Creative Ways to Deliver Financial Aid in the Digital Era

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## Enrollment + FA Challenges

The Current FA Letter ۰

- Filled with confusing jargon and terminology
- **70%** of award letters do not explain difference between grants, scholarships, loans, work-study.
- Only 25% of families find all components of a financial aid award offer easy to understand.

#### 42% of students do not think their financial aid awards are very clear

• Difficulty reaching students via phone

**Connecting** with Students

- Inconsistent student experience
- Not enough staff and resources to personally connect with all admits to explain their FA award package and field questions
- Inability to connect with students in a compelling and individualized way regarding college finances



New America, June 2018. Decoding the Cost of College. <u>https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/policy-papers/decoding-cost-college/</u> Sallie Mae, 2021. How America Pays for College 2021 Ruffalo Noel Levitz, LLC., © 2022. 2022 High School Students Perceptions of College Financing.

## The Solution- Make your FA offers standout!

#### Personalized financial aid offer videos.

- Demystify college costs and financial aid awards
- Facilitate understanding of affordability and value
- Guide students to clear and specific next steps
- Provide consistent student experience
- Allows you to gain staff efficiencies
- Supports your yield and melt reduction efforts



College bound seniors rate video among the most influential resources for college search.



RNL E-Expectations Report

#### Rethink the way you communicate your financial aid offers. Your videos will cover: 0

- Financial aid offer details
- Net cost calculation
- Custom Award Scenes (i.e. Sibling, Alumni, Military Scholarships etc.)
- Payment options (Payment Plans, PLUS, etc.)
- Value Proposition Scenes— Academic Interest, First Gen., Outcomes
- **Counselor Scene**
- Next steps—call to action buttons



#### **Standard Scenes include:**

- Premiere/Full Tuition scholarship
- Merit scholarship
- Talent scholarship
- Athletic scholarship
- Pell Grant
- **FSEOG**
- State Grant
- Institutional Grant
- Other Scholarships (catch-all scene)
- Sub & Unsub Loan scenes
- PLUS/Alt Loan scene
- Work-Study scene



# Transforming your award letter into personalized videos

- Automatically converts financial aid data into personalized videos.
- Accessible via any device—**responsive design.**
- **Dynamic** elements include on-screen text and utilize existing institution photo and video assets.
- Embedded links provide immediate, targeted information, resources, and **action/next steps.**
- Customized to institution and personalized based on **student's specific award information** and interests.
- Ability to deliver via **text**, **email**, or institution's **admit portal**.
- Available in **Spanish** language (40% utilize). Can do other languages as well.
- Live video analytics provide tracking of student engagement

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#### Personalized FinAid Video Texas A&M University (including Major Value Prop)





#### Personalized FinAid Video Texas A&M University = Spanish





### Personalized FinAid Video California Baptist University





## Personalized FinAid Video - Non-Filer Utah State University





## Personalized FinAid Video - Merit-Only Utah State University





## **Communicating in Student's Preferred Channel**

#### The student experience:



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## Results *Yield Overall*

For Fall 2022, New Personalized Financial Aid Video (PFAV) Clients saw an *increase in yield of nearly 2.0%* compared to those institutions not utilizing PFAV.

Students who watched their PFAV videos were more than as likely to enroll than those that did not.



## Measure impact with "live" video engagement metrics. *Video dashboard tracks:*

- Total videos produced
- Number of videos viewed
- Number of clicks on call to action buttons
- Video views by device type
- Student level analytics



Student Challenge Link Interactions (English)													
												DOWNLOAD DATA	
	StudentID	Name	Counselor	Last Interaction	Views	Submit Enrollment Deposit	Visit Campus	Complete Verification	Next Steps - ADM	Next Steps - DEP	Outcomes	Engagement Score	
				Mar, 25 2022	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	



# Implementation and delivery based on your recruitment cycle

#### **Project Timeline**





# Working Together to Achieve Your Goals

#### **YOU PROVIDE**

- ✓ Student level data
- ✓ Creative assets and branding guide
- $\checkmark$  Complete intake form
- ✓ Active participant in script development process

#### WE PRODUCE

- ✓ Video script development
- ✓ Video production
- ✓ Video delivery directly to students via text for 28 weeks
- ✓ Video revisions if FA offer changes
- ✓ Consulting to guide video segmentation, timing and follow-up outreach strategy.
- ✓ Video engagement metrics

#### ✓ Helpdesk support

#### **YOU BENEFIT**

- ✓ Standout from the competition by communicating FA offer in compelling way
- ✓ Enable students to make informed college decision
- $\checkmark$  Gain staff efficiencies
- ✓ Reduce summer melt and increase yield



## **PFAV FAQ's**

- How do all the names get pronounced?
- How does the data get delivered?
- What about the security of the data?
- Can we do any languages other than Spanish?
- Can you do standard video production if it's needed?
- How do we get the videos after you produce them?
- What if I don't have a lot of video assets?
- Who on campus should be involved in this project?



# Creative Ways to Deliver Financial Aid in the Digital Era – Q & A

Thank you

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"Florida Southern Admissions emphasizes one-on-one financial aid conversations with students and parents. But on average, we have an opportunity to share this information with only about 30% of students via phone and in-person meetings. RNL Personalized FinAid Video has expanded that reach to all students."

—Erin Ervin Smith, AVP of EM

"We wanted to take our financial aid offer communications to the next level, especially for first-generation students, and with Personalized Financial Aid Videos we accomplished our goal.

They not only did a great job of demystifying the award in an extremely engaging way, but also gave us the opportunity to convey important value propositions (including information on a student's academic interest) that is so important as they finalize their decision to enroll."

-Delisa Falks, Assistant Vice President