The 81st Texas Legislature approved HB 3452 which created the **Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program**. This scholarship aims to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Texas higher education institutions and to become members of the Texas Army National Guard or the Texas Air Force National Guard, or commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States.

The legislation authorizes the governor and the lieutenant governor to each appoint two students, and each state senator and state representative to appoint one student to receive a conditional Texas Armed Services Scholarship. Students must meet specific requirements in order to be eligible for nomination and receipt of the scholarship. The attached overview provides the specific eligibility criteria for nomination and continued scholarship awards.

A student may receive a scholarship award not to exceed $10,000 for the academic year beginning fall 2010. The scholarship recipient is required to enter into an agreement with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in order to receive the scholarship. The recipient may receive a scholarship for four of the five years allowed for graduation. If the student does not meet the conditions outlined in the agreement, the student is required to repay the conditional scholarship.

The Coordinating Board intends to distribute the first round of scholarships in time for the fall 2010 semester. The student nominee selections by the governor, lieutenant governor, and the legislators are to be submitted no later than March 12, 2010. Those students will then present their notification of nomination to the Office of Financial Aid for subsequent determination of eligibility. Certification of eligibility must be submitted online at our website [www.HHLoans.com](http://www.HHLoans.com). The application process is institution-initiated and will require a school’s certification before the student will be able to apply online.

Additional details on the nomination and application process can be found at the College For All Texans website ([http://collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=581](http://collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=581)). Please contact Janie Miramontes, Director of Client Services, Loan Program Operations at (512) 427-6352, or Albert Contreras, Program Manager over Loan Originations, Loan Program Operations at (512) 427-6585, if you have any questions.

Thank you for your commitment to the students of Texas and for your continued support toward *Closing the Gaps* in higher education in our state.