

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: October 21, 2010 Contact: Gus Wales Phone Number: (225) 922-2029 E-mail: <u>gwales@osfa.la.gov</u>

LOSFA Surpasses 500,000 Outreach Attendees

BATON ROUGE – In September of 2010 the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) surpassed the half-million mark in the number of Louisiana students and parents who have attended outreach events since LOSFA began tracking attendance in 1999.

Since July 1, 1999, 524,117 Louisiana students and parents have attended LOSFA outreach presentations throughout the state.

"LOSFA's mission is to provide college access information to all citizens of Louisiana," said Executive Director, Melanie Amrhein. "Reaching the significant milestone of 500,000 attendees at LOSFA outreach events is evidence that we are achieving that mission," she added.

LOSFA administers an ever-growing assortment of state scholarship and grant programs including the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), the state's premiere merit based scholarship; the TOPS Tech Award Program, a merit based scholarship for students pursuing postsecondary vocational, technical or non-academic training or certification; the Louisiana Go Grant, the state's need-based grant program, the Early Start and TOPS Tech Early Start programs which fund dual enrollment in postsecondary credit courses while students are still in high school; the START Saving Program, Louisiana's 529 College Saving program; The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program for students majoring in Forestry, Wildlife or Marine Science; and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program, another need based program that provides a combination of state and federal funds to needy students.

Other available presentation topics include "Financial Literacy for You" (FLY) and "College Knowledge", an introduction to the myriad of available state, federal, institutional and private sources for funding postsecondary education geared to middle and early high school students.

LOSFA maintains a staff of Public Information representatives who are well versed on all of the above programs and are available year-round to make informational program presentations upon request at Louisiana high schools, middle schools, public libraries, civic association sponsored events, faith-based events, etc.

To schedule a LOSFA presentation, schools or student advocacy groups may call 1-800-259-5626, ext. 1012.