



Western Kentucky University chooses OneDisburse® Refund Management® to streamline refund distribution to students

WKU becomes the 19th client in Kentucky to partner with Higher One

New Haven, CT – September 21, 2009 - Higher One, a financial services and payment company focused exclusively on higher education, has been selected by Western Kentucky University, located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to electronically distribute financial aid refund disbursements to students.

Currently at WKU, refunds are distributed via paper check. Students who live in residence halls on campus pick up their financial aid residual checks from their residence hall director during the fall and spring semesters. Students who do not live on campus receive their checks in the mail at the address WKU has on file. This process wasn't meeting the needs of students, and as a result, WKU began looking for a better way.

"We began looking for ways to distribute refunds electronically as an enhanced service for students which will provide fast access to their refund dollars," explained Belinda Higginbotham, Bursar, at Western Kentucky University. "When looking, we wanted a program that would reduce the administrative costs and time associated with the printing of physical checks and related stop payments, reconciliations and other administrative processes."

WKU issued an RFP to Higher One in February of 2009. After an extensive reviewing process Higher One was awarded the contract in July of 2009. "Higher One was selected based upon its proven track record and well-established program for electronic refunds. Higher One specializes in higher education and is well-versed in the related federal and state regulations," stated Higginbotham.

With Higher One's service, WKU students will be mailed a co-branded card along with instructions on how to log onto Higher One's secure website to access their account and verify their email and primary mailing addresses. From this point, the student then has the option to select how they prefer their refund disbursement to be made. These options include two electronic options: direct deposit to the OneAccount, an optional, no minimum balance, no monthly fee, FDIC-Insured checking account provided by Higher One, and an ACH transfer to a bank account of the student's choice. In addition, WKU is also providing their students with the option of receiving their refund disbursement via paper check.

"We expect OneDisburse Refund Management will improve our students experience in receiving their refunds and will ultimately create efficiency for the University," stated Higginbotham.

WKU plans to issue their first refunds through Higher One in January of 2010.



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 \$8.1 billion dollars in refunds for its clients to more than 2 Million students, faculty, and staff at over 310 distinguished public and private higher education institutions throughout the country.

About Western Kentucky University:

Founded in 1906, Western Kentucky University is Kentucky's third largest university with a projected enrollment of more than 20,000 for fall 2009. WKU has traditionally been the largest producer of teachers in Kentucky and now offers a doctorate in Educational Leadership for educators and those who lead in the non-profit sector. WKU supplies hospitals with nurses and provides needed services for those on the Autism spectrum. The Gordon Ford College of Business at WKU produces CPAs, MBAs and business managers. WKU graduates go on to medical, dental and veterinary schools at a very high rate of success. WKU students and faculty are more engaged than ever with community partners, and more are pursuing opportunities to expand their educational experience internationally as well. WKU strives to be a leading American University with International Reach. For more information, visit www.wku.edu.

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