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**SimpleTuition Newsletter:
Financial Aid Professional Edition
April 11, 2011**

National Financial Literacy Month Ideas

In 2004, the U.S. Senate officially recognized April as National Financial Literacy Month. Celebrate this month by highlighting the correlation between student loan repayment amounts and starting salaries:

Post a Debt Formula on Your Financial Aid Website: Most debt experts recommend that your student loan payments not exceed 10% of your expected income when you graduate. Using the average amount of debt for your graduates, show them the salary that they would have to earn to afford these student loan payments. It's an easy calculation: monthly loan payment multiplied by 12 months multiplied by 10.

Partner with Career Development/Placement Office on a Workshop: Your colleagues in the Career Development/Placement Office often use survey data from graduates to create an Employment Report with types of jobs, locations, and average starting salary. Consider grabbing the student's attention in a joint workshop by highlighting an average loan repayment based on the jobs your student population is seeking.

Update Your Student Loan Debt Summaries: Many schools send their students loan debt summaries which include lender names, loan types, total loan debt, monthly payments, etc. Consider adding the recommended salary for their total debt.

Link to Resources for Self-Service: There are several websites that help students understand the impact of student loan repayment on income:

- **College Cost Adjuster**
www.simpletuition.com
Adjust the student/parent financing options in real time and review the expected monthly loan payment after graduation.
- **Student Loan Calculator**
<http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/sla.jsp>
Get an analysis of whether the amount borrowed or expected to borrow is manageable or potentially burdensome.
- **Debt Wizard**
<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/paying/debtwizard/>
Enter the salary you anticipate earning upon graduation; see the maximum amount of student loan debt that should be borrowed.

Most students don't understand their financial realities post-enrollment, especially their expected salaries and educational debt payments. Financial literacy month inspires us to teach students how to plan for their financial futures and how to handle debt obligations.

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SimpleTuition supports the rights of students to borrow from the lender of their choice and all the lenders featured in this message have indicated they will accept loan applications from students at your school. Your school, however, has not endorsed these lenders and may offer other suggestions.

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