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Medical School Loans Testimonials

George L. | Raleigh, NC

I have the highest degree of appreciation for Medical School Loans for their dedication and attention in assuring that I was able to complete my application before the recent deadline for reconsolidation. I have a deep gratitude for the company's efforts and I will recommend Medical School Loans to my colleagues within the medical profession.

VIRGINIA LAUNCHES SIX-YEAR PLAN TO ALIGN K-12 STANDARDS WITH UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EDUCATION

- NIHIT AURORA

It's no secret that Americans depend on schools to prepare their children for higher education and gainful employment. Recently, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) proposed a six-year plan to match K-12 teaching with university-level education. The plan, which would begin in 2007, aims to improve schools so that the schools, in turn, can better prepare students for college educations and ultimately enable them to become members of what the plan hopes will be a stable, dynamic workforce. Among the plan's goals is also improving financial aid for Virginia's students, in addition to the following:

- Making detailed information about higher-education opportunities in Virginia available to students and their families, especially those who belong to under-represented groups.
- Highlighting details about financial aid opportunities.
- Motivating students to pursue higher education in Virginia.
- Providing scholarships for students who wish to enter careers in high demand.
- Determining tax revenue from university graduates versus non-graduates.
- Assessing the current quality of degree programs in the state.

- Increased levels of support for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program.
- Expanding financial aid to match the increase in college-level tuition.
- Further improving and advancing the Virginia College Savings Plan (VSCP).
- Tailoring existing programs such as the American Diploma Project and the College Board Standards for College Success to match the educational standards of public schools in Virginia with colleges and Universities in Virginia.
- Creating better research opportunities in-state and enhancing research funding.

Virginia hopes to generate a productive workforce by preparing current K-12 students for higher education so that they can then become the torchbearers for productive employment.

On the Net:

Virginia: Panel Calls for Increased Financial Aid, Alignment of K to 12 Standards with College Curricula

www.hewi.net/news/news.asp?Type=States

Preparing Our Children: Math and Science Education in the National Interest

www.nsf.gov/pubs/1999/nsb9931/nsb9931.txt

PH.D. COMPLETION: REASONS FOR NON-COMPLETION

- SHAILEJA MAMMEN

The Council of Graduate Schools recently released preliminary data collected for the Ph.D. Completion Project on completion rates by discipline. The aim of the project is to identify practices and strategies that will help more

graduate students achieve timely completion of their Ph.D. programs. The 29 universities that participated in the survey included private and public as well as elite and up-coming institutions. The respondents to the survey were

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To comment to the editor, Carleen Trapp, call 626-243-1881.

graduate students who completed their Ph.D.s in the fields of engineering, life sciences, math and physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

The respondents ranked the main factors contributing to completion of their Ph.D.s. 80% of them placed maximum importance on financial support, 60 % on family support, 39 % on social environment and peer support, 39 % on program quality, and 30 % on professional and career guidance.

Among disciplines, the rate of completion depends on the amount of borrowings. Humanities students often need to borrow more and take longer to complete their Ph.D.

When asked about the advice they received from mentors, respondents across all fields said research advice was the biggest gain. That was followed by career advice specially directed to students in humanities and social sciences. Teaching was the last area in which mentors

gave advice to students.

The time-to-completion of Ph.D. rates among various fields was also studied. The study found that majority of the students in engineering and physical and biological sciences completed their Ph.D.s between years six and seven of their programs. In social sciences, only 40 % of the students completed in the same time, while only 29 % did so in humanities.

The next stage of the project will be interpretation and analysis of the data. The program director Daniel Denecke was certain other factors that affect the time to completion would emerge from the study. Availability of good jobs in some fields may also be the reason for non-completion of Ph.D. programs.

On the Net:

Why and When Ph.D. Students Finish
insidehighered.com/news/2007/07/17/phd

NEWS IN BRIEF

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY RAISES TUITION

Eastern Michigan University's governing board has approved a combined 8% increase in tuition and fees. Tuition alone will be raised by 9.5%, but there will be no increase in mandatory fees. For a typical resident undergraduate student, tuition and fees will cost nearly \$7,500. The state, which may see a \$1.6 billion deficit for the fiscal year beginning in October, has cut or postponed financial aid to colleges. Eight of the 15 Michigan public universities have raised tuition for next year, while the rest are expected to follow suit.

EMERSON COLLEGE FIRES DEAN OF ENROLLMENT

Boston's Emerson College has fired its dean of enrollment, Daniel Pinch, alleging that he took \$36,000 as consultation fees for a loan company that the college recommended to students for consolidation of their loans. Not only did Pinch allow the company to use his and the college's name for marketing purposes, but he also established his own loan company. A report released by the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor,

and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, revealed Pinch's relationship with the loan company. According to the report, the company offered \$50,000 as an investment in Pinch's company, though it is not clear whether the deal went through.

ROBIN HOLMES NAMED UNIVERSITY OF OREGON'S VP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Robin Holmes has been named vice president for student affairs at the University of Oregon. Having conducted a national search to fill the vacancy created by Anne Leavitt, who left the post in 2005, the university appointed someone from its own campus. Holmes will oversee seven departments, including financial aid, student housing, admissions, student conduct, the health center, and the Erb Memorial Union. Interim student affairs head Mike Eyster will take on Holmes's earlier post as director of student housing. Located in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, the University of Oregon offers students opportunities in the fields of architecture, art, business, education, journalism, law, music, and dance.