



AUGUST 2009

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Supporter,

This is my first newsletter as Chair of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition (NDSLCLG) and I want to start out by thanking all of our members and the Executive Council for this opportunity. As a committed supporter of the Direct Loan program and the Coalition for many years, I am honored to serve with such dedicated colleagues. As I transition into this new role, I especially want to thank the Coalition's Past Chair, Robert Johnson, for her brilliant leadership over the past two years. It was an incredibly busy time in the world of student aid and Roberta did a marvelous job representing the Coalition. Thank you, Roberta!

As I assume the role of Chair, it is an incredibly exciting time in the history of the Direct Loan program. Over the past year, the Coalition has personally mentored hundreds of schools across the country in their switch to the Direct Loan Program. As a mentor to new Direct Loan schools, I have had the privilege of personally assisting financial aid staff members at dozens of schools across the country and have greatly enjoyed working with them to ensure their smooth transition to Direct Lending. In fact, the Coalition is thrilled to know that many of these new schools that we mentored have joined the Coalition as members for the 2009-10 year!

In addition to changes to our membership, the Coalition is excited to announce changes to our Executive Council. Filling the position as Vice Chair will be the Coalition's Treasurer, Margaret Rodriguez of the University of Michigan. I am also pleased to announce the addition of two new members to our Executive Council - Kay Lewis from the University of Washington and Peg Julius from Kirkwood Community College. On behalf the Coalition's full Executive Council, I want to thank all of our members for your continued support. The success of the Coalition over the past few years has been a direct result of the commitment of our loyal members. Since our membership is comprised of practicing financial aid administrators, the Coalition is extremely proud to remain one of the leading resources for Congress and the Department of Education for expertise on Direct Lending and other student aid issues.

I want all of our members to know that the Coalition remains as committed as ever to serving the interests of Direct Loan schools. If you have any issues or concerns about any aspect of the program, please feel free to contact me at hoover@denison.edu. I am truly excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working with all of you over the next year!

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoover

Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition

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

Nancy Hoover, Chair
Denison University

Margaret Rodriguez, Chair Elect
University of Michigan

Roberta Johnson, Past Chair
Iowa State University

Tom Butts
Advisor

Dan Davenport
University of Idaho

Suzanne Day
Harvard University

Janice Dorian
Mansfield Beauty Schools

Chuck Knepfle
Miami University

Paula Luff
DePaul University

Eileen O'Leary
Stonehill College

Craig Munier
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jean Rash
Rutgers University

Cheryl Resh
University of California-Berkeley

Marsha S. Weiss
Career Education Corporation

Kristine Wright
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Renew Your NDSLCL Membership!

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition is currently the midst of annual membership drive. With more and more schools switching to Direct Lending, the Coalition anticipates a very busy and productive year.

Click here to download our membership form.

It is through your commitment that we are able to remain a strong voice for the Direct Lending Community in Washington, DC. Your membership to the Coalition will expire on July 1, 2009 - We are counting on you to renew for the 2009-2010 membership year!

To renew your membership by credit card online, please click here.

Coalition Endorses SAFRA

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition endorsed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3321). To read the Coalition's letter to Congress, click here.

Direct Loan Day at FSA

FSA CONFERENCE – December 1-4, 2009

The Department of Education has informed the NDSLCL that there will be a significant focus on Direct Loans at this year's conference.

DIRECT LOAN TRAINING WEBINARS

Beginning in the first week of school in October, the Department of Education will be presenting training webinars on all facets of Direct Loans. These webinars will be held every 2 weeks and they will also be presented at the FSA Conference. More details about the times and the material for these training webinars will be forthcoming from the Department.

Coalition Participates in the 2009 NASFAA Annual Conference

The Coalition sponsored two interest sessions at the 2009 annual conference of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator (NASFAA) in San Antonio, Texas in July. Representatives from three institutions that have recently transitioned to direct lending shared their experiences with a large and interested audience during an interest session entitled Newbies Unite. Thanks to Walter O'Neil from Roosevelt University, Chad Nosbusch from the University of St. Thomas and Lynda McKendree from the University of Houston at Clear Lake for their very informative presentations. A Birds of a Feather session for Direct Loan Schools was moderated by Nancy Hoover, Roberta Johnson and Eileen O'Leary. This session allowed schools to share experiences and discuss issues or processing questions relative to Direct Loans. Staff from the Department of Education provided sessions on transitioning to Direct Lending and Working with the Direct Loan Servicer. The Coalition also sponsored an information booth at the conference. We visited with many school representatives planning to transition to Direct Lending for 2009-10 and answered questions and offered mentoring assistance during their transition.

In the News

- NDSLCL Mentors Schools Moving to Direct Lending - August 10, 2009
- Political Economy: Logic Prevails - August 2, 2009
- Lobbying Showdown Over The Future Of Student Loans - July 30, 2009
- Jonathan Riskind commentary: Direct lending is way to go, Gee says - July 26, 2009
- Key Congressional Panel Endorses Obama's Higher-Education Agenda - July 21, 2009
- The Student Loan Scam - July 21, 2009
- Fix loan system for a stronger future - July 15, 2009
- Obama Student Loan Plan Wins Support in House - July 10, 2009