

June 2008

Dear Northwestern Student:

As you are busy preparing and planning for your first year at Northwestern, the Financial Aid Office would like to instruct you on some important items regarding your student loans. An essential step in preparing for your arrival is to ensure you have completed all financial aid loan materials. The Office of Financial Aid recognizes that applying for loans and understanding various application processes can be confusing. It is therefore important that you read the enclosed loan information and instructions very carefully. Please share this information with your parents.

Your student loans cannot be processed until you have completed all of the steps outlined in the enclosed document. You are encouraged to use CAESAR (www.northwestern.edu/caesar), the University's online student portal, to access your current financial aid award as well as monitor the status of incomplete items. You should become familiar with CAESAR as you will be using it for other services, such as registration and viewing your account balance, throughout the academic year.

The University cannot disburse most loan funds for entering students until after the start of the fall quarter; therefore, your fall quarter invoice, of which you will receive notification via e-mail in August, will reflect anticipated loan credits. Anticipated loan credits will be replaced with actual funds once the loan application process has been completed and the funds have been received from your lender.

Be sure to set up your Northwestern e-mail account if you have not yet done so. The University uses this address to send official communications, and our office may need to contact you at this address over the summer regarding your student loans.

You may have heard recent media coverage about changes in federal student loan programs for the upcoming year. We want to assure you that funds will be available and you should not feel rushed into completing the process immediately in order to secure funds. We encourage you to take your time to adequately research and understand the provisions of your loans. Our office will begin processing loans for the 2008-09 academic year on July 1. We encourage you to complete all loan application materials for the loans you have been offered by August 1 to ensure adequate processing time in order to receive loan disbursements for the fall term.

If you have any questions regarding your loan materials or any other aspect of your financial aid award, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We will be available throughout the summer to assist you. We look forward to seeing you on campus in the fall.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Lazzara
Coordinator of Financial Aid for Entering Students