

News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jamie Christensen
College Information Service
(701) 328-5657

SLND Celebrates 25 Years as State Guaranty Agency

(Bismarck, July 16, 2007) – Student Loans of North Dakota (SLND), at Bank of North Dakota (BND), is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2007 as North Dakota’s designated guaranty agency for federal student loans. Gov. John Hoeven has declared Wednesday, July 18, 2007 as “Student Loans of North Dakota Guarantor Day” through written proclamation.

“SLND has cumulatively guaranteed more than 725,000 student loans, totaling more than \$2.4 billion,” said Eric Hardmeyer, BND president. “We’re proud to be North Dakota’s guaranty agency as it is a very important service for the people of this great state.”

In 1982, the federal government asked states to take over the guaranty process for the federal student loan program. At that time, the state legislature designated Bank of North Dakota as the agency to administer the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program, now most commonly known as Student Loans of North Dakota-Guarantor. Currently, SLND guarantees \$250 million in loans per year for all participating lenders across the upper Midwest and nationwide.

“The immense growth in loan guarantee volume and continuous regulatory changes would have been difficult to imagine in our early days,” said Julie Kubisiak, senior vice president and director of SLND. “Today everything is faster, easier and with the development of online processes, much more convenient for students, schools and lenders.”

When the agency was formed, it took approximately six to nine weeks to process one loan. Today, SLND offers an instant guarantee process in which student loans are guaranteed in a real time environment, with the loan being disbursed to schools shortly thereafter.

“SLND is not just a guarantee agency, but rather a partnership of participating lenders and schools,” explained Wally Erhardt, associate director of Guaranty Services. “While we truly enjoy our role of providing lenders with a local guarantee on federal student loans, I would have to say the relationships we’ve developed over the years with students, schools and participating lenders provides us the spark to excel and deliver.”

SLND’s significant accomplishments include one of the lowest cumulative default rates in the nation. In 1992, College Information Service (CIS) was formed to provide a centralized

source of free information about various colleges, the admissions process, and understanding financial aid. In addition, in 1997, Bank of North Dakota began offering the Dakota Education Alternative Loan (DEAL) program, a state funded supplemental student loan guaranteed by SLND.

SLND is administered by BND and offers a variety of loan programs to help students and parents finance college education. BND, the nation's only state-owned bank, was established in 1919 to encourage and promote agriculture, commerce and industry in North Dakota.

###



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
STUDENT LOANS OF NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTOR DAY
JULY 18, 2007

WHEREAS, the world is changing daily and a well-educated citizenry is the best guarantee that North Dakota will continue to meet the challenges of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, that same well-educated society ensures America will remain a global leader in providing an educated and skilled workforce; and

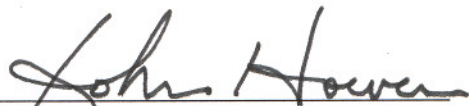
WHEREAS, a solid post-secondary education is the foundation for success but the rising costs of education stand in the way of many who wish to further their education; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years Student Loans of North Dakota has opened the doors of education for North Dakota students by administering over 730,000 loan guarantees for \$2.4 billion in student loans; and

WHEREAS, Student Loans of North Dakota as a guarantee agency helps lenders keep student loans in the state, from origination through repayment, as a reinvestment in the North Dakota students of the future; and


WHEREAS, Student Loans of North Dakota continues to provide educational access by constantly improving the student loan system and contributing to a state-of-the-art financial aid delivery system.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 18, 2007, as **STUDENT LOANS OF NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTOR DAY** in the state of North Dakota.




John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State



Clara M. Jenkins
Deputy Secretary

600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov