




May 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arkansas High School Counselors

FROM: Dr. Jim Purcell, Director 
Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director 
Arkansas Department of Workforce Education

Dr. Ken James, Commissioner 
Arkansas Department of Education

RE: Act 474 of 2007

Act 474 of 2007 directs that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), working with both public and private institutions of higher education, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (ADWE) shall annually compile information for Arkansas high school students on academic scholarships for freshmen entering institutions of higher education and state-funded programs that provide opportunities for developing technical job skills and apprenticeships. Act 474 states that the Department of Education shall provide the information annually to all public high school counselors in the state.

Currently, you receive brochures and other information regarding the Academic Challenge Scholarship and the GO Opportunity Grant programs. This year the information was distributed to you through your local education co-op. In addition, ADHE distributes a brochure containing information about all of the other financial aid programs that are administered by ADHE at the many college fairs around the state.

ADWE provides information on its website on the following programs:

- The High Tech Scholarship
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/hightechscholarship.htm>
- The Loan Forgiveness program
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/LoanForgiveness/atcsfp.htm>
- The Youth and Adult Apprenticeship Program
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/youthapprenticeship.htm>
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/CareerandTechEducation/2004Policiesapproved10-04.pdf>

In addition to the website information, ADWE presents a session on loan forgiveness and high-tech scholarships at the counselors' conference every November and mails information on both programs to all counselors annually. Periodically, ADWE presents to the state association of financial aid administrators and will do so again this October at the group's annual conference. ADWE also provides this information through counselor interviews and counselor updates during the on-site Technical Assistance visits to schools. These visits are made to each school site on a 5-year basis.

Attached is a spreadsheet which lists all of the institutional scholarships and other programs and scholarships related to technical education. The spreadsheet will provide your students access to important admissions and financial aid information for all of the public and private universities and colleges. This spreadsheet can also be found on the ADHE web page at <http://www.adhe.edu/financial.html>.

Next August, you will receive copies of this information sheet along with the information mentioned above, that are to be distributed to your high school seniors and juniors. Please note that Act 474 states that each public high school counselor shall annually provide the information they have received to their students.

Your assistance in distributing this information to all students is critical and we appreciate your efforts.

Best wishes for a relaxing summer.