

# COSFA UPDATE

Volume 18 Issue 1

March 2008

## Central Regional Report

### PDC 2008 (New Orleans, Louisiana) Community Service Project

In an effort for the conference attendees to give back to a city that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina over two years ago, many volunteered several hours on Saturday, January 26, sorting and packaging food for families living in poverty that has lasted well beyond the surge of Katrina. Volunteers worked in a warehouse and were expected to review food donations, expiration dates, and sorting (into various categories) and packaging food into boxes or containers for charitable organizations that will distribute to the hungry. This community service project proved to be a great way for us as an organization to get involved and to help make a difference in the lives of a community that is still trying to rebuild from the catastrophe Katrina left behind.

Carmelita Gee  
Director of Student Financial Aid  
University of Illinois College of Medicine  
Central Region Representative to COSFA

## A Message from the NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Loan Repayment Programs (LRP) are an opportunity for research scientists to apply their expertise, energy, and enthusiasm to addressing the diseases and disorders that affect our nation. Commit two years to conducting at least part-time research in one of five LRPs, and NIH will repay up to \$35,000 of qualified educational debt each year and reimburse Federal and state taxes resulting from that award. More than 40 percent of first-time applicants are funded, and many also receive renewal funding after the first two years. Research may be conducted at any nonprofit, university, or government organization through LRPs in Clinical Re-

search, Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, Pediatric Research, Health Disparities Research, or Contraception and Infertility Research. For more information about the NIH Loan Repayment Programs, visit [www.lrp.nih.gov/aamcnews](http://www.lrp.nih.gov/aamcnews) or call the LRP Help Desk at 866-849-4047.

## AAMC Debt Management Resources

The AAMC is excited to announce the ongoing development of a new debt management information and education program.

In collaboration with the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR), and the Committee on Student Financial Assistance (COSFA), we will be developing a new financial aid web resource within the AAMC site.

The new site will be organized by audience and task, and designed to provide easy access for FAOs and students. Although many of the new materials, tools and information will be available to the public, expanded features allow individualized-functions, record keeping and customized repayment and loan scenarios for FAOs and medical students. For more information contact Shelley Yerman [syerman@aamc.org](mailto:syerman@aamc.org).

