



NOVEMBER 2009

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Supporter,

In a few days, we will get a break from the hectic pace of our offices to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. In the spirit of this holiday, I want to say a personal thank you to those of you who are volunteering your time and expertise as NDSLCLC mentors to schools making the transition to Direct Lending. In the last few weeks, our mentor list has expanded significantly because some schools that switched to the DL program for 2009-10 have agreed to be mentors. What a testament to the satisfaction level of these schools with their recent experience of moving to DL!

The NDSLCLC mentor group has been asked by the Department of Education to provide its expertise on two projects that FSA is coordinating:

- Serve as panelists in the Birds of Feather sessions at FSA by school type and system platform
- Provide input on the Tools For Schools project that is being created to provide timely information to schools new to DL as well as to those considering making the transition. If you have ideas or suggestions on the type of publications or information that would help new schools, please email me at hoover@denison.edu

Click this link to access the updated Mentor List.

NDSLCLC still needs more schools to be mentors to help with the increased volume of schools that have recently started the transition, or will be making the transition, in the next few months. If you or a staff member at your school is willing to be a mentor, please contact Jean Rash at jrash@rci.rutgers.edu.

I hope all of you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving! I hope to see you in Nashville at the FSA Conference.

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.

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Coalition Members Make Presentations Across the Country

Lexington Institute Policy Forum

Past Chair of the Coalition, **Eileen O’Leary**, participated in a panel discussion on the future of student loans at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The event featured representatives from all sides of the student lending debate. Eileen discussed the importance of passing the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act to secure more funding for needy students.

IASFAA State Conference and WASFAA State Conference

Roberta Johnson, past chair of the Coalition, was invited to participate in two state financial aid conferences recently. Roberta participated in a Direct Loan panel with staff from two schools that recently transitioned to Direct Lending at the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference in Cedar Falls, IA. Roberta also co-presented with Wood Mason from the U.S. Department of Education at the Wisconsin Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Wood provided invaluable insights into what schools needed to do to get set up in the Direct Loan program, and Roberta provided the school perspective.

RMASFAA Annual Conference

Margaret Rodriguez, vice chair of the Coalition, was invited to present an interest session entitled ‘Transitioning to Direct Lending’ at the RMASFAA Annual Conference. The session provided information about the steps schools must take in order to transition to Direct Loans.

MASFAA Annual Conference

Michelle Saigh, Director of Financial Aid at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, participated in a panel discussion at the MASFAA Annual Conference in Minneapolis. The session provided information from schools who had recently transitioned to the Direct Loan Program.

Renew Your NDSLCL Membership!

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition is currently in the midst of our 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 and support that we are able to remain a strong voice for the Direct Lending Community in Washington, DC. The Coalition membership year begins on July 1st. For schools that have renewed their membership – thank you for your support. If you have not yet renewed your membership, remember that we are counting on you to renew for the 2009-2010 membership year so that we can continue the important work of the Coalition!

[To renew your membership by credit card online, please click here.](#)

Direct Lending at FSA

NOVEMBER 2009

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. Here is the link to the FSA Conference site where a list of session topics can be located.

<http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/program09.html>

Some Session Descriptions of Special Interest to Direct Loan Schools:

Birds of a Feather Session by School Type: Each of these "Birds of a Feather" sessions are for similar school types to discuss transitioning from FFEL to Direct Loans. A panel of colleagues from like schools who have transitioned to Direct Loans will facilitate the discussions. Schools will discuss their transition plan; organization changes; coordination and planning with IT; changes to publications and web sites; and their overall communication plan to students and parents. Each session will allow plenty of time for questions.

Birds of a Feather Session by Software Type: Each of these "Birds of a Feather" sessions are for schools using similar software solutions. A panel of colleagues from schools using the same software solution will facilitate the discussions. Panelists will discuss the transition to Direct Loans from a system focus. Panelists will describe challenges and helpful hints, as well as what schools need to do from a school perspective to set up Direct Loans with a particular software product. The session format will allow for significant audience input and questions.

In the News

- Delay, or No Delay, Change Is On The Way (November 10, 2009)
- NPR: More Colleges Turn To Uncle Sam For Student Loans (October 22, 2009)
- Al Franken, David Durenberger: The status quo is wasting billions (October 1, 2009)
- Desperate Arguments Against Student Loan Reform (September 29, 2009)