



CONNECTICUT STUDENT LOAN FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Susie Mae Extends PLUS Loan Benefits to Graduate and Professional Students

Money Saving Incentives Help Students to Reduce Student Loan Debt

Rocky Hill, CT – June 30, 2006 – Susie Mae, the lending division of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF®), is pleased to announce that its First Rate PLUS Loan benefits will be made available to graduate and professional students on July 1, 2006. First Rate PLUS Loan benefits available through Susie Mae (lender code 828614) include:

- An immediate and guaranteed 0.5% interest rate reduction by simply choosing Susie Mae as the PLUS Loan lender;
- An additional 0.5% interest rate reduction for making payments through automatic debit;
- The option to defer loan payments until after graduation;
- Immediate credit decisions online or by phone;
- Fast and easy online applications with electronic signature; and
- Flexible repayment options.

As a result of legislative changes made under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, graduate and professional students can borrow under the Federal PLUS Loan program beginning on or after July 1, 2006. Graduate and professional students will enjoy the same terms and features as traditional parent borrowers, including the ability to borrow up to the cost of attendance less other financial aid and a fixed interest rate of 8.5 percent.

“The Federal PLUS Loan for graduate and professional students is a low-cost, fixed rate alternative to private and alternative loans,” said Mark W. Valenti, President of CSLF. “Susie Mae is pleased to help graduate and professional students reduce their educational debt, by extending its current PLUS Loan benefits to this group of students,” said Mr. Valenti.

Susie Mae’s PLUS Loan borrowers can apply online and electronically sign their PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.cslf.com/enroute. For more information about Susie Mae’s reduced rate loan programs, call 1-800-237-9721, ext. 442 or [visit www.cslf.com](http://www.cslf.com).

***ABOUT SUSIE MAE** – Susie Mae is a national student loan lender that provides affordable borrowing solutions for students and families throughout the nation. Susie Mae offers fee-free and reduced rate Federal loans along with affordable and convenient private loans. Susie Mae also provides comprehensive tools and resources to help educate borrowers and promote successful repayment. Learn more about Susie Mae at www.susiemae.net.*

***ABOUT CSLF** – The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation (CSLF) is a national, non-profit agency that administers, guarantees, and finances loans within the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and other alternative student loan programs. CSLF has over 40 years of experience providing assistance to students and parents seeking to finance a higher education. CSLF promotes access to higher education by helping families plan for and pursue their postsecondary education and by assuring that low-cost funding options remain available to eligible students and parents. Learn more about CSLF at www.cslf.com.*