



# Year in Review



July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012



## **To our Members,**

As we begin a new year for the Coalition, we look at the year just ended to highlight some of the activities of the Coalition and evaluate our progress toward reaching our goals. As I reported in the 2010-2011 Annual Report, the Coalition engaged in a strategic planning exercise to refocus our efforts in light of the transition of all schools to Direct Lending. The Board defined four primary goals which are presented below with a summary of some of the Coalition activities during 2011-2012.



### **Advocate for high standards in the delivery and servicing of student loans**

- Met regularly with staff in Federal Student Aid to identify issues and suggest alternatives to improve program operation
- Advocated for a common 'front end' for federal loan servicing
- Reviewed the Income Based Repayment (IBR) process and suggested alternatives for improvement
- Presented member concerns and suggestions to FSA for discussion and resolution
- Met with Rohit Chopra of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to provide input and discuss shared concerns regarding borrower experiences



### **Provide an effective communication network for schools to support their efforts on behalf of students**

- Maintained the DirLoan2 list serve providing a venue for colleagues to ask questions, exchange information and receive updates from the Coalition on operational and policy issues
- Provided newsletters to report on Coalition activities and program updates and news items
- Issued action alerts to encourage community engagement on legislative issues which affect our students
- Disseminated information at the request of FSA
- Responded to individual questions from members on operational or policy issues



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National Direct Student Loan Coalition

### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**MARGARET RODRIGUEZ**, *Chair*  
University of Michigan

**CHUCK KNEPFLE**, *Chair Elect*  
Clemson University

**NANCY HOOVER**, *Past Chair*  
Denison University

**JEAN RASH**, *Treasurer*  
Rutgers University

**KRISTINE WRIGHT**, *Secretary*  
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

**TOM BUTTS**  
Advisor

**DAN DAVENPORT**  
University of Idaho

**SUZANNE DAY**  
Harvard University

**JANICE DORIAN**  
Mansfield Beauty Schools

**RACHELLE FELDMAN**  
University of California - Berkeley

**ROBERTA JOHNSON**  
Iowa State University

**PEG JULIUS**  
Kirkwood Community College

**KAY LEWIS**  
University of Washington

**DARRYL MARSHALL**  
Florida State University

**EILEEN O'LEARY**  
Stonehill College

**DOUG SEVERS**  
Oregon State University

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### *Educate and advise public officials, professional associations, the media and general public on student lending issues*

- Participated in over 100 visits with Congressional staff to educate and inform members on student loan issues
- Past Chair Nancy Hoover testified before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on the transition to 100% Direct Lending
- Margaret Rodriguez, Coalition Chair, and Kris Wright, Coalition Secretary, served as non-federal negotiators in the Student Loan Negotiated Rulemaking session, January through March, 2012
- Provided testimony for the next round of Negotiated Rulemaking scheduled for fall, 2012
- Provided a position paper to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction in support of aid for students
- Met with Under Secretary Georgia Yuan and her staff to discuss options for improvements in the student loan process

### *Promote policies to minimize the use of student borrowing and improve loan terms for those who borrow*

- Worked with other higher education organizations and student advocacy groups to advocate for funding for Pell Grants
- Participated in the Student Loan Working Group to advocate for extension of the 3.4% interest rate for subsidized loans
- Solicited support for Congressman Cohen's proposal to include private loans in bankruptcy
- Collaborated with Federal Student Aid on proposals to improve the IBR application process and the new Financial Awareness Counseling Tool

We will share a more detailed annual report with you later this summer. As always, our members make all of this possible. We appreciate the confidence your membership demonstrates and we look forward to your support for 2012-2013.



Sincerely,

**Margaret Rodriguez**, *Chair*  
National Direct Student Loan Coalition

Information about joining the Coalition or renewing membership is available at  
[www.directstudentloancoalition.org/join.asp](http://www.directstudentloancoalition.org/join.asp)