



National Student Loan Program

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NSLP Launches Online Financial Literacy Course

Site features free tools to help students avoid excessive debt

(February 3, 2004) – NSLP has launched *Money Management Counseling*, an online financial literacy course featuring free interactive tools that financial aid professionals and students can use to help manage finances and avoid excessive debt.

The site, available at www.nslp.org/lep.htm, currently features “Credit and Debt,” an online course with 11 interactive sections that explain how to manage money in a fun and easy-to-use format. The course covers topics such as budgeting, paying for school, using credit cards, and repaying student loans.

“We designed *Money Management Counseling* with input from financial aid professionals to ensure it meets their needs and the needs of their students,” said NSLP President Nancy Wiederspan. Wiederspan explained that financial aid staff can use the site to learn money management strategies they can pass on to students or as a teaching tool their students can use.

Shirley Huttenmaier, Financial Aid Associate Director at Southeast Community College in Nebraska, used “Credit and Debt” to teach money management basics to a group of her students. “The course helped them understand basic personal finance,” Huttenmaier said. “The fast-paced lessons were easy to work through in about an hour, and the quizzes helped reinforce what they learned. I’m so impressed with how helpful it is, I want my children to use it, too!”

Later this month, “Credit and Debt” will include a “Budget Workshop” featuring calculators to set up a budget and track expenses. In the next few months, *Money Management Counseling* will include “At the Bank”, a course that focuses on banking basics, and “Home Finance”, which explains everything from renting to owning a home.

Money Management Counseling is the latest in a wide array of free money management and loan education products available from NSLP. For more information, visit www.nslp.org/lep.htm.

Headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, the National Student Loan Program is a private, nonprofit corporation in its second decade as a student loan guaranty agency. NSLP works with lenders and post-secondary schools across the nation to help students gain access to low-cost student loans. With annual loan guarantees of over \$1.5 billion, NSLP is one of the nation’s major guaranty agencies, and continues to serve as the designated guaranty agency for Nebraska.