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COMFORT THEM



# National Association of College Admission Counselors

1631 Prince Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2818 (703) 836-2222 FAX: (703) 836-8015

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January 25, 1993

Eli Segal  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Service  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

Welcome to Washington and to your new position of leadership with President Clinton's national service initiative. The National Association of College Admission Counselors has had a position regarding a national service and loan forgiveness program since 1989. Because this is a priority with the Clinton Administration, we would like to inform you of that position and of the thinking behind it.

NACAC believes that any new national service program should:

1. Be supplementary to existing student aid programs;
2. Offer a variety of optional service experiences before, during, and after postsecondary education, including loan forgiveness in return for performing service vital to the national interest;
3. Compliment the student's education and not interrupt or have an adverse effect on the educational continuum, especially for "at risk" students who require special help from counselors and other educators;
4. Recognize students' counseling and information needs, including requirements for postsecondary education, the testing and application procedure, and student aid;
5. Treat equally all types of students, from all levels of society;
6. Evolve from a pilot program where issues such as those raised above can be refined and resolved.

If the national service program is to have a precollege component, the White House will need to be concerned with the effect that an interruption of the education continuum will have on students, including the general influence that an alternative precollege experience might have on already unstable demographic trends and enrollment statistics.

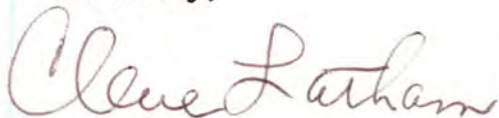
There is also the risk that a program that makes national service a requirement rather than an option for the receipt of loan forgiveness or education vouchers will divide our country, even more than now, along the lines of class or economic circumstances. Further, a program in which service can be performed before entering postsecondary education could interrupt the fragile web of education, tutoring, mentoring, and counseling experiences that are necessary components for many students whose families are not familiar with the values of or requirements for postsecondary education.

The United States is now in a period where skilled and well educated workers will determine the course of events for years to come. If a plan can be devised to provide postsecondary education opportunities for those who might be excluded because of their income or family circumstances, then the 5,500 members of our association will applaud and support the program. We stand firm in our belief, however, that all of the points mentioned herein must be addressed.

Our staff and members are eager to be a part of your planning and decision-making process and would like to discuss this further with you. We are all very pleased to have an administration that puts people first and that thinks of education as a necessary investment in the future.

Please make use of the expertise that we can offer in the areas of counseling and college admissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cleve Latham  
President



Frank Burtnett  
Executive Director