

October 2005



# GSL ONLINE

Montana's premiere student loan publication

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS:

- *Support Staff Training - October 26, 9:30-3:00  
Carroll College Campus Helena, MT*
- *EAC - Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 in San Diego, CA*
- *Daylight-Savings Time Ends - Oct. 30*
- *Decentralized Training - Nov. 1 & 2  
Montana State University Great Falls COT*
- *Veterans Day - November 11 (office closed)*
- *Thanksgiving - November 24 & 25 (office closed)*
- *EAC - Nov. 29 - Dec. 2 in Atlanta, GA*

*Congratulations  
to Ricki Jones!  
The new Financial Aid Director at  
UM-Western!*

**Welcome!**

## New Program's Scholarship Coordinator!

We are happy to introduce Janice Kirkpatrick to you. Janice recently accepted the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program's Scholarship Coordinator position previously held by Mary Taylor. Janice grew up in the Kalispell area, received her degree in the field of education from the University of Montana, and has worked with MGSLP for nine years in the accounting unit. Welcome Janice!

## THE DIRECTOR'S DEN

Reauthorization continues to fascinate and frustrate us. Just when it appeared likely to actually happen, Hurricane Katrina and Budget Reconciliation have thrown Reauthorization efforts a nasty curveball. The House and Senate versions of Reauthorization contain significant differences that will need to be worked out in Conference Committee. Generally speaking, school and student loan communities prefer the Senate version, although the school-reporting requirement remains a significant obstacle. GSL has been actively promoting those aspects of Reauthorization that improve access in Montana. Our Congressional delegation is very supportive of education and we are encouraged by their interest and understanding of the educational issues facing Montanans.

GSL has been busy working with the Advisory Council to hammer out final policies for the Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program. We hope to have approved policies we can share at our upcoming MGSLP Financial Aid Directors' Retreat/Student Loan Advisory Committee meeting. We plan to hold this meeting in Billings, most likely in early December. More information coming soon!

*Bruce Marks, Director*

## PRODUCT UPDATE

At MGSLP, our goal has been to present a new product or an enhanced version of an existing product each year to our schools. This year, we offered both – the Online Approval Product and the new version of FASTLoans.

The Online Approval Product is a web-based application that determines the credit-worthiness of potential parent borrowers who are applying for PLUS loans. Parents access the product directly from the school's website. The financial aid staff is also able to access the product from their portal and complete an online credit decision for the parent in moments.

FASTLoans is the web-based MPN for Stafford loans. The new version of FASTLoans offers a higher security level and additional built-in edits to ensure a faster, more efficient MPN process.

We are delighted to offer these products and encourage you to call Carie Kelly @ 1-800-537-7508 for additional information.

**THE PATH TO HIGHER EDUCATION IS A LONG ONE...  
WE KNOW THE WAY.**