

# 1098-T

## INFORMATION ON TAX RELIEF ACT

As an institution, we cannot provide you with tax advice. The following information is intended to inform students about the benefits and requirements contained in the Tax Relief Act (TRA) of 1997. It is based upon our understanding of the provisions contained in the law and should not be considered an official document. Students and/or parents should seek the advice of a tax consultant for specific questions concerning their eligibility.

TRA '97 added § 25A of the Internal Revenue (IRS) Code providing the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credit. These provisions have created several new tax BENEFITS for families who are saving for, or already paying for higher education expenses and loans. For additional information concerning these education credits, please review the IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education, which may be obtained at <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html>

**A 1098-T Form is mailed to all students with a valid Social Security Number on file. This form will be mailed to the student's home address in January.**

The amount reported in Box 2 of the 1098-T reflects the amount billed for qualified tuition and eligible expenses for the tax year. Grants or scholarships received for the tax year are reflected in Box 4 of Form 1098-T. Publication 970 further explains the IRS regulations concerning eligible expenses and fees that qualify for these education credits.

The 2003 tax year was the first year in which all educational institutions were required to report financial information to the IRS via the 1098-T Form. Final regulations developed by the IRS for the Tax Relief Act of 1997 allowed educational institutions to choose whether the financial information reported for tax credits is based upon "amounts billed" or upon "payments received." **Since the IRS considers the entire system of SUNY schools a single entity, all SUNY colleges and universities must report the financial information for tax credits in the same manner. It was determined by the SUNY System Administration that all SUNY schools would be required to report "amounts billed", which appears in Box 2 of the student's 1098-T Form.**

The 2004 tax year was the first year in which educational institutions were required to report **prior year adjustments** to the IRS via the 1098-T Form. Any adjustments made for a prior year for qualified tuition and eligible expenses that were reported on a prior year 1098-T will appear in Box 3, if applicable. Any adjustments to scholarships or grants for a prior year will be reflected in Box 5, if applicable. Please note that these amounts, if any, may reduce or increase any allowable education credit you may have claimed for a prior year. If any amounts appear in Box 3 or Box 5 of your 2006 1098-T Form, it is strongly advised that you seek the advice of a tax consultant for specific information concerning the handling of prior year adjustments.

Students may access their 1098-T information through their BearPAWS account by signing into BearPAWS:

- Select Student Services and Financial Aid
- Select Student Records
- Select Tax Notification
- Enter a Tax Year

**For a duplicate 1098-T Form, or for general information, please call (315)267-2137. Please note: due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), ONLY the student may request duplicate 1098T forms.**

*Last Updated: 2/15/10*