

for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

accessupdate



Access Group's President and CEO Announces Plan to Retire



Daniel R. Lau, president and chief executive officer of Access Group, has announced his plan to retire by the end of 2007. He has served as Access Group's president and chief executive officer since 1993.

In the words of Richard A. Matasar, dean and president of New York Law School and Chair of Access Group's Board of Directors,

"Dan has been pivotal in Access Group's success during his years with the company. Under his leadership, the company pioneered no-fee loans, began holding the loans it originates, implemented an in-house loan servicing operation, and expanded borrower education and online services for student

borrowers and school administrators. It's difficult to imagine Access Group without Dan, who will be greatly missed by employees, school administrators, industry colleagues, and everyone who has known and worked with him throughout his career."

Dan has long been a key player in the field of education financing and is celebrating his 30th year in financial aid. Prior to joining Access Group, he spent more than 11 years at the U.S. Department of Education. In his last five years with the Department, he served as the director of student financial assistance programs, with responsibility for overall policy development and operational management of federal student assistance programs.

While at the Department, Dan also launched initiatives designed to take advantage of new computer-based technology and brought a more user friendly approach to procedures and to the Department's daily interactions with school customers.

Following his work at the Department, Dan became vice president of financial aid services at the Law School Admission Council in 1989, overseeing the loan program that was the forerunner of today's Access Group loan programs.

A search is currently underway for Dan's replacement.

We salute Dan for his accomplishments, we thank him for his leadership, and we wish him the very best in the years to come.

Congratulations, Dan!

Access Group to Introduce Added Protection for Borrower Information

In another step to protect borrowers' private information, Access Group will be implementing an e-mail encryption solution, powered by Tumbleweed®. This new security measure, which will be implemented over the next few months, provides greater protection of borrower information that may be contained in e-mail messages to our school customers.

Here's how it works: The Tumbleweed software screens Access Group's outgoing e-mails and holds messages with sensitive data, such as a student's Social Security number, on a secure server. You then receive a notification e-mail containing easy directions for retrieving the secure message.

To view the secure e-mail, simply click the "View Message" link. You will then be asked to create a user name and password, after which you'll be connected to the secure e-mail that awaits you. The next time you receive a secure e-mail from Access Group, you only have to enter your password when you click "View Message."

Please note that, until this new security measure is fully implemented, you will continue to receive both encrypted and non-encrypted files.

To learn more, please contact your internal account executive.

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[Borrower Education:
Educational Posters Coming Soon](#)

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Don't Wait! Register Today for Access Group's 2007 Conference

If you're planning to attend Access Group's 2007 Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference, better hurry! Our **Early Bird registration**, which offers the greatest savings, **ends on October 1**.

Registrations received after October 1 will be charged the **standard** registration fee. The standard registration deadline is **October 15**, after which we will gladly accept registrations based on availability.

To register for the conference, visit www.accessgroup.org/conf2007. All registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration fees

The hotel cost for the three nights of the conference is not included as part of the conference fee package. Please reserve and pay all hotel room expenses directly through the hotel. The negotiated room rate at the conference hotel, Palace Hotel in San Francisco, is \$169 per night plus taxes, single or double occupancy.

The registration fee includes: all conference sessions, including preconference workshops, all conference materials and all official conference meals, from the opening dinner on Thursday through the farewell dinner and event on Saturday evening.

- Early Bird registration fee: \$550
- Standard registration fee: \$650
- Thursday-only registration fee: \$150 (includes Financial Aid 101, Dinner and Keynote Address)
- Friday-only registration fee: \$250 (includes breakfast, lunch, all Friday sessions and materials)
- Saturday-only registration fee: \$300 (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, all Saturday sessions and materials)

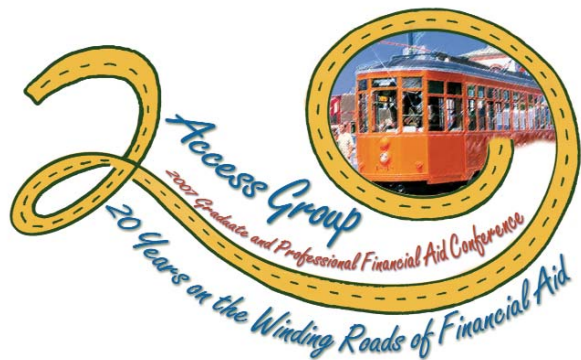
Payment due dates

To complete the online registration process, you'll need a credit card to secure your registration. You may still choose to pay by check; however, your check must be received by the payment due date or your credit card will be charged. Payment due dates are:

Early Bird Registration Payment Due Date: October 15

Standard Registration Payment Due Date: October 31

See You in San Francisco!



So Many Reasons to Attend!

Be there for the wit and wisdom of nationally known guest speakers in our general sessions, such as:

- **Tal Ben-Shahar**, Harvard University professor who will discuss "positive psychology" and finding happiness
- **Arnold Shapiro**, Oscar-winning producer with an entertaining and worthwhile look at how to remain ethical in high-pressure situations
- **Mark Shields**, political analyst, columnist and moderator of "The Capital Gang"

Spend your time well in concurrent sessions, such as these popular offerings:

- Re-Thinking Graduate and Professional School Education Loans
- Financial Literacy: Capturing Your Students' Attention
- Five Steps to Help Your High-Risk Borrowers Address Their Financial Troubles
- Winding Through Repayment ... Graduates Speak!
- How to Write E-Mail to People Who "Don't Read"

Join us for a special Saturday evening as we honor Dan Lau on his retirement and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Access Group Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference.

Find out more at www.accessgroup.org/conf2007.



Charles Stappenbeck Spotlight



Charles Stappenbeck, Access Group's internal account executive for WASFAA region, says the best part of his job is being able to build relationships with his customers.

"I really enjoy the school customers I work with," says Charles. "Getting to know them individually allows me to provide them with the service they need."

Charles, who previously worked at Seton Hall University, brought five years of financial aid experience with him when he joined Access Group a year ago. Not only does Charles serve you and your students, but he's a student himself, so keeping Access Group borrowers' best interests in mind is second nature to him.

"At Seton Hall, I worked with admissions and registration and created financial aid packages for my students," said Charles. "Access Group gave me the opportunity to continue working in the school environment and provide students with access to great financial aid. At the same time, I can continue my education, earning an MBA."

Even though most of Charles' world revolves around school and financial aid, in his spare time, he's a devoted Notre Dame football fanatic.

Ask Charles about his favorite Notre Dame football player!

Wishing William Bennett a Fond Farewell ...

With mixed emotions of joy and sadness, Access Group announces that William Bennett, external account executive for the MASFAA region, retired from the company on September 7, 2007.

Known for his leadership, his warmth, and his sense of humor, William will be missed by all of us at Access Group and by his many school customers in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and West Virginia, whom he has served for the past 11 years. William is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sarah, and their family.

We wish William the best of health and happiness in the years ahead!

Technology Track



eAccess User Tips

(Access Group introduces a series of helpful tips to assist our eAccess users. Each month's Access Update will feature a new tip in the Technology Track.)

Tip #1 — Initiate Loan

Use "Initiate Loan" to assist last-minute applicants who need a loan application submitted and certified quickly. This feature of eAccess allows you to initiate and certify a Stafford, PLUS, private or Bar Exam loan application in one step. If necessary, please contact your internal account executive to gain permission to use this eAccess service. For more details, see page 17 in the *User Guide* within eAccess.

Reminder Memos

Have you been using our electronic change transactions function?



Please remember that post office box numbers are not acceptable in the borrower's permanent address, nor are they acceptable in the address of the borrower's two personal references on a private loan application. Also, the references cannot reside at the same address, and a foreign address is not acceptable.

When such unacceptable data is submitted in the change transaction file, our system automatically sends the file to exception processing, which delays the processing of the loan application.

Be sure to contact your internal account executive if you have questions or need more information.

All Access Group loan applications and related correspondence should be sent to:

Access Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 17162
Wilmington, DE 19850-7162

Please note: Schools using Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) should also send their applications to the address above.

3-Month LIBOR for Third Quarter 2007

The current index effective for July, August and September 2007 is 5.36%.

Access Group's private loan interest rates vary quarterly, based on the 3-month LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) on the last business day of the second month of the prior calendar quarter.

The effective 3-month LIBOR index is posted on AccessGroup.Org. Click "Interest Rates" for the LIBOR index and for our interest rate comparison calculator, which you or your students can use to compare interest rates based on LIBOR, Prime, or 91-day T-bill indexes.

Interest rates for Federal Stafford Loans and Federal PLUS Loans are also posted on the Interest Rates page, along with a link to our Federal Loan Interest Rate poster.

Access Group, Inc.
5500 Brandywine Parkway
P.O. Box 7430
Wilmington, DE
19803-0430

Toll-free lines:

School Services
800-227-2151
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, e-mail your name and your school's name to your internal account executive.



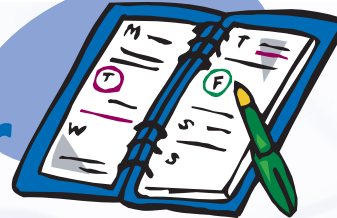
Borrower Education

WiseBorrower® Educational Posters Coming Soon

In our on-going effort to help you improve the financial literacy of your students, Access Group developed a series of colorful wall posters with messages related to wise borrowing, good credit and more!

Watch your mail for the latest posters in our WiseBorrower Education Series.

Monthly Planner



Access Group staff will be attending these early autumn meetings and conferences:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| September 27 – 29 | Southern Association of Pre-law Advisors Annual Conference | Durham, SC |
| October 3 – 5 | Texas Association of Financial Aid Administrators Annual Conference | Galveston, TX |
| October 7 – 10 | MASFAA Annual Conference | St. Louis, MO |
| October 10 – 12 | Louisiana Association of Financial Aid Administrators State Conference | Shreveport, LA |
| October 14 – 17 | NYSFAAA Annual Conference | New York, NY |
| October 17 – 19 | Florida Association of Financial Aid Administrators Fall Conference | Destin, FL |
| October 18 – 19 | Student Loan Servicing Association Meeting | New York, NY |
| October 18 – 19 | Georgia Association of Financial Aid Administrators Fall Conference | Duluth, GA |