

Presentation to House Committee on Colleges and Universities February 6, 2001



Florida Resident Access Grant



Florida Resident Access Grant

- Three goals of the FRAG:
 - broaden student choice through provision of tuition assistance to reduce tuition gap between public and independent institutions
 - support educational diversity through support for a strong system of independent higher education
 - reduce tax burden on the citizens of state
- Current FRAG award is \$2813

Contracts and Other State Supported Independent Sector Projects



Contracts

- Capitation
 - University of Miami 1st accredited medical school
 - Nova Southeastern University
- Tuition offset contracts
 - calculated based on comparative public cost

Other State Supported Projects

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) 2000-01 appropriations:
 - Bethune Cookman - \$2,908,013
 - Edward Waters - \$2,658,013
 - Florida Memorial - \$2,408,013

Other State Supported Projects (cont.)

- PEPC Recommendations for HBCU Funding:
 - Beginning with 2002-03, funding for Access, Retention, and Graduation should be based on a per graduate basis. Institutions demonstrating a 20% or higher increase in graduates over previous year should be eligible for additional incentive funds
 - Legislature should continue to fund Library Resources Grant as separate appropriation
 - Beginning with 2001-02, each HBCU should provide to DOE a report containing the number of baccalaureate graduates, a budget narrative, and other outcome measures as required by DOE

Financial Aid

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations

- Bright Futures Scholarship award amounts, which are currently linked to tuition and fees, should be based on specific statewide amounts established in law and subject to Legislative appropriations.
- The Gold Seal Vocational award should be renamed the “Two-Plus-Two” award and limited to student enrolled in programs of two years or less at a community college or vocational-technical institution.

PEPC Financial Aid

Recommendations (cont.)

- The high school GPA required for initial eligibility for the Bright Futures Merit Scholars should be increased from 3.0 to 3.25.
- The Florida Student Assistance Grant should be funded at the level requested in the Commissioner of Education's budget for 2001-02.
- The Florida Legislature should adopt a five-year plan to restore the balance to the State's merit - and need-based appropriations required by Section 240.437(2)(a).

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations (cont.)

- The Legislature should conduct a sunset review of any financial aid program that has expended less than half its appropriation for two or more consecutive years.
- Sections 240.409(2)(a) and 240.4095(2)(a), Florida Statutes, should be revised to extend eligibility for the Florida Student Assistance Grant to eligible part-time degree-seeking students, provided that such program expansion does not have the effect of reducing the number or amount of awards available to eligible full-time degree-seeking students.

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations (cont.)

- The Bureau of Student Financial Assistance should assign high priority to obtaining accurate projections of the number of part-time students who are otherwise eligible for the Florida Student Assistance Grant.
- The public FSAG fund should be divided into separate funds for public four-year and public two-year institutions.
- Rather than recommending a stand-alone need-based grant for part-time students at this time, the Commission supports ‘growing’ the part-time grant through the traditional Florida Student Assistance Grant.

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations (cont.)

- The Bureau of Student Financial Assistance should continue to provide the State match of federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) allocation on the required one-to-one basis from Florida Student Assistance Grant dollars. The Florida Legislature should make a separate appropriation to provide the required two-to-one State match of federal Supplemental Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP) dollars. The state's SLEAP allocation and the State matching dollars should be earmarked for part-time students.

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations (cont.)

- College admissions and financial aid professionals should ensure that all students who apply for admission to their institutions receive information about available federal housing assistance programs and participating rental units in the local community.
- The Careers for Florida's Future program should be funded and implemented with selected modifications to improve the return on the state's investment.

PEPC Financial Aid Recommendations (cont.)

- The Vocational Student Assistance Grant should be reinstated and funded at the Department of Education's requested level of \$12 million.