

Innovative Student Services a Priority at Laredo Community College

LCC to streamline refund distribution with help of Higher One's OneDisburse Refund Management

New Haven, CT – May 27, 2008 - Higher One, a financial services and payment company focused exclusively on higher education, announced today that it will partner with Laredo Community College to distribute refunds more efficiently to students.

“Providing quality and innovative student services is a top priority at Laredo Community College,” LCC President, Dr. Juan L. Maldonado, said. “With OneDisburse Refund Management, LCC is looking forward to enhancing services associated with the distribution of student financial aid refunds electronically, thus creating another unique benefit for our students.”

LCC joins the growing number of institutions of higher education that have begun working with Higher One. Since the start of this year, Higher One has reached agreements with 18 institutions around the country looking for a faster way to distribute refunds to students.

“LCC’s goal is to streamline the current process of disbursing financial aid refunds. This program will eliminate the need for students to stand in line for their financial aid refund checks and make the process more convenient and efficient for our students,” LCC Bursar Norma Cano said.

Higher One’s OneDisburse Refund Management service provides each student with a choice between three ways to receive a financial aid refund. The institution sends Higher One a flat file with each student’s name and refund amount and a corresponding wire for the total amount to be disbursed. Higher One then distributes the refunds to each student based on the method he or she chose.

In addition to the distribution of the refunds, Higher One provides the institution with marketing material to educate the students, collects and maintains student bank account numbers, bank routing numbers, and refund preferences, and handles all customer service associated with refund distribution.

“With Higher One, LCC expects to deliver financial aid refunds promptly and provide an electronic method of tracking previous and upcoming disbursements,” Cano said.

LCC will begin to issue refunds through Higher One during the fall semester of this year.

About LCC:

As Laredo Community College caps off the celebration of its 60th anniversary, the past and the future come together at the oldest and largest institute of higher education in Laredo, Texas.

At the end of World War II, the Laredo Independent School District created Laredo Junior College in 1947 on the site of historic Fort McIntosh to prepare returning soldiers for America's new workforce.

Today, the college is a two-campus district serving the diverse needs of a growing community. The 200-acre downtown campus, which is the Fort McIntosh Historic District, maintains its historic origins, with many classes and offices housed in the same buildings that once housed military troops.

Once the college district was created, it quickly grew into the premier location for higher education in the region. Recent history saw the name of Laredo Junior College change to Laredo Community College in 1993, and that wasn't the only change on the horizon. The new millennium brought the construction of world-class facilities such as the Joaquin G. Cigarroa Science Laboratory, the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, and the Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Fine Arts Center. But the biggest change in the college's history was yet to come.

In 2000, 83 percent of Laredo voters approved a bond for the construction of a new campus in Laredo's southern region. The affectionately named "South Campus" opened in 2004 with great fanfare, sporting contemporary architecture and state-of-the-art equipment and programs. The 60-acre campus nestled near the banks of the Rio Grande contains seven buildings, including an academic and advanced technology building, a state-of-the-art child development lab, and an indoor firing range.

While the college district remains dedicated to preserving the past, it's also marching into the 21st century with the latest advancements. Technology is infused in every aspect of the campus, from distance education classes to the college's new administrative and student support system coming online in 2008.

But buildings and technology are just the trappings of higher education -- it's the philosophy and the people behind it that drive true learning. That's why Laredo Community College has spearheaded the creation of Laredo's new Council for Educational Excellence, which is poised to lead this region into a new era of education. Such an undertaking will ensure that students of higher education in Laredo have all the necessary tools to succeed.

Student success is an integral part of the college's success. For four years running, the men's tennis team has brought home the national title. And for three years in a row, its

honors society has achieved top rankings nationally. The college also has the top jazz baritone saxophonist and 100 percent passing rates in nursing, allied health programs and protective services, to name a few.

About Higher One:

Founded in 2000, Higher One provides higher education institutions and their students with efficient, convenient and easy-to-use solutions to handle financial disbursements. These include: student refunds, on-campus and community purchases, payroll and employee expenses, as well as the collection of payments from students, parents, and sponsors.

Higher One offers a suite of online banking services including the OneAccount, an FDIC-insured checking account, and OneCard, a Debit MasterCard®. To date, Higher One has disbursed over \$4 billion dollars in refunds for its clients to more than 1,000,000 students, faculty, and staff at distinguished public and private higher education institutions throughout the country.

Higher One recently ranked # 85 on the 2007 Inc. List of the 500 Fastest Growing Companies in the United States. Higher One is based in New Haven, CT.