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Credit Union Student Choice Deepens Student Lending Expertise with New Hires

Washington, D.C. (July 7, 2009)—*Credit Union Student Choice*, a credit union service organization (CUSO) that provides turn-key private student lending services to more than 80 credit unions across the country, recently announced two key staff additions. Joining the company are Bill Pezzulli as Director of Product Development and Christopher Verleger as School Account Executive. With a combined 25 years of experience in student lending and higher education, Pezzulli and Verleger bring tremendous industry experience and insight to the CUSO.

“We’re thrilled that Bill and Chris have joined the *Student Choice* team,” said Jon Jeffreys, President of Credit Union Student Choice. “We’ve enjoyed incredible success thus far in developing our program, and as we add more and more credit unions and look to broaden and enhance our services to consumers, schools and credit unions, the product expertise and industry experience they bring to our company will be essential.”

Pezzulli joins *Student Choice* with more than 10 years of experience in developing innovative payment options to assist families while simultaneously providing schools with the ability to deliver customized options that meet the needs of both students and school-specific processes. As an operational manager and project lead for the Business Office Solutions Group, a Sallie Mae company, Pezzulli was instrumental in developing custom processes with internal teams to provide seamless customer service resolutions and quick turnaround times. In his role at *Credit Union Student Choice*, he will focus on product enhancements and new product development.

With more than 15 years of experience in higher education administration and student lending, Verleger joins *Student Choice* as School Account Executive. In this position, Chris will work directly with colleges to ensure the successful delivery of the Student Choice loan program. Most recently, he served as Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Previously, he worked as an Account Manager in the New England area for Sallie Mae Repayment Solutions and as an alternative loan Marketing Manager for the Midwestern region at The Education Resources Institute (TERI).

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About Credit Union Student Choice

Credit Union Student Choice is a credit union service organization (CUSO) founded in 2008 by several of the nation's leading credit unions and CUSOs. Credit Union Student Choice positions credit unions as leaders in education financing in the 21st century by redefining value for student borrowers and helping credit unions connect with new Gen Y members. The Student Choice network enables credit unions of all asset sizes and fields of membership to make private student loans that may be held on their own balance sheet to recognize the long-term economic return of the loan relationship versus a one-time referral fee. The CUSO helps credit unions by managing many of the challenges and risks commonly associated with student lending. Since launching in May 2008 with seven credit union partners, the CUSO has now grown to serve more than 80 credit unions across the country. It was also recognized in 2009 as a co-recipient of the prestigious NACUSO Collaboration and Innovation Award. To learn more or find out how your credit union can participate, visit www.studentchoice.org or call 800-237-5678 and ask for a Credit Union Student Choice representative.
