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FROM THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Melanie Amrhein Named LOSFA Executive Director

BATON ROUGE -- Melanie Amrhein has been named Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), effective June 18, 2007.

The action was taken by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) following a national search to find a replacement for the agency's recently retired longtime Executive Director, Jack L. Guinn.

In announcing Amrhein's appointment, LASFAC Chairman F. Travis Lavigne, Jr., said, "Ms. Amrhein enjoys the unanimous support of not only the personnel committee but the support and respect of the entire membership of the Student Financial Assistance Commission. This level of support is indicative of the type of leadership and commitment to the programs of the Commission that she has exhibited over the last eight years."

Amrhein has been employed with LOSFA since 1999, first as Assistant Executive Director for Operations (Aid Programs) and then as Assistant Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer and, most recently, as interim Executive Director.

“I am proud of the work that LOSFA does on behalf of the Commission and look forward to working closely with all our partners to increase access to postsecondary education to the students of Louisiana,” Amrhein said. “The financial aid industry is faced with many challenges, so our focus must be on turning the challenges into opportunities,” she added.

Prior to joining LOSFA, Amrhein spent ten years in the Office of Student Aid and Scholarships at Louisiana State University as an Assistant Director and later as Associate Director. She served as President of the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) during 1998-99 and is currently serving on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) as Immediate Past President.

LOSFA administers Louisiana’s premier merit-based scholarship program, the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); the state’s 529 college saving program, the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) program; and is the U.S. Department of Education’s designated guarantor in Louisiana for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

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