



Nelnet Introduces Electronic Signatures

Lincoln, NE, April 3, 2002 – Effective April 15, 2002, Nelnet will incorporate electronic signatures into its online borrower initiated application, available for Stafford loans.

Unique to the industry, Nelnet will offer both PIN-less and PIN processes to capture an electronic signature. The PIN-less process will rely on existing processes and controls to authenticate the identity of a borrower. The PIN process will utilize the NCS Pearson/FAFSA PIN.

"The integration of electronic signatures demonstrates Nelnet's commitment to providing the latest in technology resources, while expediting the loan process for borrowers and schools alike," said Don Bouc, President of Nelnet Corporation.

Under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Law), an electronic signature is an "electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record." Effective October 1, 2000, the E-Sign Law and UETA (Uniform Electronic Transactions Act) allowed electronically signed ("dry") documents to be enforced just as "wet" signed paper documents.

"We expect a positive impact on schools in that there will be an opportunity to eliminate the handling of paper loan documents," commented Bouc. "E-signatures streamline the disbursement process for borrowers without forgoing existing and proven processes."

Presently, Nelnet will only incorporate e-signatures with the online generation of an electronically signed MPN for FFELP loans. This process will be available through www.nelnet.net (or links to www.nelnet.net) for schools and lenders that choose to participate.

Nelnet is a fully integrated educational finance organization offering expertise in student loan generation and servicing, secondary market services, and guarantor servicing support. The company maintains offices in Boise, ID; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; Jacksonville, FL; Lincoln, NE; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, ME; St. Paul, MN; Tulsa, OK; and Washington, DC. With \$8 billion in total assets, Nelnet originates \$2 billion in student loans, holds over \$7.5 billion, and services, or provides servicing software for, \$25 billion in student loans annually. Nelnet ranks among the nation's leaders in terms of total student loan assets managed.