



# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven  
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Roger Johnson  
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

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For Immediate Release

## Bank of North Dakota Marks 40 Years of Student Loan Lending

BISMARCK – In 1967, Bank of North Dakota (BND) made the first federally insured student loan in the United States. Since then, BND has helped over 180,000 North Dakotans and others throughout the country pursue a higher education. In the last 10 years alone, BND has helped 10,000 borrowers with financing through the Dakota Education Alternative Loan Program with \$90 million in loans. In commemoration of this historic milestone, Gov. John Hoeven has declared Friday, August 10, 2007 as “Student Loans at Bank of North Dakota Day” through written proclamation.

“The Bank’s 40 years of expertise in making student loans has had a major impact on the youth and families of North Dakota,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “Student loans help to sustain an educated workforce, which is a key to the state’s continued economic growth, and on a personal level, they also help to realize the hopes and dreams of young people. This is a great legacy.”

In 2006, BND disbursed more than \$202 million in student loans, and assisted other lenders in disbursing another \$1 million.

"Administrative fees on student loans through Bank of North Dakota have never been lower," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "Lower fees means students have more money in their pockets to continue their education. This is just one more way for the state to show its commitment to the citizens of North Dakota and the future of our state."

“BND’s emphasis on in-depth training of employees and loan counselors and fostering a cooperative relationship among lending institutions, colleges, parents and student borrowers helps North Dakota maintain one of the lowest student loan default rates in the nation,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

BND offers a variety of loan programs to help students and parents finance a college education, including a Federal Consolidation Loan program, a secondary market, loan servicing options and a Student Loan Lender Alliance program, all of which involve participating lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

"Over the past 40 years we have built a student loan program that meets the needs of North Dakotans," said Eric Hardmeyer, BND President. "We will continue to adapt these successful programs in order to keep up with an evolving educational landscape and offer the best benefits possible to our customers."

Student loan programs offered through BND are Subsidized & Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), PLUS Pro Loan for Graduate/Professional Students, Consolidation Loan, and the Dakota Education Alternative Loan (DEAL).

BND, the nation's only state-owned bank, was established in 1919 to encourage and promote agriculture, commerce and industry in North Dakota. BND is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Julie Kubisiak, Director of Student Loans North Dakota at 328-5621