News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of St. Thomas to Participate in Direct Loan Program

HOUSTON (March 16, 2010) University of St. Thomas Students will see a significant change in the student loan program for federal loans in the 2010-2011 school year. UST will process all student loans through the Federal Direct Loan Program effective for the fall semester.

These low-interest loans help students and parents to pay for the cost of a student's college education. Direct Loans are generally offered as part of a larger financial aid award package. This marks a change in the funding source, not a student's eligibility for loans.

"Students will apply for loans directly from the Department of Education and not from a bank or other financial institution," said Lynda McKendree, dean of scholarships and financial aid "Direct Loans simplify the process of students receiving the funding they need for their education."

Loans can be used to cover education expenses including tuition, room and board, fees, books, supplies, equipment, dependent child care expenses, transportation and rental or purchase of a personal computer.

Benefits of Direct Loans

- Easy to apply at www.dlenote.ed.gov
- One-stop shop for information related to repayment available online at www.dl.ed.gov
- Various repayment options are available as well as calculators to determine loan payments under each option
- 24-hour access to your account information

All applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov The Office of Financial Aid will begin sending award letters with detailed instructions on how to apply for Direct Loans in late April.

For more information, call 713-525-2170 or visit stthom.edu/financialaid.