



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Tara Deering-Hansen
Corporate Communications Manager
(515) 273-7375
tdeering-hansen@studentloan.org

Iowa-Area Banks Partner to Offer Loan for Students Most in Need

Lenders Pool Resources to Help Iowa College Students Without Cosigners Continue Their Education

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (Oct. 30, 2012) — Many Iowa college students recently got their first dose of financial reality when the first university bill arrived in their mailbox. The costs of a postsecondary education continue to rise, but students who have exhausted their other funding sources can now turn to the Iowa Alliance Private Student Loan ProgramSM (Iowa Alliance Loan).

The Iowa Alliance Loan is provided by a group of Iowa-area lenders that has stepped up to provide a supplemental private student loan to students who are unable to obtain a qualified cosigner.

“The cost of going to college is a stretch for even the most financially prepared students in today’s economy,” said Christine Hensley, Iowa Student Loan board chair, “so supplemental loan programs like this one are truly needed. We are fortunate to have banks in several communities team up to provide this program and help students achieve their academic goals.”

Students often turn to private student loans after exhausting available federal, state and institutional financial aid. Generally, cosigners are required to meet private loan underwriting criteria because most college students have little income and a short credit history.

However, with economic conditions continuing to result in unemployment or underemployment for working families, many parents are unable to qualify as a cosigner, thus reducing students’ funding options.

After recognizing this growing struggle among members in their communities, several Iowa-area lenders decided to combine resources to create the Iowa Alliance Loan, which is serviced by Iowa Student Loan®. The program offers private student loans with variable interest rates and upfront terms to students who have been denied a private loan requiring a cosigner.

The following Iowa-area lenders are participating in the Iowa Alliance Loan program:

- American State Bank, Osceola
- Bankers Trust, Des Moines
- Community State Bank, Paton
- Crawford County Trust and Savings Bank, Denison
- Heartland Bank, Somers
- Iowa Student Loan, West Des Moines
- Manufacturers Bank & Trust Co., Forest City
- Modern Woodmen Bank, Rock Island, Ill.
- Northwest Bank, Spencer
- Security State Bank, Independence
- Shelby County State Bank, Harlan
- Sibley State Bank, Sibley
- Union State Bank, Greenfield

To learn more about the Iowa Alliance Loan program and the lenders offering it, visit www.studentloan.org/alliance. Students must apply through their school's financial aid office.

###

About Iowa Student Loan

Since 1981, Iowa Student Loan, a private, nonprofit organization, has helped Iowa students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. Iowa Student Loan has helped more than 375,000 students pay for college. The organization, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, also provides an array of borrower benefits, financial literacy tools and community reinvestment programs, including support for free college planning services for students and their families. For more information about Iowa Student Loan, visit www.studentloan.org.