



**Oklahoma City Community College Becomes First Institution in Oklahoma to Issue Refunds Electronically through Higher One's OneDisburse® Refund Management®**

*Students to receive money faster and with more choice*

**New Haven, CT – July 31, 2008** - Higher One, a financial services and payment company focused exclusively on higher education, announced it will partner with Oklahoma City Community College to distribute refunds electronically to the College's 12,500 students.

"We were looking for ways to speed up and simplify our refund process and provide better services to our student population," said Gary A. Lombard, Vice President for Human Resources and Support Services at OCCC.

Higher One provides students with a choice of up to three different ways to receive their financial aid refunds from the school: Direct deposit to a no minimum balance, no monthly fee, FDIC-Insured checking account provided by Higher One, an ACH transfer to another bank account, or a paper check mailed to the address on file.

The increased choice students have as part of the OneDisburse® Refund Management® program was one of the main reasons OCCC decided to partner with Higher One.

"Higher One was the only solution that addressed every issue we were trying to address; guaranteed bank accounts for all students including those who might otherwise be considered unbankable, the ability for students to make their own choices regarding their refunds, and manage those choices 7 days a week, if they so desire," explained Brandi Henson, Bursar at OCCC.

Recently the Department of Education made changes to the regulations surrounding the distribution of Title IV funds to encourage electronic delivery. OCCC, like many other institutions of higher education around the country, wanted to embrace electronic distribution of refunds but would not do so at the expense of the students who did not have a bank account.

In addition to ensuring that all students had access to the two electronic means of receiving their refunds, OCCC wanted to make sure that the College was not taking on any additional work. Building an internally managed ACH program would have done just that, as the College would have had to collect and secure student banking information.

"The College did not want to take on banking functions. Also, an in house ACH program would not have allowed us to provide for our students with no bank accounts," stated Henson.

Higher One collects, maintains, and secures all student banking information, educates students on the process, distributes refunds to students based on their preferences, handles any bounced ACH payments or returned checks, and fields any refund related customer service inquiries.

As more institutions of higher education around the country are searching for ways to keep operating costs down, Higher One has seen increased interest in its OneDisburse Refund Management service. Higher One welcomed a record 22 colleges and universities to its ever expanding client list during the second quarter of this year.

Administrators at OCCC are looking forward to streamlining the process of distributing these funds as well as bringing better service to students at the College when the first refunds are disbursed through Higher One this fall.

“We are excited to bring faster and improved refund services to our students, as well as bank accounts for those who need them,” said Lombard. “This will be a tremendous increase in services to our students without increased costs that has been successfully implemented in more than 120 colleges and universities nationwide. We are excited to be the first to implement this comprehensive solution to refund services in Oklahoma.”

**About Oklahoma City Community College:**

Oklahoma City Community College is the fifth largest higher education institution in Oklahoma with an annual enrollment of more than 19,500 students. Considered a landmark in the southwestern section of Oklahoma City, the college is situated on 143-acres just south of Interstate 240 on South May Avenue. Founded in 1972, the OCCC was established on the belief that everyone deserves an opportunity for a college education. A progressive two-year college, Oklahoma City Community College offers 50 associate degree programs and numerous certificates of mastery. With a student-faculty ratio of 20 to 1, the college maintains a passion for providing one of the best instructional systems in the country. OCCC is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges.

**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, OneCard, a Debit MasterCard® and OnePay, a service that allows electronic collection of tuition and fee payments. Higher One was recently ranked # 12 on Entrepreneur Magazine’s 2008 Hot 100 List. Higher One is based in New Haven, CT.

---

**Media Contacts:**

Melissa Kanter/Kelly Rohrs  
Edelman  
212.704.8261/212.704.8265  
Melissa.kanter@edelman.com / kelly.rohrs@edelman.com