

## **STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES JULY 2010 - JUNE 2011**

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE**

The Office for Student Affairs (SFA) operates a “race-blind” financial aid awarding policy. There are a limited number of preferential scholarships, notably the National Achievement, Presidential, and Alliance scholarships, which were approved through the University’s agreement with the U.S. Office of Civil Rights.

### **EQUITY ACCOUNTABILITY**

SFA awards financial aid on the basis of financial need or financial need and merit for a limited number of scholarships. Through a series of financial aid workshops provided throughout the year, SFA provides financial aid information to students and parents to assist them in areas such as educational budget planning, debt management, credit and identity theft, and completing the financial aid application process. These sessions continue to be a successful tool for educating students and parents on financial aid related issues.

In addition, SFA provides “Financial Aid 101” a financial aid primer for incoming students, or continuing students, which answers questions such as how to keep track of their aid file, and how Florida Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid affect their financial aid package.

SFA’s Resource Center located in S-107 Criser Hall enables students to research and apply for financial aid, including scholarships and part-time jobs. The Resource Center is open from 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday.

Personal financial aid advising is provided.

### **DIVERSITY IN SERVICES**

The distribution of financial aid during 09-10 is provided in detail the “Fact Book” which is produced annually by SFA. This information is also provided at [www.hr.ufl.edu/eeo/reports](http://www.hr.ufl.edu/eeo/reports). During 09-10 the average scholarship awards for black and white undergraduates were as follows: Blacks were \$6,520 compared to Whites \$4,386. Final scholarship award averages for 2010-2011 will be available after June 30, 2011.

## **NEW INITIATIVES**

In 2010-2011 SFA entered its fifth year of the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program.

During 2009-2010 1,381 students participate in the FOS program and \$7,272,896 in financial aid was disbursed.

In 2010-2011 FOS continued to grow. 1,404 students are currently participating in the FOS program and \$7,543,986 in FOS scholarships has been disbursed. Final disbursement information for the FOS program for 2010-2011 will be available after June 30, 2011.

A complete assessment of the FOS program is provided in the Florida Opportunity Scholars Annual Report for 2008-2009 which is available upon request in the SFA office.

## **ACCOLADES**

The FOS program continues to provide positive results in equity and diversity. Final results for 2009-2010 indicated 39.2% of participants were Black, 26.4% Hispanic, 10.5% Asian and 21.6% White. The FOS retention rate for the 2009 Cohort is 91.2%.

Considerable effort has been made by SFA and the University to provide support services for FOS students. Some of the services include: Priority for residence hall living accommodations, reception with University President, Navigating the Swamp orientation, financial literacy seminar series, peer mentoring, and empowerment groups.