NEWS RELEASE

DeVry Education Group's Student Aid Modernization Initiative (SAMI) White Paper Proposes New Concept for Higher Education Act Reauthorization

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Paper explores a new approach to financial aid that will empower students, protect taxpayers and support innovation in higher education

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- A paper authored by DeVry Education Group's regulatory affairs manager Marcus Szymanoski proposes new concept for Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization. The paper, titled "Student Aid Modernization Initiative (SAMI): Transforming Federal Student Aid for the 21st Century," was the winner of the inaugural "Big Idea" policy proposal competition at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) national conference in New Orleans in 2015.

In the paper, published June 30 by NASFAA, Szymanoski discusses how SAMI would work, its anticipated policy implications and how the concept could result in more effective federal student aid programs.

"Since 1965, the HEA has profoundly impacted American postsecondary education. HEA reauthorization now presents a historic opportunity for lawmakers to ensure the law reflects the way students approach education in the 21st century," Szymanoski said. "Using SAMI as the foundation for a reauthorization package would result in more precise awarding and increased overall system efficiency, leading to a more effective distribution of federal student aid, among other positive outcomes."

"Through the 'Big Idea' policy challenge, we were able to offer a forum to allow our members to put forward innovative policy ideas," said Justin Draeger, NASFAA president. "We applaud Mark's effort in developing an idea that aims to simplify and streamline our current student aid system. SAMI will undoubtedly generate healthy discussion among our membership as reauthorization draws nearer."

You can access the full paper here.

Szymanoski will lead a session Monday, July 11, at 9:45 a.m. at the 2016 NASFAA National Conference in Washington, DC. In the session, Szymanoski will describe SAMI in greater detail and explore SAMI's innovative ways to reform the financial aid programs as reauthorization of the Higher Education Act approaches.

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