education resources, and retain qualified graduates in Wisconsin. Policies for review may include: (a) the Wisconsin Covenant; (b) loan forgiveness programs; (c) Wisconsin/Minnesota tuition reciprocity; (d) academic excellence scholarships; and (e) need-based grants and loans.

The Board will review the programs and determine if the programs can be prioritized. The Board will determine if this list shall be presented to the Legislative Council Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs. Programs are listed in alphabetical order.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Academic Excellence Scholarships are awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest grade point average in each public and private high school throughout the state of Wisconsin. The number of scholarships each high school is eligible for is based on total student enrollment. In order to receive a scholarship, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis by September 30th of the academic year following the academic year in which he or she was designated as a scholar, at a participating University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Technical College, or Independent Institution in the state. The value of the scholarship is \$2,250 per year, to be applied towards tuition. Half of the scholarship is funded by the state, while the other half is matched by the institution.

HEARING & VISUALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENT GRANT

The Handicapped Student Grant Program was established to provide funding for undergraduate Wisconsin residents, enrolled at in-state or eligible out-of-state public or independent institutions that show financial need and have a severe or profound hearing or visual impairment. Students are eligible to receive up to \$1,800 per year for up to ten semesters.

INDIAN STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT

Awards under this program are made to Wisconsin residents who are at least 25% Native American and are undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in degree or certificate programs at University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Technical College, Independent Colleges and Universities or Proprietary Institutions based in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need with a limit of ten semesters of eligibility. HEAB has an informal matching arrangement with grant funds awarded by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Wisconsin Tribal governments.

MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN RECIPROCITY PROGRAM

The MN-WI Reciprocity Program provides tuition reciprocity for Wisconsin residents who enroll in an eligible Minnesota public institution program on a space available basis. Students who qualify pay the established reciprocity fee for course work that is available at public institutions in Wisconsin. Professional students enrolling in a Doctor of Medicine, a Doctor of Dental Sciences, or a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program are not eligible for tuition reciprocity under this program.

MINORITY TEACHER LOAN

The Minority Teacher Loan Program provides loans to Wisconsin resident, minority, undergraduate juniors or seniors or graduate students who are enrolled at least half-time in programs leading to teacher licensure at an Independent or University of Wisconsin Institution. The maximum award per

year is \$2,500 with an overall maximum of \$5,000. According to the statutes, a minority student is defined as a student who is either an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam admitted to the U. S. after December 31, 1975. The student who participates in this program must agree to teach in a Wisconsin school district in which minority students constitute at least 29% of total enrollment or in a school district participating in the inter-district pupil transfer (Chapter 220) program. For each year the student teaches in an eligible school district, 25% of the loan is forgiven. If the student does not teach in an eligible district, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

MINORITY UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION GRANT

**This grant is for students at Independent Colleges/Universities and the Technical Colleges
UW Students can apply for the Lawton Grant which is administered by the UW System**

Awards under this program are made to Wisconsin resident minority undergraduates, excluding first year students, enrolled at least half-time in Independent Institutions or Wisconsin Technical Colleges. According to the statutes, a minority student is defined as a student who is either an African American; American Indian; Hispanic; or Southeast Asian from Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam admitted to the U. S. after December 31, 1975. Awards are based on financial need with a maximum grant of \$2,500 per year for up to eight semesters or twelve quarters. The University of Wisconsin System has a similar program for students attending those institutions.

NURSING STUDENT LOAN

The Nursing Student Loan Program provides loans to Wisconsin residents who are enrolled at least half-time at an eligible in-state institution that prepares them to be licensed as nurses, either RN or LPN. The maximum award per year is \$3,000 with an overall maximum of \$15,000. The student who participates in this program must agree to be employed as a licensed nurse in Wisconsin. For each of the first two years the student nurses and meets the eligibility criteria, 25% of the loan is forgiven. The balance remaining after forgiveness must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%. If the student does not practice nursing and meet the eligibility criteria, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

TALENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT

The Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant provides grant assistance to the most financially needy and educationally disadvantaged Wisconsin resident students attending colleges and universities in the State of Wisconsin. First-time freshmen students are nominated for the TIP Grant by the school financial aid offices or by counselors of the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Program (WEOP). To continue to receive the TIP Grant, students must be enrolled consecutive terms and continue to show financial need. Eligibility cannot exceed ten semesters. Funding for the TIP Grant is provided by both the State of Wisconsin and the Federal Government.

TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED LOAN

The Teacher of the Visually Impaired Loan Program provides loans to Wisconsin residents who are enrolled at least half-time at an in-state or eligible out-of-state institution in a program that prepares them to be licensed as teachers of the visually impaired or as orientation and mobility instructors. The maximum award per year is \$10,000 with an overall maximum of \$40,000. The student who participates in this program must agree to be a licensed teacher or an orientation or mobility instructor in a Wisconsin school district, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired or a cooperative educational service agency. For each of the first two years the student teaches and meets the eligibility criteria, 25% of the loan is forgiven. For the third year, 50% is forgiven. If the

student does not teach and meet the eligibility criteria, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

WISCONSIN HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT

The Wisconsin Higher Education Grant Program provides grant assistance to undergraduate, Wisconsin residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Technical College, and Tribal Colleges. Awards are based on financial need. Eligibility cannot exceed ten semesters.

WISCONSIN TUITION GRANT

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program provides grant assistance to undergraduate, Wisconsin residents enrolled at least half-time in degree or certificate programs at non-profit Independent Colleges or Universities based in Wisconsin. Awards are based on financial need and partially based on that portion of tuition in excess of UW - Madison tuition. The maximum award amount is established annually by HEAB. Eligibility cannot exceed ten semesters.

School-Specific Financial Aid Programs

These financial aid programs are only available at the specified schools.

CONTRACT FOR DENTAL EDUCATION

Marquette University School of Dentistry

The Contract for Dental Education allows a finite number of Wisconsin residents to attend the Marquette University School of Dentistry at a "resident" tuition rate. Currently 160 students are able to participate each academic year. Students who meet the program criteria are awarded \$8,753 in tuition subsidization.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN CAPITATION PROGRAM

Medical College of Wisconsin

The Medical College of Wisconsin Capitation Program provides tuition assistance to a finite number of Wisconsin residents enrolled full-time in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

TEACHER EDUCATION LOAN

Milwaukee Teacher Education Center

The Teacher Education Loan Program provides loans to Wisconsin residents enrolled in the teacher education programs at the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC). The student who receives this loan must agree to teach in the Wisconsin school district operating under Chapter 119 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, First Class City School System (currently only the Milwaukee Public Schools). For each year the student teaches in the eligible school district, 50% of the loan is forgiven. If the student does not teach in the eligible district, the loan must be repaid at an interest rate of 5%.

REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUS BOARDS

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs was formed in August, 2010 and is directed to review current laws relating to financial aid for higher education in order to improve student access to higher education, maximize utilization of higher education resources, and retain qualified graduates in Wisconsin.

The Board will review HEAB administered programs, the WHEG/TG Task Force Report (Board Report #11-01) previous Board recommendations, and other documents, and will determine if the Board has recommendations and/or information pertinent to the Legislative Council Special Committee.