

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance appointed Dr. William J. Goggin interim staff director on Wednesday, December 1, Clare M. Cotton, chair of the Advisory Committee, announced. Dr. Goggin will become interim staff director effective January 1, 2005. He will succeed Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald, the current staff director, who will leave the Advisory Committee on December 30. Mr. Cotton also announced that Ms. Nicole A. Barry was named associate staff director, effective immediately. The Advisory Committee is an independent entity created by Congress to advise on higher education and student aid policy.

Dr. Goggin has served the Advisory Committee as senior staff economist since May 1988. Dr. Goggin, who received his doctoral degree from Iowa State University, has nearly 30 years experience in higher education and student financial aid policy. Prior to joining the Advisory Committee, Ms. Barry taught in the Baltimore City Public Schools as part of the Teach for America program. She has a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

"The Advisory Committee is fortunate to have an exceptionally talented and capable staff to complete the major studies currently underway," Mr. Cotton stated.

Dr. Fitzgerald, staff director of the Advisory Committee since its start in 1988, will become the executive director of the Business-Higher Education Forum in mid-January. Mr. Cotton noted that under Dr. Fitzgerald's leadership the Advisory Committee has earned a reputation for fair and even-handed studies of complex issues in the field of higher education policy and student assistance. Dr. Fitzgerald has been particularly effective in making the Advisory Committee a central player in the effort to assure that college is more accessible to low- and moderate-income students.

"We will miss his outstanding leadership," Mr. Cotton said, "but we are sure he will bring the same energy, insight and commitment to his new position."

The Advisory Committee will deliver the final report of its congressionally mandated study on ways to simplify the Federal student financial aid system by January 23, 2005. Building on this report, the Advisory Committee's longstanding access agenda will go forward, focused on providing technical assistance to Congress in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and to the Secretary of Education in improving the delivery of Federal student aid.

As it has in the past, the Advisory Committee will continue to work cooperatively with the education community to find ways to make access to higher education simple and certain for low- and moderate-income students.

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