



JULY 2010

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Member,

As we move into the heart of the summer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Coalition is beginning our 2010 - 2011 membership drive. We are extremely grateful to have such loyal members over the years and we hope you will continue to support us in the coming year. With plenty of new schools implementing DL for the first time, we anticipate another busy year.

Given the new landscape with all schools moving to DL, the Coalition will focus on the following areas:

- Mentoring and assisting all schools during the transition to DL;
- Working as a liaison on behalf of direct loan schools with the Department of Education to ensure the needs of the community are being met; and
- Continuing to work with Congress to ensure the program remains strong.

To renew your membership online with a credit card, **click here**. To renew by mailing in a check, **click here to download a membership form**. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Brian Smith at **bsmith@mrss.com** or 202-478-6119.

It's been an exciting past few years with all that has changed in our profession. This next year promises to be just as exciting and just as busy. We thank you for your commitment this past year and hope you will continue to support us this coming year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoover

Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition
Director of Financial Aid
Denison University
Granville, Ohio
740-587-6629

The Executive Council Visits Washington, DC

The Executive Council made its quarterly visit to Washington, DC in June and it was definitely an exciting and memorable visit.

The Coalition had a great meeting with the leaders of Federal Student Aid (FSA). We were able to share information about our experiences mentoring new schools and share

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.

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feedback from new schools on the transition. As the transition continues and all schools move to direct lending, the Coalition will continue to remain in close communication with FSA.

The Executive Council also had the opportunity to meet the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan and Under Secretary Martha Kanter. The Coalition thanked the Secretary for his leadership over the past year and also shared information about all the work we have been doing to help schools transition. The Secretary was extremely grateful for all our efforts. We are proud to pass along the thanks from the Secretary to all our member schools and all of those who have mentored new schools.



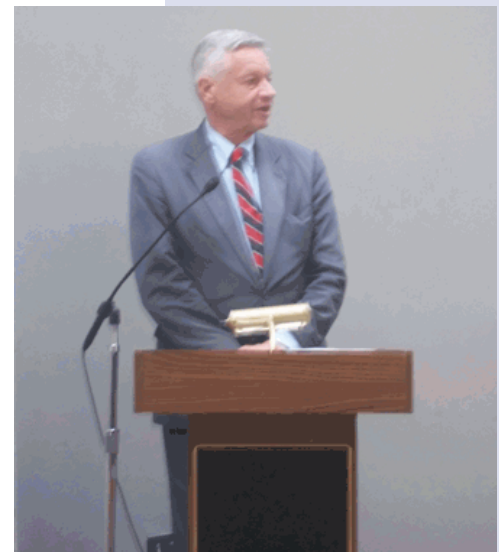
The Executive Council and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at the Department of Education.

The Coalition Hosts Reception on Capitol Hill

The Coalition was also pleased to host a reception on Capitol Hill celebrating the huge win for students with the transition to direct lending. After working for so many years to improve grant aid to students, the Coalition was thrilled to be able to celebrate the passage of legislation that moved all schools to DL and increased Pell Grants. The event was attended by supporters of the Coalition from the Department of Education, current and former Hill staff, current and retired financial aid administrators, higher education professionals and many other friends of the Coalition.

During the reception the Coalition had the pleasure of thanking Rep. Tom Petri of Wisconsin for his tireless advocacy for direct lending over the years. He gave a great speech about how he became such a big supporter of direct lending and stayed at the reception for a long time, talking with and congratulating the reception attendees.

The Coalition also used the reception to honor Bob Shireman, Deputy Under Secretary in the Department of Education. Bob has been a long time friend of the Coalition and it was under his guidance and leadership that the Administration was able to move the legislation through Congress. Bob gave a wonderful speech and thanked all the Coalition members for their hard work at the grass-roots level to really help push this legislation through.



Rep. Petri speaking at Coalition reception.

The Coalition Honors Sen. Tom Harkin

In a special breakfast meeting, Roberta Johnson, Past Chair and Director of Financial Aid at Iowa State, honored Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa for all his support and leadership in helping steward the student loan legislation through the Senate. Senator Harkin has always been a strong ally of the Coalition and was very supportive of the Coalition since becoming the Chair of the HELP Committee after the death of Senator Kennedy.

Roberta Johnson presenting Senator Harkin with a plaque honoring his leadership on student loan legislation.



Eileen O’Leary Writes a Guest Post for Higher Ed Watch

Eileen O’Leary, Former Chair and Executive Council Member of the Coalition, was given an opportunity to write a Guest Post for Higher Education Watch on the upcoming transition to DL. To read the piece, [click here](#).