

## Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division Continued

The Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division (MSURSD) is housed in FSA's Customer Experience Office/School Experience Group. Prior to the organizational realignment in the fall of 2010, the group, previously known as Special Initiatives Services.

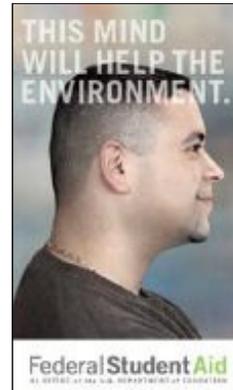
Federal Student Aid began emphasizing the significant role that Minority Serving Institutions play in educating our citizenry in the early 1990's. As a result, the Special Initiatives Services team was formed to act as a liaison with Historically Black Colleges and Universities during the initial implementation of the Direct Loan Program. Over the years, this effort has expanded to include Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native & Native American, and Predominately Black Institutions. The team now works with over 700 post-secondary institutions across the country.

The primary goals of MSURSD are to:

- Expand opportunities for these institutions to successfully continue their participation in the Title IV programs and work to proactively identify ways in which schools can more effectively manage their Title IV programs, and
- Encourage collaboration with the Department of Education and other government agencies to strengthen these institutions and increase their funding levels.

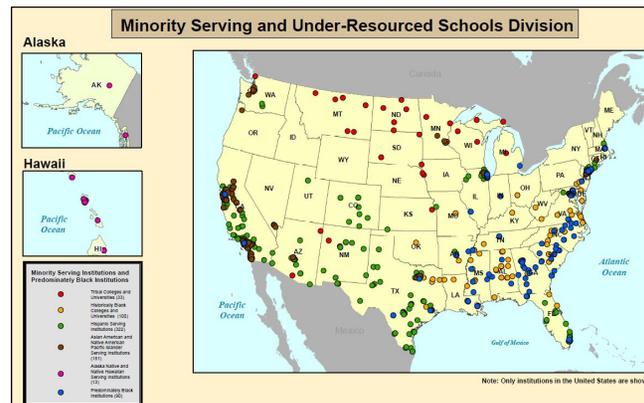
## Sample School Questions

- "Are my current policies and procedures consistent with Title IV regulations?"
- "How can I perform an internal assessment of my Title IV Student Aid administrative operations?"
- "What can I do to decrease the risk of having significant audit findings and/or program liabilities?"



## Client Institutions

- Asian American & Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions
- Alaska Native & Native American Serving Institutions
- Hispanic Serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Predominately Black Institutions
- Tribal Colleges and Universities



Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division

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## School Experience Group

Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division (MSURSD)



<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/ifap/>

A partnership of special assistance and government support to designated schools that participate in the Title IV Federal Student Aid Programs.

## What is MSURSD?

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed Executive Order 12232, establishing a federal program to overcome the effects of discriminatory treatment of blacks in higher education and to strengthen and expand the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



In 1981, President Reagan, under Executive Order 12320, established the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), expanding the previous program and setting into motion a government-wide effort to strengthen our nation's HBCUs. Each succeeding president has reissued this executive order to provide special assistance and government support to those institutions of higher education that have been designated as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. The order requires each federal department and agency to develop and implement programs and support services that provide assistance directly to these institutions, thereby strengthening and increasing their ability to continue to provide education opportunities to their unique student populations.

The Federal Student Aid (FSA) within the U.S. Department of Education has designated the Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division (**MSURSD**) unit as the entity to provide special support and assistance to designated institutions that are currently participating in the Title IV Federal Student Aid Programs.



## What We Do

Working with the Office of the White House Initiatives and FSA's Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Program Compliance Office and customer Experience Office, MSURSD developed a statistical analysis of all Title IV participating institutions based on a predetermined set of data points and began the process of developing strategies and models for the delivery of interventions and other means of support.

## How We Do It Services and Training

Technical Assistance | On-campus Site Visits  
Specialized Staff Training | Internal Assessments relating to:

- **FISAP** (Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate in Campus-based Programs)
- Verification
- Fund Reconciliation
- **R2T4** (Return of Title IV Funds)
- Audit Resolutions
- Policy-Procedures Manual
- Loan Default Rates
- **COD** (Common Origination and Disbursement)
- **GAPS** (Grant Administration Payment System)

## The Results

The outcome of these MSURSD intervention and preventive initiatives have been:

- Improvements to overall institutional student aid delivery systems
- Reduction in key audit and program review findings
- Increased institutional focus on student success goals (Graduation/Retention)
- Increased level of institutional sharing and implementation of "best practices".

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