

NEWS RELEASE

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Money Management Web Portal Adding New Feature To Help California's College Students and their Parents

SAN DIEGO, CA -- StudentDebtHelp.org went active on the Internet in 2004. It is the birth site of the California Student Debt Resource and Awareness Project (CASDRAP) which was specifically conceived and designed as a comprehensive online portal to improve financial literacy among the state's post-secondary students, and help their parents gain some insight to the other areas of college financial life and reality. StudentDebtHelp.org is a rich trove of money management resources accessible by students, parents and college educators/administrators.

A valuable new feature is being added to several pages of the site. It is the "Ask Mr G" library, which will provide instant online access to some of the most comprehensive, consumer financial education you will find on the Internet.

The "Ask Mr. G" link users will find over 30 subject categories containing over 130 answers to specific questions about spending, savings, credit, cash, and financial management. Feel free to browse the extensive library. Users will find the ability to print articles, email articles to friends, and even email Mr. G directly with a question. It is easily accessible from the privacy of one's home or office and is available on a 24-7 basis.

Yes, there really is a "Mr. G". He is Jim Garnett, an ICFE Certified Credit Report Reviewer and Identity Theft Prevention Specialist. Mr. G is also the Director of Education for Consumer Credit of America aka/Consumer Credit of Des Moines, plus he sits on the Board of Directors of The Iowa Jumpstart Coalition and on the Board of Educational Advisors for the Institute of Consumer Financial Education. Jim is a published author in the areas of personal finances and teaching young people about money and family counseling. Mr. G brings over 30 years experience to his beneficial answers found in the library. He is also a Nationally Certified Parent Trainer and conducts the Smart Discipline for Parents Seminars in his home state of Iowa. It is estimated that over 50,000 children have benefited from his seminars in the last four years.

In addition to helping students tackle challenges like budgeting and building a good credit history, StudentDebtHelp.org continues to assist parents financing their children's higher education. Educators find classroom material on money

management, and administrators get the latest information on lowering student loan delinquency and default rates.

CASDRAP is a statewide taskforce consisting of university administrators, nonprofit financial education organizations, and student loan lending, servicing and guarantor entities. CASDRAP volunteers met every other month for over two and a half years to make the StudentDebtHelp.org Web site a reality.

CASDRAP got its start at San Diego State University. The timing of the Web site development coincided with the implementation of Assembly Bill 521, the Student Financial Responsibility Act (Koretz), which mandates that financial education be provided at California state universities and other California campuses as part of new student orientation programs. The law was enacted by the California Legislature in 2002.

EDFUND, the nation's second largest provider of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, donated the seed money for the site's development via its grant program, EDSHARE. Subsequent support has come from CASDRAP charter member Springboard, a non-profit consumer credit management organization based in Riverside, CA via a grant from Citibank, and most recently from the CSU Office of the Chancellor.

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