

for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

accessupdate



Access Group Listed as Top Originator of Grad PLUS Loans for 2006

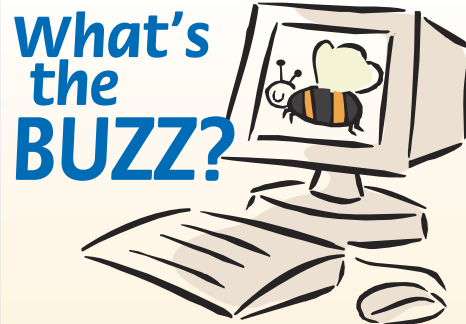
We are pleased and proud to announce that, based on Department of Education federal loan statistics for fiscal year 2006 (FY06), Access Group was listed as the top Grad PLUS Loan lender for 2006 by Student Marketmeasure, Inc. Access Group's Grad PLUS volume for FY06 totaled \$278,886,679 with 14,806 loans originated.

According to Dan Lau, president and chief executive officer of Access Group, "When federal legislation in early 2006 extended PLUS loans to graduate and professional students beginning July 1, Access Group moved quickly to implement this important new program. As a leader in graduate education financing, with a mission to positively influence education financing practices and provide services to students and schools, we immediately offered workshops, educational sessions, and materials about Grad PLUS Loans to school administrators around the country. We also published a variety of materials to help students understand and learn about the new Grad PLUS option."

But without the support of our school customers, Access Group could not have achieved this standing. "We value the wonderful partnership we have with school administrators and are gratified that they placed their trust in our loan product, making us the top Grad PLUS Loan lender for 2006," Dan continued.

Our Grad PLUS Loan offers a fixed interest rate as low as 7.25%, which includes a 1.00% interest rate reduction that begins with the first on-time payment and continues as long as payments remain on time. And, borrowers get a "second chance" to regain this on-time interest rate reduction if they are late with a payment. Borrowers can also receive another 0.25% reduction for auto-debit payments.

For more about the top Grad PLUS originators for FY06, visit www.student-marketmeasure.com.



Now that our system upgrades are complete, we'll be rolling out new features and enhancements this spring, such as blanket guarantee, electronic change transactions, PLUS credit processes and ELM Real-Time loan changes. More updates to come!

Have you signed up for an Access Group Workshop yet?

It's not too late! There's still time to register for one of the Access Group financial aid workshops being conducted through April 18. Just go to www.accessgroup.org/workshops or call your Account Executive right away.

#1 originator of Grad PLUS Loans for 2006!



Source: Student Marketmeasure, Inc.

Also In This Issue:

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Technology Track



Access Group Implements TERP

As of March 1, Access Group is a participant in the Total Enrollment Reporting Process (TERP), an electronic information exchange with the Clearinghouse network. Through TERP participants receive school enrollment data submitted to NSLDS and other sources. This collection of data is then reconciled to ensure accuracy prior to distribution to the more than 2,800 institutions participating in Clearinghouse.

Thanks to this new addition to our services, Access Group can provide a higher level of service to our borrowers and school customers.

Coming Soon: Access Group's New Borrower Security System

Borrower privacy and data security in student lending is more important than ever, and Access Group has taken the next step in protecting the personal data of our student loan borrowers.

Beginning later this spring, new security measures and borrower login processes will allow Access Group to place additional limits on unauthorized access to personal information. Borrowers' data will be protected with our certificate-based privacy feature – the newest standard in online lending. And, it's fast and easy for borrowers. All they have to do is sign up for the new login process at AccessGroup.Org.

More information in the weeks to come!

2007 – 2008 Need Access® News

Access Group Welcomes New Schools to Need Access

For 2007-2008, we welcome six new school participants in Need Access: Appalachian School of Law; Boston College - Lynch Graduate School of Education; Boston University School of Law; UC Berkeley School of Law; University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; and Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

Need Access Is Expanding to Meet Your Needs

Access Group's financial aid service, Need Access, is growing and expanding to better meet your needs. This year, we have offered schools three ways to receive training and learn new functionalities:

- For school administrators who prefer a customized one-on-one session, we have adopted a new online training tool, Adobe Connect. Now, school staff can learn new skills or review the current setup of their Need Access program.
- We conducted a two-day Need Access training session at our corporate headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware.
- We even make campus visits to help incorporate Need Access functions into a school's internal systems.

We also plan to enhance the student application and are conducting a Web usability study to gather information from students. In addition, we plan to upgrade Need Access services for school administrators and have formed an advisory group of Need Access participating schools to assist in the process.

If you are interested in our progress or if you might be interested in Need Access for your school, please contact Sue Ledwell, director of product development, at sledwell@accessgroup.org, or call 800-282-1550, ext.4141.

Coming in the April issue of Access Update: Some exciting Need Access news important for you and your students!

Did you know that Access Group offers multiple money-saving payment incentives on all our loan products?

Visit us at AccessGroup.Org or call us at 800-227-2151 for more information on our Stafford, Grad PLUS, private and consolidation loans.

Access Group Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference



Access Group is pleased to introduce the members of the 2007 Conference Planning Committee and the graduate discipline each represents.

Carrie Steere-Salazar (Chair) (HEALTH)

Director of Student Financial Services
University of California, San Francisco

Lawrence Gallardo (LAW)

Director of Financial Aid
School of Law
University of California, Davis

Shanna Hollis (GENERAL GRADUATE)

Director of Financial Aid
Texas Wesleyan University

Andy Marrero (LAW)

Associate Director of Financial Aid
St. Thomas University

Laurie O'Hare (DENTISTRY)

Financial Aid Coordinator
School of Dentistry
University of Louisville

Priscilla Parker (BUSINESS)

Director of Financial Aid
Graduate School of Business
University of Chicago

Tor Shekerjian (MEDICINE)

Director of Financial Aid
Albany Medical College

Gina Soliz (LAW)

Director of Financial Aid
College of Law
Syracuse University

Make Your Voice Heard! As your 2007 Conference Planning Committee members begin work on planning the outstanding educational program the conference is known for, they invite you to share your thoughts and suggestions for speakers and session presenters. Just go to www.accessgroup.org/conf2006 to submit your suggestion.

Make your voice heard – we love hearing your suggestions and receiving your ideas!



Lauren Godwin Spotlight



Lauren Godwin, an internal account executive for Access Group's EASFAA region, says her favorite part of the job is "working with everyone in the Sales and School Services department, meeting new people and developing personal relationships with school customers."

If you've ever spoken to Lauren over the phone or met her in person, you already know she carries her always perky and "happy-to-help" disposition with her everywhere she goes.

"Lauren literally jumped right into this region and immediately made things better," says Colleen Hodd, external account executive for Access Group. "Her energy and passion for our clients is sincere and admirable. She is intellectually as bright as her sunny personality, both on the phone

and in person. I'm lucky to be working with her."

Before Lauren began her career at Access Group in March 2006, she worked at Goldey-Beacom College in Delaware for five years in the Admissions and Financial Aid department. "I became really interested in financial aid for higher education while I was working at Goldey-Beacom," says Lauren. "Unfortunately, there were no opportunities there for me to get more involved in financial aid, so I applied for a job at Access Group."

Lauren has been with Access Group for almost a year and has been spreading her sunshine every day since.

"I just love the people here," says Lauren. And we, the people, love her, too!

3-Month LIBOR for First Quarter 2007

The current index effective for January, February and March 2007 is 5.370%.

The interest rate charged on a borrower's private loan from Access Group will equal this index rate plus the per annum percentage margin applicable to the loan.

Reminder: The effective 3-month LIBOR rate is always available by clicking on "Interest Rates" from the home page of AccessGroup.Org. Also on our Web site is information about LIBOR, which includes a 10-year comparative history of LIBOR, Prime and T-bill rates. And our Interest Rate Comparison Calculator also helps students determine the lowest interest rate when comparing rates based on different indexes. Try it for yourself using the "Calculators" link from our home page.

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800-449-8204 (fax)

Customer Contact Center
800-282-1550

AccessGroup.Org
FederalConsolidation.Org
NeedAccess.Org

**Federal Stafford Loan
and Federal PLUS Loan**
Lender Code: 808851

*To subscribe to an electronic version
of this newsletter, send your name
and your school's name to
accessupdate@accessgroup.org.*


access group
The nonprofit graduate loan specialist

Monthly Planner



Look for Access Group staff at these events in the coming weeks:

March 21 – 23

Florida Association of Bursars and Student Accounting
Administrators Annual Conference
Lake Buena Vista, FL

April 3 – 5

Texas Guaranteed Annual Conference
Austin, TX

April 10 – 13

Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid
Administrators Spring Conference
Orange Beach, AL

April 15 – 18

Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid
Administrators Annual Conference
Knoxville, TN