FOCUS
FALL 2003 SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
December 4-5, 2003

General Sessions

**Current Legislative Activities Affecting Higher Education**
Dr. Robert D. Holsworth, Director of the School of Government and Public Affairs and Director of the Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University, will provide an update on the current political and legislative activities that are affecting higher education. Dr. Holsworth's sessions are always interesting and insightful into the activities in the Commonwealth and Washington.

**Sarbanes Oxley**
Mr. Roger Patterson, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, will provide an update on the Sarbanes-Oxley act and its implications for higher education.

**IRS Update**
Mr. Bill Brockner, Conferee Reviewer of the Tax Exempt Organization Division of the Internal Revenue Service, will provide an update on current issues associated with the preparation of the 990T. Discussions will include items such as exclusive provider rights contracts.

**Effective Leadership Skills**
Mr. Steve Hedrick, James Madison University Human Resources, will lead this session. People are not born with everything they need to be great leaders; they equip themselves over time with the necessary tools to be effective. No matter what leadership role you play, there are essential tools required to lead excellently and consistently. Are you equipped and do you have what it takes to be a great leader? This session will focus on what those “required” elements are and why they are so pivotal in determining your success with leading others.

**Spend Management**
The Procurement Directors from George Mason, Virginia Tech, and University of Virginia will present an overview of eVA and how the Governor’s Spend Management initiative relates to eVA goals and objectives. They also will discuss how Spend Management will impact both decentralized and non-decentralized schools.
Concurrent Sessions

**Bursar’s Roundtable**
The Bursar's Roundtable will be presented in two sessions and will be the traditional roundtable discussion providing an open forum for topics. Send topics for discussion to Linda Combs (combslc@jmu.edu) or Ken Sinarski (kens@virginia.edu).

**IRS Update**
Ms. Jean Bahler of the IRS Tax Exempt and Government Entities Operating Division will make a presentation on employee/employer vs. independent contractor issues.

**Research Accounting Panel**
Research Accounting will be a panel discussion with participation from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and George Mason covering topics such as Cost Accounting Disclosure Statement, Indirect Cost Proposal, Equipment Capitalization Threshold, Classifying State Funds as Vendor/Subreceipent, eVA references in Grants and Contracts, HIPPA compliance, Cost Accounting Standards, etc. The session will be coordinated by Linda Bucy, Associate Director of Sponsored Programs at Virginia Tech (lbucy@vt.edu).

**CARS Reconciliation Panel**
George Mason will lead a panel with representatives from three schools. The panelists will briefly describe their approach to CARS reporting and reconciliation. Then they will address questions from each other and the audience.

**Accounts Payable Roundtable**
Accounts Payable Roundtable will be presented in two sessions and will be the traditional roundtable discussion providing an open forum for topics. Send topics for discussion to Cat Mobley (cmobley@longwood.edu).

**Payments to Foreign Nationals**
The Internal Revenue Service is gearing up to audit more than 250 colleges that it suspects have not adequately withheld taxes from nonresident foreigners. Martha Laster Mullen, Foreign National Tax Specialist at Virginia Tech, will discuss how to ensure you are in compliance with federal tax laws relating to Payroll, Accounts Payable and Scholarship payments to international visitors.

**GASB-39**
Jim Rule, Assistant Controller at James Madison University, will discuss the JMU experience in implementing GASB 39. The APA will also discuss relevant audit implementation issues.

**Converting Direct Lending to FFEL**
George Mason University and the University of Virginia will explain the process they used for deciding to convert from the Direct Loan program to FFEL (Federal Family Educational Loan).
**Payroll Roundtable**
Allen Davis, Director of Payroll Services at Virginia Commonwealth University will facilitate a payroll roundtable to discuss current topics in the human resource and payroll areas. Please send your suggested topics to oadavis@vcu.edu

**Best Practices**
Beth Brock from George Mason will lead a panel with several representatives who will share examples of finance functions that have been successfully decentralized at their institutions. The discussion will focus on the controls that were implemented in order to mitigate the risks associated with decentralized processing.