



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Agency Hires and Promotes New Staff

EUGENE, Ore. (04/05/04) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) is pleased to announce the following staff promotions and new hires: Vicki Merkel, manager of OSAC's ASPIRE program since its inception in 1998, has been named Director of the Grants and Scholarships Division. Vicki has 17 years experience as a manager for the State of Oregon. Taking her place as ASPIRE Program Manager is Vicki Falsgraf, a 20-year veteran in secondary and postsecondary education. Vicki most recently worked at the Oregon University System as Policy Associate and Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Lorianne Ellis-Kirk has been named AmeriCorps Supervisor in the ASPIRE program. She formerly worked in OSAC's Information Technology and Outreach departments. OSAC's Outreach Department has added Lynette Hawthorne as a Business Systems Analyst. Hawthorne has 15 years experience in technical support and most recently worked at the City of Eugene's help desk.

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The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC), created by the Oregon Legislature in 1959, coordinates a variety of state, federal, and privately funded student financial aid programs for the benefit of students attending institutions of postsecondary education. The agency can be reached at (800) 452-8807 or online at www.osac.state.or.us.

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