Education-Related Programs

**Janice Snow
Rodriguez**
Executive Director

Tennessee Foreign Language Institute: Janice Snow Rodriguez, Executive Director — The Tennessee Foreign Language Institute (TFLI) was established in 1986 by the General Assembly to promote, encourage, enhance, and facilitate the learning and teaching of foreign languages and cultures for the economic, professional, and educational enrichment of the state government and its employees, the business community, foreign language educators, and the citizens of Tennessee. Since its inception, TFLI has provided and participated in dozens of teachers' programs, has been awarded federal and state grants for innovative programs, and has funded several research projects. Presently, TFLI serves more than 4,000 people per year and offers classes and self-study programs in more than 140 languages. TFLI also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which focus on proficiency in conversation, reading, writing, and accent reduction, and a certification program for teachers of ESL. Other professional development programs TFLI offers include Legal and Medical Interpreter Training as well as a seminar in Translation Technique. Additionally, TFLI provides legal, medical, commercial, and technical interpretation, translation, and voice-over services in over 50 languages.

Robert W. Ruble
Executive Director

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation: Robert W. Ruble, Executive Director — The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) was chartered by the General Assembly in 1974 to administer State-supported programs of student financial aid. Every year TSAC helps more than 100,000 students attend college by providing nearly $1 billion in loan guarantees and $250 million in merit and need-based grants and scholarships. Current programs, supported by state, lottery and federal funds, include the Federal Stafford Loan Program, Federal PLUS Loan Programs, Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, Ned McWherter Scholars Program, Dependent Children Scholarship Program, Christa McAuliffe Scholarship Program, Minority Teaching Fellows Loan Forgiveness Program, Tennessee Teaching Scholars Loan Forgiveness Program, Tennessee Math and Science Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, and Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program.

Other Education

From her earliest beginnings to the present, Tennessee has been at the forefront of education.

Washington College Academy in East Tennessee can trace its origins to 1780– sixteen years before Tennessee was admitted to the union.

The first school in Tennessee is located between Johnson City and Greeneville on a 155-acre campus overlooking the Great Smoky Mountains.

This traditional school concentrates on a classical education while emphasizing traditional values. Founded by Samuel Doak, a Presbyterian minister, the school is a nondenominational, coeducational, boarding and day school for grades 6-12.

The school has graduated 22 college presidents, 28 members of Congress, 3 governors, 63 physicians, 16 missionaries, and 162 ministers. The principles laid forth by its founding fathers are today very much a part of the educational experience of Washington College Academy.

As in the 18th century, Tennessee is a leader in providing educational opportunities for its citizens in the 21st century.

Harris Hall at Washington College Academy in Johnson City.

The Renaissance Center in Dickson is an example of the how modern technology is being utilized to promote a variety of educational programs and initiatives. Developed by the Jackson Foundation, the Renaissance Center is a place where the young and old alike can experience a "renaissance" of learning and self-awareness in an environment that encourages excellence and rewards creativity.

College courses, pottery, art, and computer courses are just a few of the opportunities offered by this new and unique center dedicated to the advancement of education.

Renaissance Center in Dickson.