



FEBRUARY 2009

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Supporter,

The Coalition is proud to make the following recommendation for our member schools:

Financial literacy is an important topic for anyone, particularly during tough economic times. But for students just learning how to manage the funds necessary to support their educational endeavors, the skills are critical. Mismanagement of credit cards or excessive student loan borrowing can create financial hurdles that take years to overcome.

*While there is a myriad of information available from various web sites, finding clear, factual, and unbiased information can be a challenge. **That is why the National Direct Student Loan Coalition recommends CashCourse**, a product of the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE), to our colleagues. NEFE is the only private, nonprofit, national foundation wholly dedicated to improving the financial well-being of all Americans.*

NEFE developed CashCourse specifically to help college-aged students on campuses across the country. CashCourse allows colleges and universities to provide students with the resources necessary to cultivate positive money management habits that will last a lifetime. CashCourse includes a web site with dynamic content including resources that provide optimal money management skills for college students in areas such as financial basics, paying for college, college life, and the world of work. Modules are also available for administrators and instructors to utilize in teaching money management courses.

CashCourse is free to colleges and universities, but you must enroll. To sign up, you can complete and submit an enrollment form found at www.cashcourse.org or contact Amy B. Hartenstine, NEFE Project Manager at 303-224-3536 or via e-mail at cashcourse@nefe.org.

Sincerely,

Roberta Johnson
Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition
Director of Student Financial Aid, Iowa State University

Four Board Members Selected for Negotiated Rulemaking

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition is proud to have four Executive Council Members selected as either lead negotiators or alternates at negotiated rulemaking, which will start in a few weeks. Coalition Chair, Roberta Johnson, will be a lead negotiator on Team 2 dealing with school-based loan issues. Coalition Vice Chair, Nancy Hoover, will be an alternate. Kris Wright, Financial Director at the University of Minnesota and an Executive Council member, will serve as an alternate on Team 1 dealing with general loan issues. Finally, Suzanne Day of Harvard University will serve as an alternate on Team 5, which deals with non-loan programmatic issues. We are extremely happy that the over 1,400 (and growing) Direct Loan schools will have significant representation during this negotiated rulemaking process.

The mission of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition is to promote the success of the Federal Direct Student Loan Program in serving the interests of students, families, taxpayers and institutions.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Roberta Johnson, Chair
Iowa State University

Nancy Hoover, Chair Elect
Denison University

Craig Munier, Past Chair
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Margaret Rodriguez, Treasurer
University of Michigan

Kristine Wright, Secretary
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Tom Butts
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Dan Davenport
University of Idaho

Suzanne Day
Harvard University

Janice Dorian
Mansfield Beauty Schools

Chuck Kneppfle
Miami University

Paula Luff
DePaul University

Eileen O'Leary
Stonehill College

Jean Rash
Rutgers University

Cheryl Resh
University of California-Berkeley

Marsha S. Weiss
Career Education Corporation

Supporting our Members

The Coalition will be making its first visit of the year to Washington, DC later this winter. The Coalition is scheduled to meet with Federal Student Aid at the Department of Education, key advisers to the new Secretary of Education and the new leaders of the 111th Congress. Given all that has changed in Washington, DC over the past few months, this promises to be an extremely busy and important visit.

As always, the Coalition is happy to bring up questions or concerns of our members when we meet with these key leaders. If you have anything you would like us to pass along to leaders in Washington, DC, please email Brian Smith at bsmith@mrss.com.

The Coalition is also looking for input from our members on streamlining **the PLUS loan process in DL**. If you have suggestions, please contact Brian Smith at bsmith@mrss.com. We appreciate your help.

Mentoring New DL Schools

Our phones are still ringing off the hooks with new schools who are interested in switching to Direct Lending. If you are in contact with colleagues that are considering switching to DL, please refer them to our website. We have lots of helpful resources that make the transition a simple process. We also have a list of mentors based on software platform that have volunteered to help schools with the transition. The Coalition and its allies have already mentored dozens of schools and we are ready and willing to help any other schools looking to make the switch.

If you are interested in being added to our mentor list, please contact Brian Smith at bsmith@mrss.com.

In the News

The Student Loan Bailout (January 2, 2009)

AU makes loan changes as economy worsens (February 12, 2009)

Bethel Changes to Direct Loan Program (February 11, (2009)