



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GradReady Offers New App to Help Organizations and Students Better Manage Education Financing

NorthStar's Debt-O-Meter keeps students on top of their financial game while helping organizations reach business goals tied to affordability, gainful employment, default management and so much more.

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ST. PAUL, Minn. – August 31, 2010. Student debt has become an enormous issue for students, schools, lenders, and Washington. Experts estimate that there is \$605.6 billion in outstanding federal student loans and another \$167.8 billion in outstanding private student loans. From these figures come the stories of students crushed by debt leaving many to ponder the value of post secondary degree programs. And yet this very situation is leading some organizations to change how they do business.

For schools, lenders, and post-secondary access and completion programs, NorthStar offers GradReady, an in-school financial-literacy system designed to help students understand how to fund an education, manage their finances, and prepare for repayment.

GradReady offers customizable tools that help students organize and understand their student loan borrowing and better prepare for the future. In addition, personalized apps, tutorials, and tests help students stay on track for debt repayment and give administrators the unique ability to proactively monitor student financial-literacy comprehension and intervene before at-risk students become a statistic.

GradReady also provides both the financial control and personalized features today's students crave. The Debt-O-Meter, GradReady's newest app, lets students evaluate their anticipated debt and income so they can plan accordingly. The easy-to-use, real-time financial literacy tools not only serve to help organizations monitor student indebtedness --they help to empower students, enrich their learning experience, and prove the affordability and financial rewards of higher education.

Key Points:

- GradReady is customizable to meet the needs of the organization and its students. This includes the curriculum (money skills lessons) and personalized apps – budget, financial contacts, loan tracking, and Debt-O-Meter.
- The Administration portal lets organizations track engagement, monitor comprehension, and assess risks by reporting the results of student interaction.
- GradReady students gain must-have insight and resources to help them borrow responsibly, manage their in-school finances, and plan for repayment – no surprises.

To learn more about this innovative product visit www.gradready.com or call 1-866-315-9113.

About NorthStar Capital Markets

NorthStar Education Services is a suite of products created to help schools, nonprofits, lenders and other organizations better serve their students in higher education. NorthStar Education Services is offered by NorthStar Capital Market Services based in St. Paul, MN. NorthStar holds \$6.15 billion in assets and currently manages a \$643 million private loan portfolio with 25,100 borrowers.