



## **Butler County Community College Partners with Higher One to Deliver Refund Payments to Students Faster**

### *Higher One adds to growing list of clients in Pennsylvania*

**New Haven, CT – August 5, 2008** - Higher One, a financial services and payment company focused exclusively on higher education, announced today it has been selected by Butler County Community College (BC3) to streamline and speed up the refund distribution process at the Institution.

“In meeting with both finance staff members and financial aid administrators, it became apparent that the college needed to invest institutional resources in the purchase of a system that would enable the college to disburse student refunds electronically,” explained James Hrabosky, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Butler County Community College. “The current system of manually printing checks was very cumbersome, costly in terms of both supplies and labor hours, and most importantly, not very convenient to our students who needed immediate access to funds to pay for necessary school supplies, books and living expenses. School leaders also recognized how using Higher One could, in fact, assist in meeting one of the college’s most important goals—putting the needs, concerns, and success of its students first.”

Administrators at BC3 decided to partner with Higher One as a result of positive feedback they received from other Pennsylvania colleges including Harrisburg Area Community College, Northampton Community College, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

As a result of this partnership, students will have a choice of up to three different ways to receive a financial aid refund from the College: direct deposit to the OneAccount, 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 an address on file.

“We love the fact that we can offer optional checking accounts with ATM access to our students,” Hrabosky said. “The program will, thus, assist our students develop vital personal financial decision-making skills that they can use as consumers, savers, investors, productive workers and ultimately successful participants in the ever-changing global economy.”

Higher One has issued over \$4.65 billion in refunds to over 2 million college students since the company’s inception. This experience in addition to the fact that Higher One is focused exclusively on colleges and universities separated Higher One’s OneDisburse® Refund Management® from other ways to distribute refunds.

“We never actually ever considered building or running our own ACH program but we did have discussions with our local banking institution,” stated Hrabosky. “We realized the fact managing an ACH process would just be too overwhelming—both in financial resources and technological

resources. We also felt that the college would be prone to errors and/or inaccuracies in doing something in which we are not experts at.”

Students will be able to receive their refunds faster beginning this fall when BC3 issues refunds through Higher One for the first time.

“We feel that our partnership with Higher One is a win, win situation,” said Hrabosky. “We are hoping to realize ‘real’ cost savings while at the same time, we are hoping to increase student satisfaction with how student refunds are disbursed. The college is committed to fostering a supportive environment and improving its support services. Students will be given the opportunity to manage their own banking account and will have quicker access to their money all while reducing the hassle of processing a paper check. The college benefits from improved operations, less reliance on paper, and reduced labor time needed to keep track of the hundreds of checks that are sent to students annually from our finance office.”

#### **About Butler County Community College:**

For over 40 years, Butler County Community College (BC3) located in Butler, Pennsylvania, has been the "The Smart Place to Start" for more than 100,000 students. BC3 offers 63 associate degree, career, and transfer programs in liberal arts, business, nursing and allied health and technology. The College serves students in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties both in the traditional classroom and online. As a student-centered institution, BC3 is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible education, training, and cultural enrichment opportunities responsive to the needs of the community. Students can earn an associate degree and enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year college or university to continue their education. To learn more about BC3, visit [bc3.edu](http://bc3.edu).

#### **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.

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