## Sallie Mae, Independence Federal Launch \$45 Million Loan Plan for Minority Students

The Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae), Independence Federal Savings Bank, and the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges (OAPBC) today announced inauguration of a \$45 million assured access plan to make student loans available to minority students.

The plan, which will be operated by Independence Federal with financial and systems support from Sallie Mae, is being implemented to assure availability of student loans to the 130.000 students attending the 35 colleges which are members of the Office for the Advancement of

**Public Black Colleges** (OAPBC). Officials of the institutions offering the plan estimate that the funding will provide about 15,000 education loans to minority students over the next four years.

partnership "This brings together Sallie Mae's expertise in financing student credit and Independence Federal's experience in minority lending. Working with OAPBC, we hope to dramatically increase access to student loans deserving among minority students," said Oliver R. Sockwell, Sallie Mae Senior Vice President, Secondary Market Operations.

"The \$45 million in loan administration. funding represents the largest financing Sallie Mae has ever provided for a minority-oriented banking institution," Sockwell stated.

Under the new plan, student loans will be originated by Independence Federal, a minority-oriented bank. Sallie Mae has provided Independence with both a \$15 million line of credit to finance plan start-up and a \$30 million commitment to purchase loans originated under the plan over the next come to us for guaran-Sallie Mae has provided Independence with a computer system which will facilitate efficient

"As a bank committed to providing credit to the minority community, Independence Federal is excited at the prospect of being able to offer a much needed service to minority students around the nation," said William Fitzgerald, Sr., President of Independence. "With the substantial commitment for a stable source of financing from Sallie Mae, we are confident we can meet the financial needs of all students who four years. In addition, teed student loans under the plan," he stated.

The Office for the Advancement of Black PubUnited Negro College Fund are providing training and administrative support to schools in support of the plan. Students at member schools of the OAPBC may obtain applications from their schools' financial aid officers or by contacting Independence Federal directly.

Dr. Joyce Payne, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges, noted that "this program reinforces the continued commitment of historically black public colleges to educational opportunity and creates a viable alternative for students who too often face compounding financial barriers. The colleges are excited about the potential of the program as well as the opportunity to work with the cooperating organizations."

Guaranteed student loans provide underschool students with up markets.

lic Colleges and the to \$2,500 and \$5,000, respectively, in financing annually. The loans are made by public or private lending institutions and are reinsured by the federal government. GSLs originated under the OAPBC Assured Access plan will be insured by the Higher Education Assistance Foundation, a non-profit guarantor institution.

Sallie Mae is the major financial intermediary serving the education credit market. By buying student loans and providing other financial services to financial and educational institutions, Sallie Mae replenishes local supplies of student credit. Last year the corporation provided \$2.6 billion in funds and commitments for student loans nationwide. Sallie Mae, whose stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, raises funds to provide these services by borrowing in graduate and graduate the nation's capital

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