

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

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National Student Clearinghouse® Receives 7th Annual Work-Life Balance Award from Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP

Herndon, Virginia, October 24, 2012 – During October’s National Work and Family Month, the National Student Clearinghouse became the recipient of the Annual Work-Life Balance Award from national labor and employment law firm Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP, which recognizes companies that create work environments conducive to work-life balance.

A panel of judges from the firm selected the National Student Clearinghouse because of the programs in place that allow for a solid work-life balance. A few of the creative programs the Clearinghouse offers are surprise holidays, full-time benefits and pay for those working 30 or more hours a week, free Lands’ End clothing, an employee recognition committee that recognizes exceptional performance, and many other offerings. To support personal wellness, the National Student Clearinghouse also provides an onsite fitness center, flexible hours, telecommuting, and employee wellness programs.

Work-life balance programs are very beneficial for employees and according to the U.S. President’s Study of American Work-Life (March 2010), the programs “can reduce turnover and improve recruitment, increasing the productivity of an employer’s workforce. These practices are also associated with improved employee health and decreased absenteeism, a major cost for employers.” Cynthia Calvert, a principal of CT Calvert & Associates and an award judge, stated that “Several factors pushed its application to the top of my list, including flexible schedules with benefits available to part-time as well as full-time employees, full- and part-time telecommuting, and the lack of flexibility stigma.”

“We had some great candidates this year, but the National Student Clearinghouse won my top vote because their emphasis on work-life fit seemed to reach to their very core,” said Kate Lister, the principal researcher at the Telework Research Network, who also served as a judge. The Clearinghouse was awarded with \$1,000 to donate to the nonprofit of its choice. It chose to match the award, giving a total donation of \$2,000 to [Foster Care to Success](#) in Sterling, Virginia, the oldest and largest national nonprofit organization working solely with college-bound foster youth.

“I am honored, on behalf of the National Student Clearinghouse, to accept this award, which is especially meaningful as we approach our 20th anniversary in 2013,” says Ricardo Torres, CEO of the National Student Clearinghouse. “Our employees have never been as critical to our success as they are today. It is only through their hard work and commitment that we can continue to fulfill our mission of service to the education community, their students, and the thousands of other organizations that

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depend on our services. Bringing talented people together and creating a work environment that allows them to aspire and thrive is the best way to inspire excellence and innovation. Our flexible work schedules and generous benefits provide for health and financial stability, education and professional development, and a good measure of fun. As the Clearinghouse enters its next decade, we will continue to look for ways to enable our employees to enjoy the work-life balance that they deserve, while delivering a very high level of service to the education community. Many thanks to Constangy, Brooks & Smith for promoting work-life balance and for this recognition of our efforts.”

About the National Student Clearinghouse

The National Student Clearinghouse (a nonprofit formed in 1993) is the unique and trusted source for higher education enrollment and degree verifications. The Clearinghouse serves as a single point of contact for the collection and timely exchange of accurate and comprehensive enrollment, degree, and certificate records on behalf of its more than 3,300 participating higher education institutions, which represent 96 percent of all students in public and private U.S. institutions. The Clearinghouse also provides thousands of high schools and districts with continuing collegiate enrollment, progression, and completion statistics on their alumni.

Through its verification and reporting services, the Clearinghouse saves the education community cumulatively nearly four hundred million dollars annually. Most Clearinghouse services are provided to colleges and universities at little or no charge, including enhanced transcript and research services, enabling institutions to redistribute limited staff and budget resources to more important student service efforts. Clearinghouse services are designed to facilitate an institution’s compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, The Higher Education Act, and other applicable laws.

In addition, the Clearinghouse provides accurate, timely enrollment and degree verifications to student loan providers, employers, student credit issuers, the U.S. Department of Education, and others who access its registry more than half a billion times annually.

For more information, visit www.studentclearinghouse.org.

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