

Blackhawk Technical College financial aid staff assists students in making informed decisions regarding their choice of student loan provider. The staff works with lenders to provide information to students. This policy governs the ethical conduct of District financial aid staff related to working with student aid lenders.

1. The District and its employees will not:
 - solicit, accept, or enter into any agreement in which an educational loan lender provides fees, revenue sharing or material benefits to the District institution in exchange for the institution or its employees recommending the lender or its loan products.
 - enter into an agreement with a lender of education loans for, or solicit or accept from a lender of education loans, any funds that would be allocated or used for opportunity loan pools or any similar arrangements.
 - solicit or accept assistance for call center or financial aid staffing from a lender of education loans.
 - solicit, accept, or enter into any agreement in violation of the District policy on student financial aid operations and may not engage in conduct that violates the District code of ethics under TCS 6.06(1), Wis. Adm. Code., or any applicable provisions of Wis. Stats. §19.41, et seq., Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Employees.
 - receive compensation or reimbursement from an educational loan lender for any costs incurred as part of participating on an advisory council of the lender.
2. District employees may participate on an advisory council of an educational loan lender for the purpose of improving services to students.
3. The District must inform students in writing, who apply for financial aid:
 - that they may use any lender who is eligible to make education loans.
 - the availability of federal and state government loans and comparative information on private and government loans.

- that students are encouraged to explore and weigh the use of federal loans that are guaranteed, regulated, and may be more advantageous, before pursuing private or alternative loans.
4. The District may maintain a list, either in print or other media, of educational loan lenders for the benefit of students, subject to the following:
- the District will use an evaluative process for the inclusion of lenders on the list. Information regarding the selection of lenders, the evaluative process used, and the criteria used for such selection will be available to the public upon request;
 - any District lender list will be accompanied by a statement explaining that students are not limited to the lenders included on the list;
 - a lender list will include a minimum of three lenders; and
 - the District will work with the educational loan lenders on the list to ensure that specific loan information and key details (including, but not limited by enumeration to, the terms, interest rate, and repayment requirements) are available from the lender in a clear and understandable manner.
5. The District and its employees may accept from lenders of education loans:
- counseling and educational materials for use by students and their families regarding student lending laws, education loans, financial literacy, debt management and other topics relevant to providing students and their families with financial aid assistance; any such materials must clearly disclose the source of said materials and may not use trademarks, logos, mascots or other symbols associated with BTC or that would suggest any BTC endorsement of the lender or product.
 - training to District employees regarding student lending laws, education loans, financial literacy, debt management and other topics relevant to providing students and their families with financial aid.

Reference: WTCSB Policy 503

Policy Adopted: January 16, 2008

Reviewed: April 21, 2010