

# Breakout Sessions

## Welcome to Your First Federal Student Aid Training Conference (FSATC)

**Session Description:** Are you new to the FSATC? This session will help you get the most out of the conference by showing you how to navigate the four-day agenda and how to determine which sessions will best meet your needs. You will also learn who attends the conference, what services are available, and how to get answers to your questions.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Trevor Summers

Day 1, Tuesday, 7:30–8:30 a.m. .... Hall 1A

## 1. Administering Disbursements

**Session Description:** Come learn with Department officials as we explore the flexibilities and restrictions when handling *Title IV* funds. In this session we will discuss various aspects of properly disbursing *Title IV* funds including *Title IV* credit balances, early and late disbursements, post-withdrawal disbursements, and retroactive disbursements. In addition, we will review G5 drawdowns, G5 and Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System interactions, and timely and accurate system reporting. We will also provide information regarding how to disburse or return funds if improper payments occur or if a student regains eligibility.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Nautochia Webb

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:45–2 p.m. .... Hall 1B

Day 2, Wednesday, 1:50–3:05 p.m. .... Hall 1A

Day 3, Thursday, 8:45–10 a.m. .... Hall 1C

## 2. Administering Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals

**Session Description:** This session will address the activities a financial aid administrator must perform when a student adds or drops courses as well as when a student withdraws (excluding R2T4 calculation). Discussion and case scenarios will be provided concerning recalculation rules and census dates in various situations as students add and drop courses. This session will also provide an in-depth explanation concerning student withdrawals on such topics as school attendance, official and unofficial withdrawals, determining the date of withdrawal, and reporting deadlines.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Craig Rorie

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:45–2 p.m. .... Hall 5

Day 2, Wednesday, Noon–1:15 p.m. .... Hall 1C

Day 3, Thursday, 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m. .... Hall 4

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## 3. Title IV Reconciliation: What's in your Toolkit?

**Session Description:** Do you want to hone the tools in your *Title IV* reconciliation toolkit? Or do you need assistance to identify the right tool(s) for the job? Then this session is for you! We will discuss the key concepts for reconciliation of federal student aid program funds, (William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, Federal Pell Grants, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants, and the Campus-Based Programs), as well as end of year processing and closeout. Then, we will open our toolkit and explore tips, tools, and resources for use by financial aid and business office staff, including new and updated items you just don't want to miss.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Lisa Howell, Allison Richards

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. ....	Room D2
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. ....	Room C4
Day 3, Thursday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. ....	Hall 1A

## 4. National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) Update

**Session Description:** In this session, we will recap the changes made to the NSLDS® website and reports for schools in 2019. This will include a high-level review of updates made to support loan data, enrollment reporting, and other NSLDS functionality.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Eric Hardy, Helen Hidalgo

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:20–3:35 p.m. ....	Hall 5
Day 2, Wednesday, 12:15–1:30 p.m. ....	Hall 1B
Day 3, Thursday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Hall 1B

## 5. Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System Update

**Session Description:** This session will provide an overview of recent modifications to the COD system for the 2019-20 processing cycle, and other changes impacting Direct Loan and grant programs. This session will also include information about anticipated system enhancements and modifications for the upcoming 2020-21 award year including processing changes for the *Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act*.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Taneka Chialastri, Marie Fitzpatrick

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:20–3:35 p.m. ....	Hall 1A
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:50–3:05 p.m. ....	Hall 5
Day 3, Thursday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. ....	Hall 5

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## 6. Understanding Your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

**Session Description:** At least once per year, institutions must assess whether students are making SAP. This session will offer instruction on how to evaluate SAP in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. We will provide an explanation of key concepts such as qualitative and quantitative (pace) measurements, maximum time frame, warning and probation periods, appeals, and academic plans. Where appropriate, examples will be provided to help demonstrate the elements that a school is required to include in its SAP policy.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

David Bartnicki

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:45–2 p.m. ....	Hall 4
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. ....	Hall 1C
Day 3, Thursday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Hall 5

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## 7. College Scorecard

**Session Description:** This session will review certain data elements published in the US Department of Education’s *College Scorecard* and how data from the *National Student Loan Data System* (NSLDS®) are used to derive those data elements. In particular, the session will review the role of Enrollment Reporting in deriving these data elements and explore how to effectively use new features on the NSLDS Financial Aid Professionals website to ensure the completeness and integrity of your institution’s enrollment reporting data.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Brian Fu, Glenn Kirksey

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:05–3:20 p.m. ....	Room C2
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:50–3:05 p.m. ....	Hall 1B
Day 3, Thursday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. ....	Hall 1B

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## 8. Cash Management: Institutional Charges

**Session Description:** This session will focus on institutional charges and how they affect your administration of the *Title IV* Programs. We will explain what an institutional charge is, describe when you can credit *Title IV* funds to a student's account to pay for such charges, and provide examples for how to prorate institutional charges that are intended for a period longer than a payment period. We will also explain your responsibilities when a student has a *Title IV* credit balance, including when you must provide a way for the student to obtain books and supplies in a timely manner.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Greg Martin, David Musser

Day 3, Thursday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. ....	Hall 4
Day 3, Thursday, 1:15–2:30 p.m. ....	Hall 4
Day 4, Friday, 8:45–10 a.m. ....	Hall 5

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## 9. Year-Round Federal Pell Grant Exploration and Answers

**Session Description:** Our most popular session from the 2017 and 2018 FSA training conferences is revamped to serve you better! As the Year-round Federal Pell Grant provision is no longer “new,” this year’s session will focus on your questions. It will provide an opportunity for you to pepper Pell Grant experts with your Year-round Federal Pell Grant- specific policy and operational questions. A school representative will also share her Year-round Federal Pell Grant implementation and outreach strategies used to engage her institution’s varied population. Skip the Ask-a-Fed line, and come prepared to step up to the mic. Do you need just the basics on Year-Round Federal Pell Grants? The past year’s recorded sessions are still available on the FSA conference website.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Marie Fitzpatrick, Aaron Washington

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:45–2 p.m. ....	Hall 1A
Day 2, Wednesday, 12:15–1:30 p.m. ....	Hall 5
Day 3, Thursday, 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m. ....	Hall 5

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## 10. Professional Judgment

**Session Description:** This session will explore the statutory ability to make case-by-case adjustments based on special circumstances, commonly known as professional judgment (PJ). The session will include information on what is and what is not PJ, documentation requirements, how PJ interacts with verification, and the mechanics of making Cost of Attendance and Expected Family Contribution data element adjustments. Newly updated for 2019: come for examples, resources, and references.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Annamarie Weisman

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. ....	Hall 1C
Day 2, Wednesday, 12:15–1:30 p.m. ....	Hall 1A
Day 4, Friday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. ....	Hall 1C

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## 11. Regulatory Update - Borrower Defense

**Session Description:** This session will provide an overview of the policy issues from the final 2019 Borrower Defense to Repayment regulations, including borrower defense, closed school, and false certification discharges, as well as changes to financial responsibility. NOTE: The session does not cover borrower defense application processing.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Annamarie Weisman

Day 3, Thursday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Hall 1A
Day 3, Thursday, 1:15–2:30 p.m. ....	Room D2
Day 4, Friday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Hall 1C

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## 12. Regulatory Update - Accreditation

**Session Description:** From January through April 2019 the Department conducted a series of negotiated rulemaking sessions on topics intended to promote greater access for students to high-quality, innovative programs. This session will discuss the final regulations on the accreditation regulations.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Annamarie Weisman

Day 3, Thursday, 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m. ....	Hall 1A
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## 13. Regulatory Update–State Authorization for Distance Education and Distance Education

**Session Description:** From January through April 2019, the Department conducted a series of negotiated rulemaking sessions on topics intended to promote greater access for students to high-quality, innovative programs. This session will discuss the final regulations on state authorization distance education and related disclosures. This session will also provide a regulatory update on proposed changes related to distance education topics discussed by negotiators.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**  
Greg Martin, Sophia McArdle, David Musser

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. .... Room A2  
Day 2, Wednesday, Noon–1:15 p.m. .... Room A2

## 14. Regulatory Update–TEACH Grant and Faith-Based Issues

**Session Description:** From January through April 2019 the Department conducted a series of negotiated rulemaking sessions on topics intended to promote greater access for students to high-quality, innovative programs. This session will provide an update on proposed changes to the TEACH Grant Program and faith-based institutional eligibility regulations.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**  
Sophia McArdle

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:05–3:20 p.m. .... Room A2  
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. .... Room A2

## 15. Reporting for the Campus-Based Programs, Assigning Loans to the Department, and Reimbursing Service Cancellations for the Federal Perkins Loan Program

**Session Description:** This session will not only focus on the importance of complete and accurate reporting for the Campus-Based Programs on the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) and in the Common Origination and Disbursement System but will also focus on the accurate reporting of Perkins Loans in the NSLDS®. There will be a discussion on reimbursing schools for Perkins Loan service-related cancellation, assignments and other topics to assist schools in navigating the yellow brick road of participation in the Campus-Based Programs.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**  
Tamy Abernathy, Alanna Nelson

Day 3, Thursday, 10:20–11:35 a.m. .... Room C4  
Day 3, Thursday, 1:15–2:30 p.m. .... Hall 1B  
Day 4, Friday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. .... Room D2

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## 16. Open Forum

**Session Description:** This question-and-answer session will give conference attendees an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions to Department of Education senior staff.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Pam Eliadis, Cynthia Hammond, Greg Martin, Craig Munier, Misty Parkinson, Ingrid Valentine, Annmarie Weisman

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:20–3:35 p.m. ....	Hall 4
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:50–3:05 p.m. ....	Hall 4
Day 3, Thursday, 2:50–4:05 p.m. ....	Hall 4

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## 17. Financial Aid Data Use and Student Privacy

**Session Description:** This session will provide an overview of the different laws governing the privacy and confidentiality of student aid data and how they apply to different data use scenarios. The laws discussed during this session will include the *HEA*, the *Privacy Act of 1974*, the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*, and the *Appropriations Act, 2019*.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Benjamin Ferraro, Bruce Hughes

Day 3, Thursday, 10:20–11:35 a.m. ....	Room A2
Day 3, Thursday, 1:15–2:30 p.m. ....	Hall 1A
Day 4, Friday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Room C4

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## 18. Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF)

**Session Description:** This session will include discussions about the programmatic aspects and implementation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, updates to the Department’s processes, and the Temporary Expanded PSLF opportunity, which was created by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018*.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Ian Foss

Day 3, Thursday, 11:55 a.m.–1:10 p.m. ....	Room A2
Day 4, Friday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Room C2

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## 19. Student Eligibility

**Session Description:** There are many factors to consider when determining a student's eligibility for FSA programs, such as whether the student is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, whether the applicant is enrolled in an eligible program, and whether he or she has a defaulted federal student loan. In this session, attendees will receive an overview of the eligibility requirements for students, and the institution's responsibilities in ensuring that recipients qualify for their financial aid offers.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Bruce Hughes, Aaron Washington

Day 3, Thursday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. .... Room C4  
Day 4, Friday, 10:05–11:20 a.m. .... Room C4

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## 20. Return of *Title IV* Funds: Resources and Q&A

**Session Description:** Have you been waiting to stump the feds with your tricky Return of *Title IV* Funds (R2T4) questions? This is your chance! This session will provide a high-level overview of the R2T4 requirements and resources where you can obtain more information. Then it will offer an extended question-and-answer period with the Department's experts on the topic.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Greg Martin, David Musser

Day 2, Wednesday, 12:15–1:30 p.m. .... Hall 4  
Day 3, Thursday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. .... Hall 4

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## 21. Program Review Essentials and the Top 10 Compliance Findings

**Session Description:** Would you like to learn about the program review process and the most common compliance findings? We will conduct a walk-through of the program review process, highlighting the areas with the current "Top 10 Program Review and Audit Findings." Learn what you can do to improve your school's program administration and to remain in compliance.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Effie Barnett, Jim Wyant

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:05–3:20 p.m. .... Hall 1C  
Day 2, Wednesday, Noon–1:15 p.m. .... Room F2  
Day 3, Thursday, 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m. .... Hall 1B

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## 22. Maintaining Your Institutional Eligibility

**Session Description:** This session will cover what FAAs need to know about maintaining their school's eligibility to participate in the *Title IV* Programs. Topics include information about the recertification process focusing on the various requirements and preparations schools should be conducting in the three to six months prior to submitting their application; what events trigger the need to submit an updated eligibility application; the information a school needs to submit for different types of eligibility applications; and common errors and pitfalls to avoid while submitting eligibility applications.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Susan Bowder, Kai Kimbrough, Renee Schultz

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:05–3:20 p.m. ....	Room C4
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. ....	Room C2
Day 3, Thursday, 1:15–2:30 p.m. ....	Hall 5

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## 23. The Clery Act: Hate Crimes, Sexual Violence, and Emergency Management

**Session Description:** Campus safety is a major issue for every school - large or small, urban, suburban or rural, public or private. Developing an effective safety program needs to be an essential part of your school's overall risk management strategy and is one of the best ways to protect the "brand." In this session, you will learn about emerging campus safety issues, including hate crimes prevention, sexual violence prevention and response, and emergency management basics. Attendees will also receive practical advice and learn effective strategies for developing and implementing vital campus safety policies, procedures, and programs. The Department's enhanced disaster response program will also be explained.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Cynthia Hammond, Jim Moore, Ingrid Valentine

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. ....	Room C2
Day 3, Thursday, 11:55 a.m.–1:10 p.m. ....	Room C4

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## 24. Protecting Sensitive Data and Minimizing Fraud Through an Integrated Approach

**Session Description:** Cybercrime or the theft of data is a growing precursor to financial crime. Information technology leaders and financial aid administrators responsible for detecting and preventing fraud need good collaboration to be fully effective. This session will help you better understand how the basic cybersecurity controls (cyber hygiene) essential to detect and prevent intrusion and exfiltration of data increasingly overlap with fraud detection and prevention capabilities. The session will also discuss non-cyber related fraud risks and strategies to identify and mitigate those risks.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Wally Coy, Michael Dean, Stephanie Powell, Kathy Zelnik

Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. .... Room F2  
Day 3, Thursday, 11:55 a.m.–1:10 p.m. .... Hall 1C

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## 25. Cybersecurity–The Challenges Facing FAA’s

**Session Description:** This session focuses on the cybersecurity challenges facing Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) and Information Technology (IT) managers. The session will begin with a brief overview of federal IT cybersecurity initiatives and the threat landscape that affects postsecondary institutions (PSI). This session will discuss compliance requirements, threats to the PSI’s, and best practices for data protection and identity theft. Additionally, the session will define what constitutes a breach, discuss common and not so common examples of breaches, describe how to report a breach to FSA, and the FSA process to manage breach reports. This session will close with a question and answer period by FSA experts in cybersecurity.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Dan Commons

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. .... Room F2  
Day 2, Wednesday, Noon–1:15 p.m. .... Room D2  
Day 3, Thursday, 10:20–11:35 a.m. .... Hall 1C

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## 26. What Happens at the Department When There is a Cybersecurity Breach?

**Session Description:** This panel session will describe the breach response roles and actions of the three main Department cybersecurity players:

1. The FSA Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)
2. The Department's CISO
3. The Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

The panel will discuss the Department response process from each of their unique perspectives and describe what happens at the Department on the lifecycle of a breach from the time it is discovered/reported until it is resolved. The discussion will focus on fraud, disclosure of sensitive information (i.e. PII), and compromises of information systems. The session will end with a question and answer period.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Robert Ader, Dan Commons, Tom Harper

Day 1, Tuesday, 2:05–3:20 p.m. ....	Room F2
Day 2, Wednesday, 1:35–2:50 p.m. ....	Room D2

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## 27. Financial Literacy Matters

**Session Description:** Financial literacy support services and resources can contribute to student success. Learn about FSA's commitment to financial literacy and hear from a panel of experts from the state of Texas. They will share their coordinated approach to financial literacy and provide details on their services and resources that help students make smart financial decisions that contribute to academic and financial success. Findings from a recent higher education report by the federal Financial Literacy and Education Commission will be shared.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Elizabeth Coogan

Day 1, Tuesday, 12:30–1:45 p.m. ....	Room C4
Day 1, Tuesday, 2:20–3:35 p.m. ....	Hall 1B
Day 2, Wednesday, Noon–1:15 p.m. ....	Room C4

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## 28. Understanding Cohort Default Rates (CDR) and How to Develop and Implement Effective Default Prevention Plans

**Session Description:** The CDR Team will explore challenges, adjustments, and appeal processes. Presenters will provide information on cohort default rates, potential sanctions, and specific examples, deadlines, and suggestions that may help you submit a complete appeal package. Participants will also learn how to interpret key requirements and critical NSLDS® reporting during the challenge and appeal cycle. Also, the Default Prevention Team will be on hand to offer guidance on creating a default prevention strategy and to help answer questions concerning your school’s ability to effectively develop or improve their default prevention plans and initiatives.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Marcus DeCosta, Larry Eadie

Day 3, Thursday, 11:55 a.m.–1:10 p.m. ....	Room F2
Day 3, Thursday, 2:50–4:05 p.m. ....	Hall 5
Day 4, Friday, 8:30–9:45 a.m. ....	Room F2

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## 29. Next Gen StudentAid.gov Walkthrough and Coming Attractions!

**Session Description:** FSA will provide an overview of our plans for a new digital platform which combines four websites (StudentLoans.gov, StudentAid.gov, FSA ID, and NSLDS®) along with their corresponding functionalities. We will walk through specific features to highlight the improved experience for our students and borrowers.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Mindy Chiat, Kaegy Pabulos

Day 1, Tuesday 2:05–3:20 p.m. ....	Room D2
Day 3, Thursday, 8:45–10 a.m. ....	Room A2

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## 30. Internal and External Threats Facing *Title IV* Institutions

**Session Description:** Special agents and analysts from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) will discuss internal and external financial aid fraud threats currently facing institutions of higher education. The presenters will discuss real case examples of these threats, and how OIG’s investigative mission to combat fraud and abuse in federal student aid programs can help your organization safeguard those programs by identifying and detecting fraud. The presenters will illustrate complex and common fraud schemes, brief you on indicators that can help you detect internal and external fraud, discuss the criminal and civil remedies sought by the OIG, and inform you concerning how to report potential fraud to the OIG. A question and answer period is planned as part of this presentation.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenters:**

Christopher Hodge, Nicole Eisenzopf, Aaron Jordan, Adam Shanedling

Day 3, Thursday, 10:20–11:35 a.m. ....	Room F2
Day 3, Thursday, 2:50–4:05 p.m. ....	Hall 1B
Day 4, Friday, 8:45–10 a.m. ....	Hall 1B

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## 31. New Student Advising Tools

**Session Description:** A joint session with FSA and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) discussing new interactive web tools to support students in making a plan to pay for college. Come see the beta versions and give feedback before release in Spring 2020.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**

Nicole Callahan

**CFPB Presenter:**

Kristen Evans, Kate Mullan

Day 3, Thursday, 10:05–11:20 a.m.....	Room C2
Day 3, Thursday, 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m. ....	Room C2

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## 32. Experimental Site – Institutional Investment in Student Success

**Session Description:** Many institutions are concerned about rising student loan debt and the negative impact this debt will have on students’ long-term prospects. Yet under current Title IV regulations, institutions are left with few tools to proactively and effectively limit student borrowing. Under this proposed experiment, we seek to determine which tools would be employed most effectively by institutions to limit student borrowing while improving student success, and what regulations would need to change in order to permit all institutions to employ such tools. The Department will waive a number of our current regulations to allow institutions to limit borrowing, including at the program level based on expected earnings data reported by the College Scorecard; use institution-provided loan reduction or forgiveness programs to reward students for reaching academic benchmarks; or permit students to refinance Federal Loans and instead make one affordable payment that fits their post-graduation earnings.

**U.S. Department of Education Presenter:**  
Michael Brickman

Day 2, Wednesday, Noon – 1:15 p.m. .... Room C2