NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

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"The National Direct Student Loan Coalition applauds the U.S. Department of Education in successfully transitioning all postsecondary schools into the Federal Direct (DL) Student Loan Program for the 2010-2011 academic year," states Nancy Hoover, Chair of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition. "As of September 16, the Department reports that 4,880 or 96% of 5106 domestic schools have successfully originated loans. In addition; all remaining eligible schools who intend to participate are now in transition," Ms. Hoover affirms.

By moving all student lending to DL, President Obama used the budgetary savings that resulted to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program.

Conversion to direct lending as the single source of federal loans has proven straightforward. The transition experience for schools has been successful, states Hoover, because of the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Education and the mentoring offered by the National Direct Student Loan Coalition.

Valencia Community College made the switch to direct lending for the 2009-2010 academic year. "Students, parents, and staff appreciate the ease of the new process and guarantee of funding," states Bradley Honious, director of financial aid for the Valencia Community College District in Orlando, Florida. 'Changing to Direct Lending has not added to our staffing and has simply made the entire process much better. We have processed over $50 million without a hitch and are happy we have made the switch for everyone involved – especially student borrowers."

Walter O'Neill, assistant vice president for financial aid at Roosevelt University in Chicago was skeptical of transition success. However, Mr. O'Neill has become a strong supporter of DL as his school moved to direct lending in only three months last spring. "Our experience has been and continues to be absolutely phenomenal,"

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition looks forward to supporting the Administration to ensure that all schools successfully transition into the Federal Direct Student Loan Program.

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition (NDSLC) is comprised of schools dedicated to continuous improvement and strengthening of the Direct Loan program. Its grass-roots members are financial aid professionals working at participating institutions. For more information regarding the National Direct Student Loan Coalition and their mentoring program, please see www.directstudentloancoalition.org.