

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

May 2011

Dear Colleague,

I write to request your participation in a short survey designed to investigate duplicative, obsolete, redundant, or overly burdensome higher education regulations. The survey is a key element in fulfilling the charge given to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance by Congress in 2008 to conduct a review and analysis of federal regulations affecting higher education.

The survey is web-based, confidential, and anonymous. It does not assess regulatory compliance or administrative capability, nor is it being carried out at the behest of or in conjunction with the Department of Education.

The survey is hosted and administered by an independent private contractor, and it was designed with input from members of the higher education community with the goal of collecting attitudes toward and perceptions of regulatory burden and the regulatory development process.

We seek feedback from senior executives on campus and administrators of campus offices; therefore, the survey consists of two separate and distinct tracks:

- **For Senior Executives**—12 questions to be completed by presidents, provosts, vice presidents, etc.
- **For Campus Administrators**—10 questions, in addition to rating a set of 15 regulations, to be completed by assistant vice presidents, directors, assistant directors, counselors, etc.

The survey questions address issues related to the regulatory development process, the level of regulatory burden, alternative approaches to the current regulatory system, methods to reduce burden, and ways to continue regulatory reform efforts.

The survey's success will depend on institutional response rate. To help promote a robust response, this letter is being sent by higher education associations to senior executives and administrators of campus offices typically involved with implementing regulations under the *Higher Education Act*—primarily admissions, enrollment management, financial aid, institutional research, registrar, and student accounts and bursar.

We seek your participation in the survey and ask that you encourage employees in these offices to complete the survey as well.

The final report on the regulations study will be delivered to Congress by December 31, 2011. It has the potential to encourage regulatory reform to benefit your institution. A successful study will enlighten Congress and the Department of Education as to the next steps that should be taken to streamline and eliminate regulations wherever possible. We thank you, in advance, for your participation.

Please complete the survey between May 20 and June 6, 2011, by visiting:

<http://www.studentaidsurvey.org>

We estimate that completing this survey will take approximately 15 minutes for executives and approximately 25 minutes for administrators. If you have concerns or questions, please contact the study director, Anthony Jones at 202-219-2246 or Anthony.Jones@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Allison Jones, Chair



Norm Bedford, Vice Chair