

The Boston Globe

Low-income working students deserve a break, too

November 22, 2005

REGARDLESS OF the merits of Chancellor Judith Gill's proposal to redirect grants for higher education ("[State eyes shifting of college aid to neediest](#)" Page A1, Nov. 18), a huge gap will remain in the Commonwealth's higher education financing structure. Students who are enrolled part time in state or community colleges are ineligible for any state or federal loans or grants. As a result, low-income working adults who are trying to improve their skills gradually must do so without financial aid.

The Legislature is considering a proposal to remedy this problem. In its economic stimulus package, the House included \$3 million for the "educational rewards" program, which would provide grants to more than 2,000 working adults taking classes at state or community colleges that will prepare them for jobs that employers desperately need to fill. The proposal was included in the Senate's report on higher education drafted by Senators Steven Pangiotakos and Stan Rosenberg.

Low-income working adults who are struggling to improve their skills deserve the same support and opportunities as everyone else. If the educational rewards program is supported, they certainly will.

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