



SEPTEMBER 2010

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Member,

It is with a very heavy heart that I pass along the sad news that former Coalition Board Member and Financial Aid professional, Marsha Weiss, has passed away. Marsha was a wonderful person and a tireless advocate for students and the Direct Loan program. She died with her family by her side after a long fight with pancreatic cancer.

Marsha served two different terms on the Executive Council of the Coalition. Her first term was while she was the Financial Aid Director at the University of Illinois - Chicago and then more recently when she was the Corporate Director of Career Education Corporation. Marsha worked at the University of Illinois - Chicago for 34 years, becoming the University's first female Director of Financial Aid. During her long career in Financial Aid, Marsha was responsible for helping countless students receive a college education. In her role as a member of the Executive Council of the Coalition, Marsha was a passionate and knowledgeable voice for our work on Capitol Hill and even helped lead efforts to protect direct lending for Illinois schools.

On a personal note, we at the Coalition will always remember Marsha's great smile and her wonderful sense of humor. She was a woman that everyone was glad to know and we will miss her immensely. The Coalition is working with the University of Illinois to formally honor our colleague and our good friend.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoover

Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition

Director of Financial Aid

Denison University

Coalition Membership

Thanks to all of our renewing members and our new members! Your support makes it possible for us to continue the work of the Coalition to support all schools in direct lending and work for program improvements.

If you have not already done so, please consider becoming a contributing member of the Coalition! Click here to join or renew your membership on line using a credit card. If you would like to pay by check click here to print the Coalition Membership form and mail it with your check.

This upcoming year promises to be a very busy time for the Coalition and we really need all of your support. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Smith at bsmith@mrss.com or 202-478-6119.

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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A Big Thank You to All Our Leadership Level Schools

In addition to thanking all of our members for renewing this year, we wanted to acknowledge and thank our leadership level schools. The following schools have committed to the Leadership Level of membership and will be invited to join the Coalition in Washington early next year:

- Arizona State University
- DePaul University
- DeVry, Inc.
- Furman University
- Harvard University
- Hope College
- Iowa State University
- Kirkwood Community College
- New Mexico State University
- Northwestern University
- Santa Clara University
- Stonehill College
- Towson University
- University of California - Berkeley
- University of Florida
- University of Michigan
- University of Nebraska
- University of Washington

Coalition Monitors List Serves

The Coalition closely monitors the list serves, DIRLOAN2 and FINAID-L, to assist schools who have questions or who are experiencing production issues. We are updating FSA on any issues that surface on the lists so that a resolution can be achieved as quickly as possible. In some cases, the Coalition is working closely with software vendors to help resolve issues that have been identified as software specific. The Coalition posts updates to the list serves as they become available.

The lists provide an opportunity for colleagues to exchange information and help each other. A special thank you to those who provide helpful responses to your colleagues' questions!

If you have any loan processing issues, the Coalition encourages you to use the list serves or report them to us at Email NDSLCL.

FSA Brings New Federal Loan Servicers Online

Over the last several months, FSA has announced the roll out of the new federal loan servicers. In addition to ACS, the long time servicer for Direct Loans, the following entities will be servicing federal loans:

- Great Lakes Education Loan Services
- Nelnet
- PHEAA - FedLoan Servicing
- Sallie Mae

To learn more about the new federal loan servicers see FSA Brings New Federal Loan Servicers On Line on the Coalition website.

The Coalition Visits DC

In September the Coalition will be making its third visit of the year to Washington, DC to meet with FSA, Congress and other financial aid professionals. If you have anything you would like the Coalition to pass along to FSA, please email Brian Smith at bsmith@mrss.com. We will report on our visit to Washington in the next edition of the newsletter.