



COMPLIANCE UPDATE
By Kim Slote, policy analyst

2014 FEDERAL STUDENT AID TRAINING CONFERENCE

The *2014 Federal Student Aid Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals* was held Dec. 2-5, 2014 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Approximately 6,000 financial aid professionals attended the annual conference to learn from USDE staff and other industry professionals. This free training conference is geared toward financial aid professionals that work for schools/institutions receiving Title IV funds. Attendees had an opportunity to; learn more about federal regulations and new legislation passed by Congress, interact with federal subject matter experts, network with peers and colleagues regarding industry best practices, and to gain hands-on experience using student loan data systems. Some of the topics for this year's conference program included changes and updates to the following:

- Clery Act concerning sexual assaults
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Gainful Employment
- Cohort Default Rate Challenge and Appeal Process
- Loan Repayment Options
- Verification
- Return to Title IV
- Title IV Reconciliation
- Federal Regulations

Sessions range from dealing with the basics of Title IV processing to more in depth compliance issues. One session I found particularly interesting was the Open Forum. In this segment, financial aid administrators are given the opportunity to ask questions of USDE staff, as well as offer comments and suggestions to the Department about financial aid issues they may be experiencing.

For those of you unable to attend the conference, you can still benefit from the sessions. The USDE has posted the [PowerPoint presentations](#) for each session on the [2014 FSA Training Conference](#) website. The USDE has also added [video segments](#) for select sessions, so be sure to review those for more information.