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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Meet Jim Runcie, COO, FSA 3

Quote

“Let’s put our minds together to see what we can build for our children.”

—**Sitting Bull**
Hunkpapa Lakota Holy Man

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Historic Visit to Standing Rock Sioux Reservation



Photographs by Dennis J. Newman, *United Tribes News*

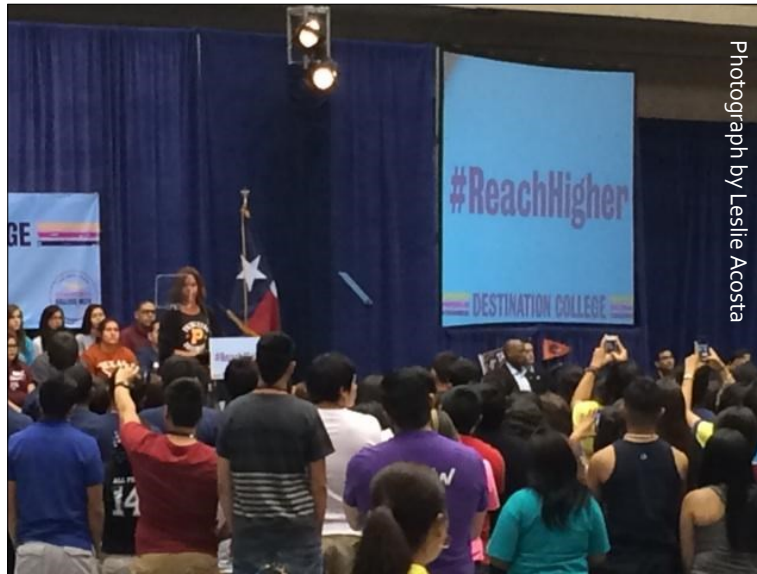
The little town of Fort Yates, North Dakota, rolled out the red carpet to welcome President Barack Obama, accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, when they visited the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation for their annual Cannon Ball Flag Day celebration on June 13, 2014.



This was a historic visit during which the Administration made pledges to help build more economic opportunity, strengthen the sovereignty of tribal courts and improve reservation-based schools, such as **Sitting Bull College**, a Tribal College and University, located on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

“I realize that a pow-wow isn’t just about celebrating the past. It’s also about looking to the future. It’s about keeping sacred traditions alive for the next generation, for these beautiful children. So here today, I want to focus on the work that lies ahead,” said President Obama.

FIRST LADY PROMOTES #REACHHIGHER EDUCATION



Celebrate the Importance of Higher Education: San Antonio's 4th Annual College Signing Day

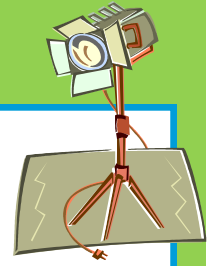
On May 2, First Lady Michelle Obama spoke during San Antonio's 4th Annual College Signing Day which took place at the Convocation Center of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The event was part of the city's week-long celebration to encourage their students to pursue and complete some form of higher education. The First Lady delivered the keynote to highlight the importance of higher education and the President's North Star goal - that by the year 2020, America will, once again, have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

In San Antonio, many supporters, including, First Lady Michelle Obama, wore their college shirts on the day of the event.

To help highlight the importance of pursuing and completing some form of higher education, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics invited all Administration staff and representatives to also join the celebration by wearing their college shirt or their school's colors to work on May 2. Staff members who wore their college shirts were encouraged to tweet their photos using the hashtag #ReachHigher. Additional information is available at <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/04/show-your-college-pride-with-first-lady-michelle-obama/>

SPOTLIGHT ON JAMES RUNCIE



Photograph by Andrew Jones

James Runcie is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid. Jim is the second of four children in a family that immigrated to the United States when he was very young. His parents ensured that Jim and his siblings had the opportunity to pursue higher education. Jim and his siblings attended college and earned Master's degrees. Today, both Jim and his brother, Robert, work in the education sector. Robert is Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools in Florida, the sixth largest school system in the country.

An
Interview
with
James
Runcie
by
Jacqueline
Daughtry-
Miller

"Education has helped make a difference in my life," said Jim, who majored in Math at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. After graduation, he worked in the systems division at Xerox as an information systems consultant. He later attended Harvard University's Graduate School of Business and earned an MBA with distinction. Subsequently, Jim worked as an investment banker for several prominent Wall Street and banking institutions including, Credit Suisse (DLJ), Bank of America, and UBS (formerly the United Bank of Switzerland).

Jim was appointed COO of FSA in 2011. In this role, his leadership of FSA is tied to the President's 2020 goal for the U.S. to have the best-educated workforce in the world. FSA's motto, "Funding America's future, one student at a time," is the guiding principle that motivates Jim as he leads FSA in:

- Leveraging technology-including digital and social media-to develop innovative financial literacy outreach;
- Further utilizing data to inform decision making and policy development;
- Strengthening administrative and operational capabilities; and
- Expanding efforts to responsibly manage the more than \$1 trillion portfolio of federal student loans.

Jim says that his biggest surprise after becoming COO of FSA was the increasing prominence of higher education issues on the national agenda. As a result of this exposure, FSA faces a high level of scrutiny. Jim must consistently engage with numerous stakeholders within the federal government. FSA employees work to ensure that the organization has a robust platform to address the expansive and changing requirements of the programs that FSA administers.

"Our operational scope is becoming more complex because of increasing demands," Jim explained. We have to be diligent about making sure we continue to meet and exceed expectations where possible." "We also need to better set expectations to avoid unrealistic demands that put our mission at risk. This all translates into a tremendous workload and for some really long days," he added.

When asked what he enjoys most about FSA, Jim said, "I really enjoy FSA, the role we serve and the great people that make up this organization. We have a staff of incredible subject matter experts, and they care about delivering our mission and ultimately providing students a path toward higher education."

*"Education
has made a
difference
in my life,"*

— James
Runcie,
Chief
Operating
Officer of
Federal
Student
Aid

MSURSD 2014 WEBINARS

MSURSD 2014 WEBINARS



MSURSD Webinar 2014 was the second annual webinar series designed to offer a variety of relevant topics to reinforce and strengthen the administration of the Title IV delivery process. Schools must have the right information, tools, and support to effectively deliver and account for the Title IV funds they distribute to their students. The webinars were offered between June 30 and August 7, 2014. Upon completion of these webinars, Title IV school managers and staff will have been provided the necessary information to effectively administer Title IV funds appropriately. The webinars were designed for

Financial Aid, Business, Registrar, Academic offices, or other areas with responsibilities for managing and implementing Title IV requirements.

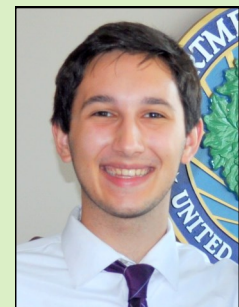
The webinars topics included:

- Financial Aid Toolkit Overview;
- Resources for Financial Aid Officers: How to Find Online Resources;
- New NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Responsibilities;
- Top 10 Audit and Program Review Findings;
- Pell Grant Duration of Eligibility Limitation (Pell LEU);
- FERPA;
- New Direct Consolidation Loan Process;
- Avoiding Pitfalls in Return of Title IV;
- Consumer Information and Disclosure Requirements;
- Direct Loan 150 Changes;
- The Jeanne Clery Act;
- Federal Update.

For further information, please contact [Jacqueline Daughtry-Miller](#) at 202-377-3795 or jacqueline.daughtry@ed.gov.

PAUL DREXLER— SUMMER INTERN

This summer, Paul Drexler, a sophomore at the University of Chicago from Nashville, Tennessee, interned with MSURSD. We appreciated having Paul with us because he is a quick and eager learner who became an integral part of the team in just two months at FSA. Throughout his internship, Paul worked on numerous projects throughout the School Experience Group. We wish Paul the very best in his studies!



SPRING/SUMMER WORKSHOP IN WASHINGTON, DC

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS “Fine-tuning: Compliance Requirements for the Best Delivery of Financial Aid”



Dr. Alicia Harris conducts a workshop at the Union Center Plaza Building in D.C.



Mr. Jim Settles has the attention of the school participants at the workshop on July 2, 2014.

Photographs by Jacqueline Daughtry

Every spring and summer, the Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division leads workshops throughout the country. The major objective of these workshops is to provide Title IV administrators with tools to better deliver financial assistance to students in a timely and efficient manner, thereby enhancing the institutions’ overall administrative capability. During the workshops, participants review regulations for schools to maintain institutional integrity and compliance. The specific topics covered in the 2014 workshops were: Policies and Procedures, Avoiding the Pitfalls in Return to Title IV, Consumer Information and Disclosure Requirements and a Federal Update.

The 2014 Spring/Summer Workshop Series ended on July 29 at Salish Kootenai College, one of the 32 Tribal Colleges participating in the Title IV Programs. There were 784 Title IV administrators representing 264 educational institutions, who attended the workshops, which were delivered at 22 different locations. Dr. Alicia Harris and Mr. Jim Settles led the annual Washington, D.C. workshop.

If you were unable to attend any of the workshops and would like an electronic copy of the presentation, please contact Dolores Davis at dolores.davis@ed.gov.

Congratulations to MSURSD Atlanta Employee
JAMES MCMILLAN
who received a Presidential Message
for public service!



¡Gradúate! A Financial Aid Guide to Success

May 2014

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics has created the ¡Gradúate! Financial Aid Guide to Success (Guide) to help Hispanic students and families navigate the college application process. Available in English and Spanish, the Guide provides recommended steps for the college enrollment process, helpful tips on filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and key financial aid resources available to better support Hispanics, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and non U.S. citizen students, in their efforts to access a postsecondary education.



Research suggests that current federal financial aid efforts are not adequate and that not enough Latinos seeking college enrollment take advantage of key resources available. Data also indicates that more than ever before, Latinos are graduating high school and enrolling in college at higher rates. Yet only 15 percent of Latino adults hold a bachelor's degree. Informing Hispanics about the financial resources available and helping them enroll in and graduate from college is key to helping the country reach President Obama's 2020 goal – to once again lead the world in college graduates. The Guide highlights the following:

Planning for College

- Recommended steps of action for high school students, such as enrolling in challenging courses and completing the FAFSASM in order to receive federal financial aid.

Choosing the Right College

- Resources like the **College Scorecard**, **Financial Aid Shopping Sheet**, and **College Navigator** help students navigate the college planning and selection process to find the right school for them.

FAFSA® 101

- Information on the FAFSA® the primary form that must be filled out annually to apply for federal financial aid, and key deadlines for submission.

Financial Aid

- Descriptions of the various federal financial aid programs available to help students pay for college such as grants, federal work-study and federal student loans.

Scholarships

- List of some scholarships available, including scholarships for students pursuing careers in the teaching and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, and guidance on the application process.

Financial Resources for Undocumented Students

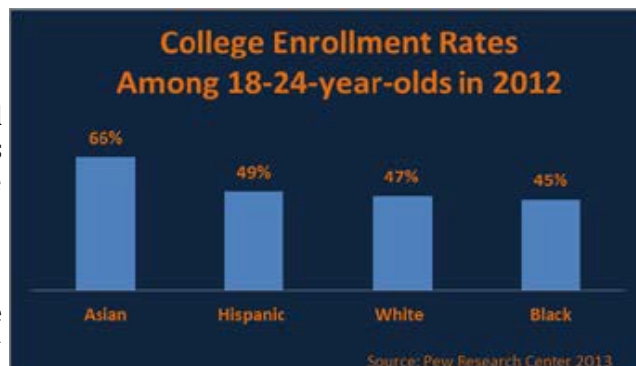
- Information about financial aid options, including scholarships, available to undocumented and DACA students.

Completing College

- Types of on-campus resources available to support college persistence among Latino students.

Career Pathways

- Information about pursuing STEM and teaching careers – key priorities for our nations' future workforce.



The complete Guide can be found at www.ed.gov/hispanicinitiative (Reprinted with permission)

¡Gradúate! Una guía de ayuda financiera para el éxito mayo del 2014

La Iniciativa de la Casa Blanca sobre la Excelencia Educativa de los Hispanos ha creado ¡Gradúate! Una guía de ayuda financiera para el éxito (la Guía) para ayudar a los estudiantes hispanos y a sus familias a navegar por el proceso de solicitud de admisión en la universidad. Disponible en inglés y español, la Guía señala acciones convenientes para el proceso de matrícula en la universidad, consejos útiles sobre cómo llenar el formulario para solicitar gratuitamente ayuda federal para estudiantes, conocido como Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA SM), e importantes recursos de ayuda financiera a su disposición para brindar mayor apoyo a los hispanos, incluida la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA, por sus siglas en inglés) y los estudiantes no ciudadanos de Estados Unidos, en sus esfuerzos para tener acceso a la educación postsecundaria.



Según indica la investigación, no son adecuadas las iniciativas en materia de ayuda financiera federal y es insuficiente el número de latinos con intención de seguir los estudios universitarios que aprovechan los importantes recursos que tienen a su disposición. Los datos también muestran que actualmente los latinos se gradúan de high school y se matriculan en la universidad a tasas superiores que en cualquier otra época de la historia. Y sin embargo, sólo el 15 por ciento de los adultos latinos poseen un título universitario. Informar a los hispanos sobre los recursos financieros disponibles y ayudarles a matricularse y graduarse de la universidad es indispensable para ayudar al país a alcanzar la meta del Presidente Obama para el año 2020 – volver a ser el líder mundial en el número de graduados universitarios. La Guía profundiza en los siguientes temas:

Hacer planes para la universidad

- Acciones convenientes para estudiantes de high school, como por ejemplo llevar asignaturas avanzadas y completar el FAFSASM para poder recibir ayuda financiera federal.

Elegir la universidad adecuada

- Recursos, tales como Ficha de evaluación universitaria, Hoja de compras de ayuda financiera, y Navegador de universidades, ayudan a los estudiantes a navegar por el proceso de planeación y selección de universidad para encontrar la más adecuada para ellos.

FAFSASM 101

- Información sobre el FAFSA,SM el formulario principal que se debe completar cada año para solicitar ayuda financiera federal y los plazos más importantes para la presentación de este formulario.

Ayuda financiera

- Descripciones de los diferentes programas de ayuda financiera federal a la disposición de los estudiantes para pagar los estudios universitarios, tales como los subsidios, el programa federal de trabajo y estudio y los préstamos federales para estudiantes.

Becas

- Una listado de unas becas disponibles, incluidas becas para estudiantes que siguen carreras en los campos de la docencia y la ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, y la matemática (STEM), y orientación sobre el proceso de solicitud.

Recursos financieros para estudiantes indocumentados

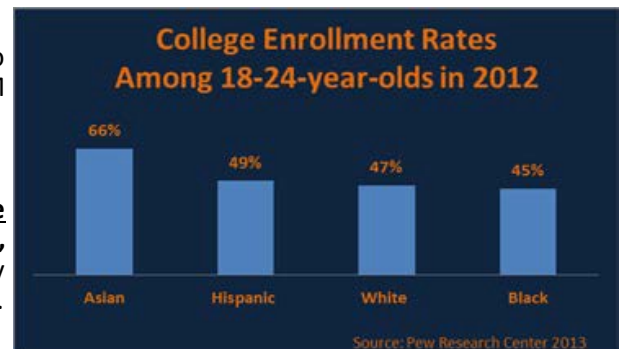
- Información sobre las opciones de ayuda financiera disponibles, incluidas las becas de las que pueden disponer los estudiantes indocumentados y DACA.

Finalizar los estudios universitarios

- Tipos de recursos disponibles para apoyar la persistencia entre estudiantes latinos.

Trayectorias profesionales

- Información sobre cómo seguir una carrera en STEM y la docencia – altas prioridades para el futuro de la fuerza laboral de nuestro país.



HISTORIAN MAYA ANGELOU NEVER FORGOT HER ROOTS



Opinion Julianne Malveaux

Many people will remember Maya Angelou, who died May 28, 2014 at the age of 86, for her phenomenal career. She was a true Renaissance woman — an author and teacher, a dancer and performer, a radio personality and a producer.

I will remember her as a friend and a generous spirit who shared her home and meals with me, but who also made time for virtually anyone who asked.

The first time I dined with Maya was at a reception in the late 1980s for Brian Lanker’s book *I Dream a World*, a collection of portraits of black women, including Maya, who changed our times. When a gentleman attempted to get everyone’s attention in the noisy room, he unwisely did so with a piercing whistle.

Soon I watched as Maya gathered herself and with her back rigid, chided the man with a rebuke — and an impromptu poem. “You will not whistle at black women,” she said. “We had enough of that when we were chattel. You will respect us as the women we are,” she went on. When she was finished, not a word was uttered.

So when I once asked Maya what she considered the greatest virtue, not surprisingly she told me that it was courage. Maya had courage in abundance. She needed it. She spent her childhood shuttling back and forth between San Francisco, where her mother lived, and Stamps, Ark., where she lived with her grandmother. Before her 18th birthday, she had experienced racism, rape and teen pregnancy.

These harsh beginnings made her later accomplishments all the more remarkable. Because her life coincided with the civil rights movement of the 1960s, she spent a lot of her later life speaking out against racism.

“We have already been paid for,” she frequently said, recounting the horror of slave ships, the harsh conditions of slavery, the inequalities of Jim Crow and contemporary instances of inequality.

Despite being a high school dropout, Maya went on to write 36 books, was awarded more than 30 honorary degrees, and wrote and delivered a poem at the inauguration of President Clinton in 1993.

But while Maya ultimately became friends with the famous, she always had time for others. Each year that I served as president of Bennett College, she visited the campus and gave a lecture to our students.

Once I asked her to spend time with the honor students and she told me, sharply, “I would rather spend time with the students at the bottom.” They were the ones, she said, who needed encouragement.

That was Maya.

At the end of her life, she was frail. “Getting old ain’t for sissies,” she said.

As writer Bijan Bayne wrote on my Facebook page, “No longer caged she forever sings.”



A bouquet of flowers and a magazine showing Maya Angelou on the cover lie outside a gate at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. / AP

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is a DC-based economist and author, and president emerita of Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, N.C. Reprinted from [Julianne Malveaux](#) and [The Baxter Bulletin](#), A Gannett Company .



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Message From the Director

Dear Colleagues:

Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division (MSURSD) of the School Experience Group appreciates receiving feedback from the institutions we serve.



We recently conducted a survey aimed at identifying ways to increase the reach of our Presidential Leadership and Management Seminar. We distributed the Leadership and management Audience and Content Update Survey to Presidents, CFOs and Directors of Financial Aid at all minority-serving institutions (MSIs) serviced by MSURSD in early 2013 to assess the seminar's effectiveness. Specifically, the survey collected the following data:

- Perceived importance of particular training topics;
- Past seminar participation;
- Knowledge retention from the 2012 Presidential Leadership Seminar;
- Content suggestions for a future leadership seminar;
- Interest in different seminar delivery methods;
- Additional potential seminar audience members to target; and
- Interest in attending a future Leadership and Management Seminar.

The goal of the survey was to assess interest in attending future sessions across a wider audience, to provide insight into the content that should be included in the sessions, and to measure interest in alternate delivery approaches. The online survey was fielded from January 27, 2014 to February 14, 2014. A total of 374 respondents completed the survey, yielding a response rate of 25.1%. The majority of survey respondents (64%) indicated that they would be interested in attending a future seminar. However, level of interest varied by cluster affiliation and role within the institution, where respondents from clusters and with roles that have the most established relationships with MSURSD staff noted the greatest interest in attending future sessions.

We appreciate all of you that responded to our survey and we will use the results to continue to improve our school customer experience.

ET Winzer

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8-20-2014

Federal Student Aid (FSA) VISION STATEMENT

To be the most trusted and reliable source of student financial aid, information and services in the nation.

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