



FEBRUARY 2010

# NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

*Dear Member,*

It is less than 30 days until spring. *Yes, I am counting the days!* Snow, a topic that seems to have permeated the conversations of most Coalition Executive Board Members, caused the Council to cancel the quarterly meeting in Washington that was scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Butts had traveled to DC a few days before the Coalition's scheduled meeting and was stranded in the city by the snow storm. Before the government shut down, he was able to make some strategic Hill visits and also meet with some senior administrators in the Department of Education. The Coalition is always appreciative of Tom's volunteer work assisting the executive council, and I want to express my sincere thanks to Tom for his continued work for our Coalition in the midst of a DC blizzard.

Coalition Board Members will meet Department of Education staff via conference call in lieu of the canceled Washington meeting in early March. We appreciate the willingness of FSA staff to accommodate this conference call meeting to ensure that all the agenda items scheduled for the cancelled meeting are addressed. If you have any concerns that you would like the Coalition to address with the Department on the conference call, please email Brian Smith at [bsmith@mrss.com](mailto:bsmith@mrss.com).

Since the action on the House passed Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) is still pending in the Senate, the Coalition is not immediately rescheduling the cancelled meetings with Congressional leaders. If there is movement by the Senate on the SAFRA bill, the Coalition will determine if there is a need for some Council members to volunteer to do some strategic Hill visits at that time.

Thank you for all of your support of the Coalition's efforts and think SPRING!

Sincerely,

**Nancy Hoover**

*Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition*

Director of Financial Aid

Denison University

Granville, Ohio

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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**  
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**Peg Julius**  
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*Stonehill College*

**Jean Rash**  
*Rutgers University*

**Cheryl Resh**  
*University of California-Berkeley*

**Kristine Wright**  
*University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*

## Coalition Chair, Vice Chair Invited to White House Briefing to Discuss Higher Education Legislation

Nancy Hoover (Coalition Chair) and Margaret Rodriguez (Chair Elect) attended a briefing and discussion with senior administration officials from The White House on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) on Friday, February 19, 2010.

There was a brief overview of the anticipated action of the Senate on the SAFRA bill and a review of the information distributed to those in attendance to support student loan reform and the move to a single loan delivery system using the direct loan platform.

### MYTH VS FACT STUDENT LOAN REFORM

#### RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT STUDENT LOANS: Questions and Answers

Nancy and Margaret shared the following points about the Coalition's support of schools making the transition to Direct Lending:

- The NDSLRC has mentored hundreds of schools that have successfully transitioned to Direct Lending and continues to support schools just beginning to make the transition
- Many members of the Coalition have participated in various state, regional and national meetings and workshops to provide information about the ease of transition from FFEL to DL
- As can be judged by the lack of negative publicity and comments, schools that have transitioned to the program have been pleased with support available from the Department and the outcomes for their institutions
- Assurance that the small schools with limited staffing and/or IT support can make the transition to Direct Lending by July 1, 2010 with assistance from the Department of Education and the Coalition's mentoring program.

## Direct Loan Schools

Visit the Coalition's web site for an up-to-date list of schools that have originated loans in the Direct Loan program as of December 31, 2009. The Coalition welcomes all of the new schools to the Direct Loan program.

[http://directstudentloancoalition.org/media/documents\\_autogen/DL\\_School\\_List\\_123109.xls](http://directstudentloancoalition.org/media/documents_autogen/DL_School_List_123109.xls)

## Coalition Members -- OUTREACH

Coalition members are providing information about DL and support to their colleagues in a variety of venues:

- Margaret Rodriguez will be a faculty member for a preconference session on transitioning to Direct Lending at the annual NACUBO Conference in San Antonio, Texas in March
- Nancy Hoover and Brent Shock from Miami University will provide a session on Direct Loan Reconciliation at the Banner Summit in San Francisco in April
- NASFAA has sought out Coalition members for a variety of sessions at their national

conference to be held in Denver in July

- Rodriguez provided a session on Transitioning to Direct Lending at the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in Kansas City, Kansas in October, 2009.

## Direct Loan Training Opportunities

The Department of Education has announced a series of regional training sessions for schools transitioning to Direct Lending. A complete list is available on the Coalition web site at: <http://www.directstudentloancoalition.org/>

Be sure to share this information with colleagues who may be making the transition to Direct Lending or considering making the switch.

## In the News...

- College Proposal No-Brainer: Get the Middleman Out of School Loans (February 11, 2010)
- Education secretary pushes to revise student loan practices (February 10, 2010)
- Private lenders should not leech off students (February 9, 2010)
- Duncan Criticizes Sallie Mae, Banks (February 9, 2010)
- Remove middle man from college loans (February 9, 2010)
- Approve student loan reform: Democrats need to stand firm against pressure from lobbyists (February 8, 2010)
- Banks Don't Belong in the Student Loan Business (December 17, 2009)