

The Good News

By Teena Cooper



These days, it seems that everywhere we turn reports about the global economy bring us down. And the news in our own industry hasn't been all sunshine, either.

But good news is out there, and we could all use a dose of it. In spite of the many trouble spots that still need to be worked out, let's remember:

Loan limits have been raised. This year, students have been able to borrow significantly more to meet the higher costs of attending college. That helps all of us to help students – which is why we're in this line of work.

In *USA Today*, we found these encouraging facts:

- According to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, more than 90 percent of private colleges will increase aid next year. Their recent survey showed average aid increases of 9.8 percent.
- Estimates are for 800,000 more students to receive Pell grants under the federal stimulus package's

increase to maximum Pell awards from \$4,731 to \$5,350 starting July 1, and to \$5,550 in 2010-2011.

- FFEL loan volume has actually increased this year, and more lenders are starting to re-enter the market.

US News & World Report says that, as bad as unemployment is right now, it's still substantially better for college graduates than for those who don't have a degree. Nationally, unemployment for non-degree holders is around 8 percent; for those with a degree, the unemployment rate is less than 4 percent.

There you have it – a bit of good news from the world of student financial aid to brighten your professional day. If you come across any positive industry reports to share with colleagues, we'd love to publish them in *Outlook*. Please send your news to me at teena.cooper@college-assist.com.

Fun Apple Facts



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