

Wilkes Works to Ensure Student Access to Loans

RECENT TURMOIL IN MORTGAGE MARKETS HAS now trickled down to student lending, which in Pennsylvania means cuts in state grants to needy and middle-income college students. With a virtual moratorium on its profitable student loan business, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency will cut at least \$40 million from its contribution to the PHEAA Student Grant Program for Pennsylvania college students. And PHEAA representatives say the remaining \$35 million it currently plans to spend next year could be in jeopardy.

Even though the governor has proposed increasing state funding to the PHEAA Student Grant Program by \$11.6 million, the maximum student aid grant of \$4,700 may be cut by as much as \$700. If the state does not close this gap, as I and other Pennsylvania college presidents advocate, our students could experience further significant losses in purchasing power.

Wilkes University is working with students and their families to reduce anxiety and help students to access aid. Students with questions should contact their lenders and/or financial aid specialists at their institution.

The Wilkes University community prides itself on serving first-generation students; 96.1 percent of college-bound students receive financial aid. Recognizing conditions facing our students, we've held our tuition increase this year to the lowest of our regional peers. We can do this because we are controlling costs and developing new graduate and continuing studies programs that add to the bottom line.

Wilkes has asked our campus community to contact Pennsylvania's lawmakers and the governor to urge them to fill in the gap. To learn more about this issue or how to make your voice heard, look for "PHEAA Outreach" on the Financial Aid pages of www.wilkes.edu.



Dr. Tim Gilmour
Wilkes University President

Students and parents file into the Henry Student Center during move-in day 2007. PHOTO BY CRAIG THOMAS

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SUMMER 2008

Wilkes University is an independent institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. The university provides its students with the experience and education necessary for career and intellectual development as well as for personal growth, engenders a sense of values and civic responsibility, and encourages its students to welcome the opportunities and challenges of a diverse and continually changing world. The university enhances the tradition of strong student-faculty interactions in all its programs, attracts and retains outstanding people in every segment of the university, and fosters a spirit of cooperation, community involvement, and individual respect within the entire university.

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On the cover: Air Force pharmacist Nokomie Welsh-Harris '03 of the 332nd Medical Support Squadron draws medicine from a trauma cart at Balad Air Base, Iraq, in January. PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA GARCIA/U.S. AIR FORCE

FUTURE ISSUES

- Fall 2008 75th Anniversary
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