

NELNET INC  
Form 10-K  
February 27, 2014

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K  
(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to .

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-31924

NELNET, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEBRASKA

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

84-0748903

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

121 SOUTH 13TH STREET

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

68508

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (402) 458-2370

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

TITLE OF EACH CLASS: Class A Common Stock, Par Value \$0.01 per Share

NAME OF EACH EXCHANGE ON WHICH REGISTERED: New York Stock Exchange

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting

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company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the registrant’s voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 28, 2013 (the last business day of the registrant’s most recently completed second fiscal quarter), based upon the closing sale price of the registrant’s Class A Common Stock on that date of \$36.09 per share, was \$940,529,761. For purposes of this calculation, the registrant’s directors, executive officers, and greater than 10 percent shareholders are deemed to be affiliates.

As of January 31, 2014, there were 34,879,315 and 11,495,377 shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding, respectively (excluding 11,317,364 shares of Class A Common Stock held by wholly owned subsidiaries).

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the registrant’s definitive Proxy Statement to be filed for its 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled to be held May 22, 2014, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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## FORWARD-LOOKING AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking statements and information that are based on management's current expectations as of the date of this document. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about the Company's plans and expectations for future financial condition, results of operations or economic performance, or that address management's plans and objectives for future operations, and statements that assume or are dependent upon future events, are forward-looking statements. The words "may," "should," "could," "would," "predict," "potential," "continue," "expect," "anticipate," "future," "intend," "plan," "believe," "estimate," "assume," "forecast," "will," and similar expressions, as well as in future tense, are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and analyses made by management in light of management's experience and its perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments, and other factors that management believes are appropriate under the circumstances. These statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions, and other factors that may cause the actual results and performance to be materially different from any future results or performance expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors include, among others, the risks and uncertainties set forth in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this report, and include such risks and uncertainties as:

- student loan portfolio risks such as interest rate basis and repricing risk resulting from the fact that the interest rate characteristics of the student loan assets do not match the interest rate characteristics of the funding for those assets, the risk of loss of floor income on certain student loans originated under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (the "FFEL Program" or "FFELP"), risks related to the use of derivatives to manage exposure to interest rate fluctuations, and risks from changes in levels of student loan prepayment or default rates;

- financing and liquidity risks, including risks of changes in the general interest rate environment and in the securitization and other financing markets for student loans, which may increase the costs or limit the availability of financings necessary to purchase, refinance, or continue to hold student loans;

- risks from changes in the educational credit and services markets resulting from changes in applicable laws, regulations, and government programs and budgets, such as the expected decline over time in FFELP loan interest income and fee-based revenues due to the discontinuation of new FFELP loan originations in 2010 and potential government initiatives to consolidate existing FFELP loans to the Federal Direct Loan Program, risks related to the expected reduction in government payments to guaranty agencies to rehabilitate defaulted FFELP loans and services in support of those activities, risks related to the availability of government funds and actual extension of the Company's loan servicing contract with the U.S. Department of Education (the "Department"), which accounted for 23 percent of the Company's fee-based revenue in 2013, for an additional five years, and the Company's ability to maintain or increase volumes under that contract, and the Company's ability to comply with agreements with third-party customers for the servicing of FFELP and Federal Direct Loan Program loans;

- risks related to a breach of or failure in the Company's operational or information systems or infrastructure, or those of third-party vendors;

- uncertainties inherent in forecasting future cash flows from student loan assets and related asset-backed securitizations; and

- risks and uncertainties associated with litigation matters and with maintaining compliance with the extensive regulatory requirements applicable to the Company's business, and uncertainties inherent in the estimates and assumptions about future events that management is required to make in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements.

All forward-looking statements contained in this report are qualified by these cautionary statements and are made only as of the date of this document. Although the Company may from time to time voluntarily update or revise its prior forward-looking statements to reflect actual results or changes in the Company's expectations, the Company disclaims any commitment to do so except as required by securities laws.

## PART I.

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### Overview

Nelnet, Inc. (the "Company") is an education services company focused primarily on providing fee-based processing services and quality education-related products and services in four core areas: asset management and finance, loan servicing, payment processing, and enrollment services (education planning). These products and services help students and families plan, prepare, and pay for their education and make the administrative and financial processes more efficient for schools and financial organizations. In addition, the Company earns interest income on a portfolio of federally insured student loans. Substantially all revenue from external customers is earned, and all long-lived assets are located, in the United States.

The Company was formed as a Nebraska corporation in 1978 to service federal student loans for two local banks. The Company built on this initial foundation as a servicer to become a leading originator, holder, and servicer of federal student loans, principally consisting of loans originated under the FFEL Program (a detailed description of the FFEL Program is included in Appendix A to this report).

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (the "Reconciliation Act of 2010") eliminated new loan originations under the FFEL Program effective July 1, 2010 and requires that all new federal student loan originations be made through the Federal Direct Loan Program. This law does not alter or affect the terms and conditions of existing FFELP loans.

As a result of the Reconciliation Act of 2010, the Company no longer originates new FFELP loans. However, a significant portion of the Company's income continues to be derived from its existing FFELP student loan portfolio and other FFELP service offerings. Interest income on the Company's existing FFELP loan portfolio, as well as fee-based revenue from FFELP guaranty and third-party servicing, will decline over time as the Company's and the Company's third-party lender clients' FFELP loan portfolios are paid down. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had a \$25.9 billion student loan portfolio that will amortize over the next approximately 20 years.

To reduce its reliance on interest income on student loans, the Company has significantly diversified and increased its fee-based education-related services. In June 2009, the Company was awarded a contract to service Federal Direct Loans for the Department. As of December 31, 2013, the Company was servicing more than \$110 billion of student loans for more than 5.3 million borrowers on behalf of the Department. In addition, the Company believes there will be opportunities to purchase additional FFELP loan portfolios from current FFELP participants looking to adjust their FFELP businesses, which will generate incremental earnings and cash flow.

#### Recent Developments

Effective January 1, 2014, the Company separated the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") for the Company, and in connection therewith Michael S. Dunlap, formerly Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Company, became Executive Chairman of the Board, and Jeffrey R. Noordhoek, formerly President of the Company, was appointed as the new CEO. In connection with this management transition, the following changes to the Company's executive officers also became effective January 1, 2014:

- Terry J. Heimes, formerly the Company's Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Company;
-

Timothy A. Tewes, formerly an Executive Director of the Company and CEO of Nelnet Business Solutions, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, was appointed President of the Company; and

James D. Kruger, formerly an Executive Director and Controller of the Company, was appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Company.

#### Customers

The Company serves several different groups of customers, including:

• Students and families

• Colleges and universities, specifically financial aid, business, and admissions offices

Private, faith-based, and other K-12 schools  
Lenders, servicers, and state agencies in education finance  
Government entities

An increase in the size of the education market generally increases the demand for the Company's products and services. As shown in the chart below, total student enrollment is projected to continue to grow for many years. An increasing number of students are pursuing a higher education, often with the help of financial aid by the federal government, for whom the Company services loans. In addition, as the education market continues to grow, often with budget and funding concerns, schools at all levels have an increasing need to become more efficient, offer consistent and quality services, and recruit and retain students.

(1) Source: Digest of Education Statistics 2012, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, December 2013, NCES 2014-015

### Operating Segments

The Company operates as four distinct operating segments with several different brands. The Company's operating segments offer a broad range of services designed to simplify education planning and financing for students and families and the administrative and financial processes for schools and financial institutions. The Company's reportable operating segments include:

#### Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing

Referred to as Nelnet Diversified Solutions (“NDS”)

Focuses on student loan servicing, student loan servicing-related technology solutions, and outsourcing services for guaranty agencies and other entities

Includes the brands Nelnet Loan Servicing, Firstmark Services, Nelnet Guarantor Solutions, 5280 Solutions, Responsible Repay, CampusGuard, and Proxi

#### Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce

Commonly known as Nelnet Business Solutions (“NBS”)

Focuses on tuition payment plans and online payment and refund processing

Includes the brand FACTS Management

#### Enrollment Services

Commonly called Nelnet Enrollment Solutions (“NES”)

Focuses on education planning and enrollment-related services, including inquiry generation and management

Includes the brands CUnet, Peterson's, EssayEdge, and Sparkroom

#### Asset Generation and Management

Includes the acquisition and management of the Company's student loan assets

### Segment Operating Results

The Company's operating segments are defined by the products and services they offer or the types of customers they serve, and they reflect the manner in which financial information is currently evaluated by management. The Company includes separate financial information about its operating segments, including revenues, net income or loss, and total assets for each of the Company's segments, for the last three fiscal years in note 13 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report.





## Fee-Based Operating Segments

### Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing

The primary service offerings of this operating segment include:

- Servicing federally-owned student loans for the Department
- Servicing FFELP loans
- Originating and servicing non-federally insured student loans
- Servicing and outsourcing services for FFELP guaranty agencies, including FFELP guaranty collection services
  - Providing student loan servicing software and other information technology products and services

As of December 31, 2013, the Company serviced \$138.2 billion of student loans for almost 7 million borrowers. See Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing Operating Segment - Results of Operations - Student Loan Servicing Volumes" for additional information related to the Company's servicing volume.

The elimination of new FFELP originations in July 2010 will cause the FFELP-related revenue streams in this operating segment to decline as FFELP loan portfolios are paid down. A description of each service offering follows.

#### Servicing federally-owned student loans for the Department of Education

The Company is one of four private sector companies (referred to as Title IV Additional Servicers, or "TIVAS"), awarded a student loan servicing contract by the Department in June 2009 to provide additional servicing capacity for loans owned by the Department. These loans include Federal Direct Loan Program loans originated directly by the Department and FFEL Program loans purchased by the Department. The Company earns a monthly fee from the Department for each unique borrower who has loans owned by the Department and serviced by the Company. In September 2009, the Department began assigning purchased FFELP loans to the four servicers, and beginning in 2010, the Department began allocating new loan volume among the TIVAS based on the following five performance metrics.

Three metrics measure the satisfaction among separate customer groups, including borrowers, financial aid personnel at postsecondary schools participating in federal student loan programs, and Federal Student Aid and other federal agency personnel or contractors who work with the servicers.

Two performance metrics measure the success of default prevention efforts as reflected by the percentage of borrowers and percentage of dollars in each servicer's portfolio that go into default.

Pursuant to the contract terms, the maximum volume allocation any servicer can be awarded is 40 percent of new borrowers in that contract year. The following table shows the Company's annual ranking and percent of new loan volume allocated to the Company:

Contract year	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Nelnet's overall ranking (out of the four TIVAS)	4	4	1	1
Allocation percent	16%	16%	30%	30%
Allocation period				

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August 15, 2010 - August 14, 2011	August 15, 2011 - August 14, 2012	August 15, 2012 - August 14, 2013	August 15, 2013 - August 14, 2014
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The Department has projected that it will originate new loans for approximately 3.1 million borrowers in total during the fifth year of this contract.

The Department servicing contract expires in June 2014, with a five-year extension at the option of the Department.

On October 25, 2013, the Company received a letter from the Department notifying the Company of the Department's intent to exercise its optional ordering period to extend the contract for an additional five years through June 2019, with actual extension subject to the availability of government funds. As of December 31, 2013, the Company was servicing \$110.5 billion of loans for 5.3 million borrowers under this contract.

Incremental revenue components earned by the Company from the Department (in addition to loan servicing revenues) include:

Administration of the Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) Discharge program. The Company processes applications for the TPD Discharge program and is responsible for discharge, monitoring, and servicing of TPD loans. Individuals who are totally and permanently disabled may qualify for a discharge of their federal student loans, and the Company processes applications under the program and receives a fee from the Department on a per application basis, as well as a monthly servicing fee. The Company is the exclusive provider of this service to the Department. Origination of consolidation loans. Beginning in 2014, the Department implemented a new process to outsource the origination of consolidation loans whereby each of the four TIVAS receives Direct Loan consolidation origination volume based on borrower choice. The Department will pay the Company a fee for each completed consolidation loan application it processes. The Company will service the Direct Loan consolidation volume it originates. The Department is the Company's largest fee-based customer, representing 23 percent of the Company's fee-based revenue in 2013.

#### Servicing FFELP loans

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment provides for the servicing of the Company's student loan portfolio and the portfolios of third parties. The loan servicing activities include loan conversion activities, application processing, borrower updates, customer service, payment processing, due diligence procedures, funds management reconciliations, and claim processing. These activities are performed internally for the Company's portfolio, in addition to generating external fee revenue when performed for third-party clients.

The Company's student loan servicing division uses proprietary systems to manage the servicing process. These systems provide for automated compliance with most of the federal student loan regulations adopted under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the "Higher Education Act").

The Company serviced FFELP loans on behalf of 46 third-party servicing customers as of December 31, 2013. The Company's FFELP servicing customers include national and regional banks, credit unions, and various state and non-profit secondary markets. The majority of the Company's external FFELP loan servicing activities are performed under "life of loan" contracts. Life of loan contract servicing essentially provides that as long as the loan exists, the Company shall be the sole servicer of that loan; however, the agreement may contain "deconversion" provisions where, for a fee, the lender may move the loan to another servicer.

#### Originating and servicing non-federally insured student loans

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment conducts origination and servicing activities for non-federally insured loans. Although similar in terms of activities and functions as FFELP servicing (i.e., disbursement processing, application processing, payment processing, customer service, statement distribution, and reporting), non-federally insured loan servicing activities are not required to comply with provisions of the Higher Education Act and may be more customized to individual client requirements. The Company serviced non-federally insured loans on behalf of 25 third-party servicing customers as of December 31, 2013.

#### Servicing and outsourcing services for FFELP guaranty agencies, including FFELP guaranty collection services

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment provides servicing support for guaranty agencies, which serve as intermediaries between the Department and FFELP lenders, and are responsible for paying the claims made on defaulted loans. The Department has designated approximately 30 guarantors that have been formed as either state agencies or non-profit corporations that provide FFELP guaranty services in one or more states. Approximately half of these guarantors contract externally for operational or technology services. The services provided by the Company include providing software and data center services, borrower and loan updates, default aversion services, claim processing services, and post-default collection services.

The Company's three guaranty servicing customers are Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, College Assist (which is the Colorado state-designated guarantor of FFELP student loans), and the National Student Loan Program.

A significant portion of guaranty servicing revenue earned by the Company relates to rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans (collection services). In December 2013, President Obama signed a federal budget agreement passed by Congress that includes provisions for the reduction of payments by the Department to guaranty agencies for assisting student loan borrowers with the rehabilitation of defaulted loans under FFELP, which will become effective on July 1, 2014. These provisions reduce the amount

guaranty agencies retain upon successful rehabilitation from 37 percent to 16 percent of the loan balance. The Company earns revenue from rehabilitating defaulted FFELP student loans on behalf of guaranty agencies. The decrease in the retention percent earned by guaranty agencies will negatively impact the Company's guaranty collections revenue, and the Company believes there will not be a substantial decrease in costs incurred to earn this revenue. During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company recognized \$54.2 million in revenue from rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans for guaranty agencies. The Company anticipates that guaranty agencies will reduce their level of FFELP student loan rehabilitation activities in response to the reduced payment framework.

#### Providing student loan servicing software and other information technology products and services

The Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing operating segment provides student loan servicing software, which is used internally by the Company and licensed to third-party student loan holders and servicers. These software systems have been adapted so that they can be offered as hosted servicing software solutions that can be used by third-parties to service various types of student loans, including Private, Federal Direct Loan Program, and FFEL Program loans. The Company earns a monthly fee from its remote hosting customers for each unique borrower on the Company's platform, with a minimum monthly charge for most contracts. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, 1.9 million and 6.9 million borrowers, respectively, were hosted on the Company's hosted servicing software solution platforms. A contract with a significant remote hosted customer expired in December 2013 and the number of remote hosted borrowers decreased from this customer throughout 2013 as this customer's loan volume was transferred to other servicers. The Company received a portion of these transfers, which has increased the number of full-service borrowers under the Department's servicing contract.

In addition, this operating segment has historically provided information technology products and services, with core areas of business in educational loan software solutions, technical consulting services, enterprise content management solutions, and outsourcing and back office support services. However, the elimination of new loan originations under the FFEL Program has reduced these service offerings over the past few years.

#### Competition

The Company's scalable servicing platform allows it to provide compliant, efficient, and reliable service at a low cost, giving the Company a competitive advantage over others in the industry for all of this segment's services, which are discussed below.

#### Loan servicing

The principal competitor for existing and prospective FFELP and non-federally insured student loan servicing business is SLM Corporation, the parent company of Sallie Mae. Sallie Mae is the largest for-profit provider of servicing functions, as well as one of the largest service providers for non-federally insured student loans. In contrast to its competitors, the Company has segmented its non-federally insured loan servicing on a distinct platform, created specifically to meet the needs of non-federally insured student loan borrowers, their families, the schools they attend, and the lenders who serve them. This ensures access to specialized teams with a dedicated focus on servicing these borrowers.

With the elimination of new loan originations under the FFEL Program, four servicers, including the Company, were named by the Department as servicers of federally owned loans. The three competitors for gaining future servicing volume from the Department are Great Lakes Educational Loan Services Inc. ("Great Lakes"), Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency ("PHEAA"), and Sallie Mae.

In addition, non-profit organizations were authorized in 2012 to begin servicing loans for up to 100,000 borrower accounts on behalf of the Department. As of December 31, 2013, there are 33 non-profit organizations servicing loans on behalf of the Department. The ability of the non-profit organizations to retain or increase their borrower accounts will depend on their ability to maintain compliance and meet performance requirements under their agreement with the Department. The Company currently licenses its hosted servicing software to 13 non-profit organizations. PHEAA is the only other TIVAS servicer offering a hosted Federal Direct Loan Program servicing solution to non-profit servicers.

#### Guaranty servicing

With the elimination of new loan originations under the FFEL Program, services provided to guaranty agencies will continue for agencies' existing portfolios. The Company currently anticipates continuing to serve its existing guaranty customers as their portfolios pay down, but does not expect to increase the number of its guaranty servicing customers.

## Software and technology

The Company is one of the leaders in the development of servicing software for FFELP, Federal Direct Loan Program, and non-federally insured student loans. Many student loan lenders utilize the Company's software either directly or indirectly. Management believes the Company's competitors in this segment are much smaller than the Company and do not have the depth of knowledge, experience, or products offered by the Company. In addition, the Company believes the investments it has made to scale its systems and to create a secure infrastructure to support the Department's servicing volume and requirements increase its competitive advantage as a long-term partner in the remote servicing market.

## Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce

The Company's Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce operating segment provides products and services to help students and families manage the payment of education costs at all levels (K-12 and higher education). It also provides innovative education-focused technologies, services, and support solutions to help schools with the everyday challenges of collecting and processing commerce data. See Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce Operating Segment - Results of Operations" for a discussion of the seasonality of the business in this operating segment.

## K-12

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the K-12 market consists of over 18,000 private and faith-based education institutions with over 50 students enrolled in the 2009-2010 academic year, the most current data available. In the K-12 market, the Company offers tuition management services, as well as assistance with financial needs assessment and donor management.

The Company is the market leader, having actively managed tuition payment plans in place at over 4,900 K-12 educational institutions. Tuition management services include payment plan administration, incidental billing, accounts receivable management, and record keeping. K-12 educational institutions contract with the Company to administer deferred payment plans that allow families to make monthly payments over 6 to 12 months. The Company collects a fee from either the institution or the payer as an administration fee.

The Company's financial needs assessment service, which serves over 4,300 private, faith-based schools, helps K-12 schools evaluate and determine the amount of financial aid to disburse to the families it serves. The Company's donor services allow schools to assess and deliver strategic fundraising solutions using the latest technology.

## Higher Education

The higher education market consists of nearly 4,500 colleges and universities. The Company offers two principal products to the higher education market: actively managed tuition payment plans, and campus commerce technologies and payment processing.

The Company has actively managed tuition payment plans in place at approximately 630 colleges and universities. Higher education institutions contract with the Company to administer payment plans that allow the student and family to make monthly payments on either a semester or annual basis. The Company collects a fee from the student or family as an administration fee.



The Company's suite of campus commerce solutions provides services that allow for families' electronic billing and payment of campus charges. Campus commerce includes cashiering for face-to-face transactions, campus-wide commerce management, and refunds management, among other activities. The Company earns revenue for e-billing, hosting/maintenance, credit card convenience fees, and e-payment transaction fees, which are powered by the Company's QuikPAY system, a secure payment processing engine.

QuikPAY, a campus commerce product, is sold as a subscription service to colleges and universities. QuikPAY processes payments through the appropriate channels in the banking or credit card networks to make deposits into the client's bank account. It can be further deployed to other departments around campus as requested (e.g., application fees, alumni giving, parking, events, etc.). Approximately 215 colleges and universities use the QuikPAY system.

## Competition

The Company is the largest provider of tuition management services to the private and faith-based K-12 market in the United States. Competitors include financial institutions, tuition management providers, financial needs assessment providers, accounting firms, and a myriad of software companies.

In the higher education market, the Company targets business offices at colleges and universities. In this market, the primary competition is limited to three campus commerce and tuition payment providers, as well as solutions developed in-house by colleges and universities.

The Company's principal competitive advantages are (i) the customer service it provides to institutions, (ii) the information management tools provided with the Company's service, and (iii) the Company's ability to interface with the institution clients and their third party service providers. The Company believes its clients select products primarily based on technological superiority and feature functionality, but price and service also impact the selection process.

## Enrollment Services

The Enrollment Services operating segment offers products and services that are focused on helping colleges recruit and retain students and helping students plan and prepare for life after high school and/or military service. The following are the primary products and services the Company offers as part of the Enrollment Services segment:

**Inquiry Generation** - Services include delivering qualified inquiries or clicks to third-party customers, primarily higher education institutions.

**Inquiry Management (Agency)** - Services include managing the marketing activities for third-party customers, primarily higher education institutions, in order to provide qualified inquiries or clicks.

- **Inquiry Management (Software)** - Products and services include the licensing of software to third-party customers, primarily higher education institutions. This software is also used internally by the Company. The inquiry management software has been adapted so that it can be offered as a hosted software solution usable by third parties to manage and obtain qualified inquiries or clicks.

- **Digital Marketing** - Services include interactive services to connect students to colleges and universities sold primarily based on subscriptions, and also include editing services for admission essays.

**Content Solutions** - Products and services include test preparation study guides, school directories and databases, career exploration guides, on-line courses, scholarship search and selection data, career planning, and on-line information about colleges and universities.

The Company delivers products and services in this segment through four primary customer channels: higher education, corporate and government, K-12, and direct-to-consumer. Many of the Company's products in this segment are electronically transmitted or distributed online or in other digital media; however, products such as test preparation study guides, school directories, and career exploration guides are also distributed as printed materials.

Significantly all inquiry generation and management revenue (which makes up approximately 80 percent of total revenue included in this segment) is generated from for-profit schools. Ongoing regulatory uncertainty regarding recruitment and marketing to potential students in the for-profit college industry has caused schools to decrease

spending on marketing efforts and has negatively impacted the operating results of this segment.

#### Competition

In this segment, the primary areas in which the Company competes are: inquiry generation and management, test preparation study guides, and on-line courses. Several large competitors exist in the areas of inquiry generation and test preparation, but the Company does not believe any one competitor has a dominant position in all of the product and service areas offered by the Company.

The Company competes through various methods, including price, brand awareness, depth of product and service selection, and customer service. The Company is a “one stop shop” for the education seeking family looking for career assessment, test preparation, and college information.

#### Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment

The Asset Generation and Management operating segment includes the acquisition, management, and ownership of the Company's student loan assets, which was historically the Company's largest product and service offering. As of December 31, 2013, the Company's student loan portfolio was \$25.9 billion. The Company generates a substantial portion of its earnings from the spread, referred to as the Company's student loan spread, between the yield it receives on its student loan portfolio and the associated costs to finance such portfolio. See Part II, Item 7, “Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment - Student Loan Spread Analysis,” for further details related to the student loan spread. The student loan assets are held in a series of education lending subsidiaries and associated securitization trusts designed specifically for this purpose. In addition to the student loan spread earned on its portfolio, all costs and activity associated with managing the portfolio, such as servicing of the assets and debt maintenance, are included in this segment.

Student loans consist of federally insured student loans and non-federally insured student loans. Federally insured student loans were made under the FFEL Program. The Company's portfolio of federally insured student loans is subject to minimal credit risk, as these loans are guaranteed by the Department at levels ranging from 97 percent to 100 percent. Substantially all of the Company's loan portfolio (99.7 percent as of December 31, 2013) is federally insured. The Company's portfolio of non-federally insured loans is subject to credit risk similar to other consumer loan assets.

The Higher Education Act regulates every aspect of the federally insured student loan program, including certain communications with borrowers, loan originations, and default aversion. Failure to service a student loan properly could jeopardize the guarantee on federal student loans. In the case of death, disability, or bankruptcy of the borrower, the guarantee covers 100 percent of the loan's principal and accrued interest.

FFELP loans are guaranteed by state agencies or non-profit companies designated as guarantors, with the Department providing reinsurance to the guarantor. Guarantors are responsible for performing certain functions necessary to ensure the program's soundness and accountability. Generally, the guarantor is responsible for ensuring that loans are serviced in compliance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act. When a borrower defaults on a FFELP loan, the Company submits a claim to the guarantor who provides reimbursements of principal and accrued interest, subject to the applicable risk share percentage.

#### Origination and Acquisition

The Reconciliation Act of 2010 eliminated originations of new FFELP loans effective July 1, 2010. However, the Company believes there will be ongoing opportunities to continue to purchase FFELP loan portfolios from current FFELP participants looking to adjust their FFELP businesses. For example, from July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013, the Company purchased a total of \$11.0 billion of FFELP student loans from various third-parties, including a total of \$4.1 billion during 2013. The Company's competition for the purchase of student loan portfolios and residuals includes large banks, hedge funds, and other student loan finance companies.

#### Interest Rate Risk Management

Because the Company generates a significant portion of its earnings from its student loan spread, the interest rate sensitivity of the Company's balance sheet is very important to its operations. The current and future interest rate environment can and will affect the Company's interest income and net income. The effects on the Company's results of operations as a result of the changing interest rate environments are further outlined in Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Asset Generation and Management Operating Segment - Student Loan Spread Analysis" and Part II, Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk."

#### Intellectual Property

The Company owns numerous trademarks and service marks ("Marks") to identify its various products and services. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had 49 registered Marks. The Company actively asserts its rights to these Marks when it believes infringement may exist. The Company believes its Marks have developed and continue to develop strong brand-name recognition in the industry and the consumer marketplace. Each of the Marks has, upon registration, an indefinite duration so long as the Company continues to use the Mark on or in connection with such goods or services as the Mark identifies. In order to protect the

indefinite duration, the Company makes filings to continue registration of the Marks. The Company owns one patent application that has been published, but has not yet been issued, and has also actively asserted its rights thereunder in situations where the Company believes its claims may be infringed upon. The Company owns many copyright protected works, including its various computer system codes and displays, Web sites, books and other publications, and marketing materials. The Company also has trade secret rights to many of its processes and strategies and its software product designs. The Company's software products are protected by both registered and common law copyrights, as well as strict confidentiality and ownership provisions placed in license agreements, which restrict the ability to copy, distribute, or improperly disclose the software products. The Company also has adopted internal procedures designed to protect the Company's intellectual property.

The Company seeks federal and/or state protection of intellectual property when deemed appropriate, including patent, trademark/service mark, and copyright. The decision whether to seek such protection may depend on the perceived value of the intellectual property, the likelihood of securing protection, the cost of securing and maintaining that protection, and the potential for infringement. The Company's employees are trained in the fundamentals of intellectual property, intellectual property protection, and infringement issues. The Company's employees are also required to sign agreements requiring, among other things, confidentiality of trade secrets, assignment of inventions, and non-solicitation of other employees post-termination. Consultants, suppliers, and other business partners are also required to sign nondisclosure agreements to protect the Company's proprietary rights.

#### Employees

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had approximately 2,800 employees. None of the Company's employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements. The Company is not involved in any material disputes with any of its employees, and the Company believes that relations with its employees are good.

#### Available Information

Copies of the Company's annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to such reports are available on the Company's Web site free of charge as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are filed with or furnished to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Investors and other interested parties can access these reports and the Company's proxy statements at <http://www.nelnetinvestors.com>. The Company routinely posts important information for investors on its Web site.

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct that applies to directors, officers, and employees, including the Company's principal executive officer and its principal financial and accounting officer, and has posted such Code of Conduct on its Web site. Amendments to and waivers granted with respect to the Company's Code of Conduct relating to its executive officers and directors which are required to be disclosed pursuant to applicable securities laws and stock exchange rules and regulations will also be posted on its Web site. The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, Audit Committee Charter, Compensation Committee Charter, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter, and the Risk and Finance Committee Charter are also posted on its Web site.

Information on the Company's Web site is not incorporated by reference into this report and should not be considered part of this report.

#### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

We operate our business in a highly competitive and regulated environment. We are subject to risks including, but not limited to, market, liquidity, credit, regulatory, technology, operational, security, and other business risks such as reputation damage related to negative publicity and dependencies on key personnel, customers, vendors, and systems.

This section highlights specific risks that could affect us. Although this section attempts to highlight key risk factors, other risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict all risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. These risk factors should be read in conjunction with the other information included in this report.

#### Student Loan Portfolio

Our student loan portfolio is subject to certain risks related to interest rates, our ability to manage the risks related to interest rates, prepayment, and credit risk, each of which could reduce the expected cash flows and earnings on our portfolio.

#### Interest rate risk - basis and repricing risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk in the form of basis risk and repricing risk because the interest rate characteristics of our student loan assets do not match the interest rate characteristics of the funding for those assets.

We fund the majority of our student loan assets with one-month or three-month LIBOR indexed floating rate securities. In addition, the interest rates on some of our debt are set via a "dutch auction" or through a periodic remarketing. Meanwhile, the interest earned on our student loan assets is indexed to one-month LIBOR and Treasury bill rates. The different interest rate characteristics of our loan assets and our liabilities funding these assets results in basis risk. We also face repricing risk due to the timing of the interest rate resets on our liabilities, which may occur as infrequently as once a quarter, in contrast to the timing of the interest rate resets on our assets, which generally occur daily. In a declining interest rate environment, this may cause our student loan spread to compress, while in a rising interest rate environment, it may cause the spread to increase.

As of December 31, 2013, we had \$25.0 billion and \$1.0 billion of FFELP loans indexed to the one-month LIBOR and the three-month Treasury bill rate, respectively, both of which reset daily, and \$16.3 billion of debt indexed to three-month LIBOR, which resets quarterly, and \$7.8 billion of debt indexed to one-month LIBOR, which resets monthly. While these indices are all short term in nature with rate movements that are highly correlated over a longer period of time, there have been points in recent history related to the U.S. and European debt crisis that have caused volatility to be high and correlation to be reduced. There can be no assurance that the indices' historically high level of correlation will not be disrupted in the future due to capital market dislocations or other factors not within our control. In such circumstances, our earnings could be adversely affected, possibly to a material extent.

We have entered into basis swaps to hedge our basis and repricing risk. For these derivatives, we receive three-month LIBOR set discretely in advance and pay one-month LIBOR plus or minus a spread as defined in the agreements (the 1:3 Basis Swaps).

#### Interest rate risk - loss of floor income

FFELP loans originated prior to April 1, 2006 generally earn interest at the higher of the borrower rate, which is fixed over a period of time, or a floating rate based on the Special Allowance Payments ("SAP") formula set by the Department. The SAP rate is based on an applicable index plus a fixed spread that depends on loan type, origination date, and repayment status. We generally finance our student loan portfolio with variable rate debt. In low and/or certain declining interest rate environments, when the fixed borrower rate is higher than the SAP rate, these student loans earn at a fixed rate while the interest on the variable rate debt typically continues to reflect the low and/or declining interest rates. In these interest rate environments, we may earn additional spread income that we refer to as floor income.

Depending on the type of loan and when it was originated, the borrower rate is either fixed to term or is reset to an annual rate each July 1. As a result, for loans where the borrower rate is fixed to term, we may earn floor income for an extended period of time, which we refer to as fixed rate floor income, and for those loans where the borrower rate is reset annually on July 1, we may earn floor income to the next reset date, which we refer to as variable rate floor income.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, we earned \$148.4 million of fixed rate floor income, net of \$31.0 million of settlements paid related to derivatives used to hedge loans earning fixed rate floor income. Absent the use of derivative instruments, a rise in interest rates will reduce the amount of floor income received and this will have an impact on earnings due to interest margin compression caused by increased financing costs, until such time as the federally insured loans earn interest at a variable rate in accordance with their SAP formulas. In higher interest rate



environments, where the interest rate rises above the borrower rate and fixed rate loans effectively convert to variable rate loans, the impact of the rate fluctuations is reduced.

#### Interest rate risk - use of derivatives

We utilize derivative instruments to manage interest rate sensitivity. Our derivative instruments are intended as economic hedges but do not qualify for hedge accounting; consequently, the change in fair value, called the “mark-to-market,” of these derivative instruments is included in our operating results. Changes or shifts in the forward yield curve can and have significantly impacted the valuation of our derivatives. Accordingly, changes or shifts in the forward yield curve will impact our financial position and results of operations.

Although we believe our derivative instruments are highly effective, developing an effective strategy for dealing with movements in interest rates is complex, and no strategy can completely insulate us from risks associated with such fluctuations. Because many of our derivatives are not balance guaranteed to a particular pool of student loans, we are subject to prepayment risk that could

result in being under or over hedged, which could result in material losses. In addition, our interest rate risk management activities could expose us to substantial mark-to-market losses if interest rates move in a materially different way than was expected based on the environment when the derivatives were entered into. As a result, we cannot offer any assurance that our economic hedging activities will effectively manage our interest rate sensitivity or have the desired beneficial impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

By using derivative instruments, we are exposed to credit and market risk. We attempt to manage credit and market risks associated with interest rates by establishing and monitoring limits as to the types and degree of risk that may be undertaken and by entering into transactions with high-quality counterparties that are reviewed periodically by our risk committee. As of December 31, 2013, all of our derivative counterparties had investment grade credit ratings. We also have a policy of requiring that all derivative contracts be governed by an International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. Master Agreement.

When the fair value of a derivative contract is positive (an asset on our balance sheet), this generally indicates that the counterparty owes us if the derivative was settled. If the counterparty fails to perform, credit risk with such counterparty is equal to the extent of the fair value gain in the derivative less any collateral held by us. If we were unable to collect from a counterparty, we would have a loss equal to the amount the derivative is recorded on the consolidated balance sheet. As of December 31, 2013, the fair value of our derivatives which had a positive fair value in our favor (an asset on our balance sheet) was \$62.5 million, for which the Company held \$16.0 million of collateral.

When the fair value of a derivative instrument is negative (a liability on our balance sheet), we would owe the counterparty if the derivative was settled and, therefore, have no immediate credit risk. If the negative fair value of derivatives with a counterparty exceeds a specified threshold, we may have to make a collateral deposit with the counterparty. The threshold at which we may be required to post collateral is dependent upon our unsecured credit rating. The Company believes any downgrades from its current unsecured credit ratings (Standard & Poor's: BBB- (stable outlook) and Moody's: Ba1 (stable outlook)), would not result in additional collateral requirements of a material nature. In addition, no counterparty has the right to terminate its contracts in the event of downgrades from the current ratings. However, some derivative contracts have mutual optional termination provisions that can be exercised during the years 2014 through 2023. As of December 31, 2013, the fair value of derivatives with early termination provisions was a positive \$10.1 million (an asset on our balance sheet).

Interest rate movements have an impact on the amount of collateral we are required to deposit with our derivative instrument counterparties. Based on the interest rate swaps outstanding as of December 31, 2013 (for both the floor income and hybrid debt hedges), if the forward interest rate curve was one basis point lower for the remaining duration of these derivatives, we would have been required to post \$0.9 million in additional collateral. In addition, if the forward basis curve between 1-month and 3-month LIBOR experienced a one basis point reduction in spread for the remaining duration of our 1:3 Basis Swaps derivatives (in which we pay 1-month LIBOR and receive 3-month LIBOR), we would have been required to post \$7.7 million in additional collateral.

With our current derivative portfolio, we do not currently anticipate a near term movement in interest rates having a material impact on our liquidity or capital resources, nor expect future movements in interest rates to have a material impact on our ability to meet potential collateral deposit requirements with our counterparties. Due to the existing low interest rate environment, our exposure to downward movements in interest rates on our interest rate swaps is limited. In addition, we believe the historical high correlation between 1-month and 3-month LIBOR limits our exposure to interest rate movements on the 1:3 Basis Swaps.

However, if interest rates move materially and negatively impact the fair value of our derivative portfolio or if we enter into additional derivatives in which the fair value of such derivatives become negative, we could be required to

deposit a significant amount of collateral with our derivative instrument counterparties. The collateral deposits, if significant, could negatively impact our liquidity and capital resources. As of December 31, 2013, the fair value of our derivatives which had a negative fair value (a liability on our balance sheet) was \$18.0 million, and we had \$3.6 million posted as collateral with derivative counterparties.

Our outstanding cross-currency interest rate swap is a derivative entered into as a result of an asset-backed security financing. This derivative was entered into at the securitization trust level with the counterparty and does not contain credit contingent features related to our or the trust's credit ratings. As such, there are no collateral requirements and the impact of changes to foreign currency rates has no impact on the amount of collateral we would be required to deposit with the counterparty on this derivative.

#### Prepayment risk

Higher rates of prepayments of student loans, including consolidations by the Department through the Federal Direct Loan Program, would reduce our interest income.

Pursuant to the Higher Education Act, borrowers may prepay loans made under the FFEL Program at any time without penalty. Prepayments may result from consolidations of student loans by the Department through the Federal Direct Loan Program, which historically tend to occur more frequently in low interest rate environments, from borrower defaults, which will result in the receipt of a guaranty payment, and from voluntary full or partial prepayments, among other things.

In 2011, the White House issued an Executive Order allowing a short-term consolidation initiative to eligible student loan borrowers that began in January 2012 and ended June 30, 2012. This initiative allowed student loan borrowers with at least one FFELP loan and at least one federal student loan owned by the Department to consolidate their loans into a Special Direct Consolidation Loan. During 2012, we lost \$936.4 million of FFELP loans as a result of this initiative. If the federal government and the Department initiate similar consolidation loan programs and/or future consolidation marketing campaigns, these initiatives could further increase prepayments and reduce interest income.

The rate of prepayments of student loans may be influenced by a variety of economic, social, political, and other factors affecting borrowers, including interest rates, federal budgetary pressures, and the availability of alternative financing. Our profits could be adversely affected by higher prepayments, which reduce the balance of loans outstanding and, therefore, the amount of interest income we receive.

#### Credit risk

Future losses due to defaults on loans held by us, or loans sold to unaffiliated third parties which we are obligated to repurchase in the event of certain delinquencies, present credit risk which could adversely affect our earnings.

The vast majority (99.7 percent) of our student loan portfolio is federally guaranteed. The allowance for loan losses from the federally insured loan portfolio is based on periodic evaluations of our loan portfolios, considering loans in repayment versus those in nonpaying status, delinquency status, trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data, past experience, trends in student loan claims rejected for payment by guarantors, changes to federal student loan programs, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. The federal government currently guarantees 97 percent of the principal and interest on federally insured student loans disbursed on and after July 1, 2006 (and 98 percent for those loans disbursed on and after October 1, 1993 and prior to July 1, 2006), which limits our loss exposure on the outstanding balance of our federally insured portfolio. Student loans disbursed prior to October 1, 1993 are fully insured for both principal and interest.

Our non-federally insured loans are unsecured, with neither a government nor a private insurance guarantee. Accordingly, we bear the full risk of loss on these loans if the borrower and co-borrower, if applicable, default. In determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on the non-federally insured loans, we consider several factors, including: loans in repayment versus those in a nonpaying status, delinquency status, type of program, trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data, past experience, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. We place a non-federally insured loan on nonaccrual status when the collection of principal and interest is 30 days past due, and charge off the loan when the collection of principal and interest is 120 days past due.

The evaluation of the allowance for loan losses is inherently subjective, as it requires material estimates that may be subject to significant changes. As of December 31, 2013, our allowance for loan losses was \$55.1 million. During the year ended December 31, 2013, we recognized a provision for loan losses of \$18.5 million. The provision for loan losses reflects the activity for the applicable period and provides an allowance at a level that management believes is appropriate to cover probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio. However, future defaults can be higher than anticipated due to a variety of factors, such as downturns in the economy, regulatory or operational changes, and other unforeseen future trends. Recent general economic and employment conditions have led to higher rates of student loan

defaults. If actual performance is significantly worse than currently estimated, it would materially affect our estimate of the allowance for loan losses and the related provision for loan losses in our statements of income.

We have participated interests in non-federally insured loans to unaffiliated third parties. As of December 31, 2013, we had \$120.9 million (par value) of loans participated under these agreements that have been accounted for as loan sales. Accordingly, the participation interests sold are not included on our consolidated balance sheet. Under the terms of the servicing agreements, our servicing operations are obligated to repurchase loans subject to the participation interests in the event such loans become 60 or 90 days delinquent. In addition, we have sold a portfolio of non-federally insured loans in which we have retained the credit risk and will pay cash to purchase back any loans which become 60 days delinquent. As of December 31, 2013, the outstanding balance of loans related to this loan sale was \$63.6 million (par value). As of December 31, 2013, we had a reserve related to these servicing and credit risk obligations of \$16.1 million included in other liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet. The evaluation of the

reserve related to these loans is inherently subjective, as it requires estimates that may be subject to changes. If actual performance is worse than estimated, it would negatively affect our results of operations.

### Liquidity and Funding

We fund student loans in FFELP warehouse facilities. The current maturities of these facilities do not match the maturity of the related funded assets. Therefore, we will need to modify and/or find alternative funding related to the student loan collateral in these facilities prior to their expiration. If we cannot find any funding alternatives, we would lose our collateral, including the student loan assets and cash advances, related to these facilities.

The majority of our portfolio of student loans is funded through asset-backed securitizations that are structured to substantially match the maturity of the funded assets, and there are minimal liquidity issues related to these facilities. We also have student loans funded in shorter term FFELP warehouse facilities. The current maturities of these facilities do not match the maturity of the related funded assets. Therefore, we will need to modify and/or find alternative funding related to the student loan collateral in these facilities prior to their expiration.

As of December 31, 2013, we maintained three FFELP warehouse facilities as described in note 4 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report. These facilities have revolving financing structures supported by 364-day liquidity provisions, which expire in 2014 and 2015. In the event we are unable to renew the liquidity provisions for a facility, the facility would become a term facility at a stepped-up cost, with no additional student loans being eligible for financing, and we would be required to refinance the existing loans in the facility by its final maturity date in 2016. The FFELP warehouse facilities also contain financial covenants relating to levels of our consolidated net worth, ratio of adjusted EBITDA to corporate debt interest, and unencumbered cash. Any noncompliance with these covenants could result in a requirement for the immediate repayment of any outstanding borrowings under the facilities. As of December 31, 2013, \$1.4 billion was outstanding under the warehouse facilities and \$88.5 million was advanced as equity support. If the securitization market deteriorated, the amount of equity support required could increase, subject to the limits of each facility.

If we are unable to obtain cost-effective funding alternatives for the loans in the FFELP warehouse facilities prior to the facilities' maturities, our cost of funds could increase, adversely affecting our results of operations. If we cannot find any funding alternatives, we would lose our collateral, including the student loan assets and cash advances, related to these facilities.

We are exposed to mark-to-formula collateral support risk on our FFELP warehouse facilities.

One of our warehouse facilities provides formula based advance rates based on market conditions, which requires equity support to be posted to the facility. The other two warehouse facilities have static advance rates that require initial equity for loan funding, but do not require increased equity based on market movements. As of December 31, 2013, \$88.5 million was advanced as equity support under these facilities. In the event that a significant change in the valuation of loans results in additional required equity funding support for the warehouse facilities greater than what we can provide, the warehouse facilities could be subject to an event of default resulting in termination of the facilities and an acceleration of the repayment provisions. If we cannot find any funding alternatives, we would lose our collateral, including the student loan assets and cash advances, related to these facilities. A default on the FFELP warehouse facilities would result in an event of default on our \$275.0 million unsecured line of credit that would result in the outstanding balance on the line of credit becoming immediately due and payable.

We are subject to economic and market fluctuations related to our investments.

We currently invest a substantial portion of our excess cash in student loan asset-backed securities and other investments that are subject to market fluctuations. The amount of these investments was \$192.0 million as of December 31, 2013, including \$188.3 million in student loan asset-backed securities. These securities carry expected returns of approximately LIBOR + 200-500 basis points to maturity. While the vast majority of these securities are backed by FFELP government guaranteed student loan collateral, most are in subordinate tranches and have a greater risk of loss with respect to the applicable student loan collateral pool. While we expect these securities to have few credit issues if held to maturity, they do have limited liquidity, and we could incur a significant loss if the investments were sold prior to maturity at an amount less than the original purchase price.

#### Operations

Risks associated with our operations, as further discussed below, include those related to our information technology systems and potential security and privacy breaches, our ability to manage performance related to regulatory requirements, and the importance of maintaining scale by retaining existing customers and attracting new business opportunities.

A failure in or breach of one of our operational or information systems or infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors, could disrupt our businesses. These types of failures or breaches, including but not limited to cyber attacks, could result in a denial of service or misuse of confidential or proprietary information which could damage our reputation, increase costs, and jeopardize existing business contracts or result in regulatory penalties.

As a loan servicer, hosted loan servicing software provider, and payment processor for the federal government, financial institutions, and the education industry that serves millions of customers through the Internet and other distribution channels across the U.S., we depend on our ability to process, secure, record, and monitor a large number of customer transactions and confidential information on a continuous basis.

Information security risks have significantly increased in recent years in part because of the proliferation of new technologies, the use of the Internet and telecommunications technologies to support and process customer transactions, and the increased sophistication and activities of organized crime, hackers, terrorists, activists, and other external parties. Our operations rely on the secure processing, transmission, and storage of confidential information in our computer systems and networks. Our business segments rely on our digital technologies, computer and email systems, software, and networks to conduct their operations. In addition, to access our products and services, our customers may use personal smartphones, tablet PC's, and other mobile devices that are beyond our control systems. Although we believe we have robust information security procedures and controls, our technologies, systems, networks, and our customers' devices may become the target of cyber attacks or information security breaches that could result in the unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring, misuse, loss, or destruction of Company or customer confidential, proprietary, and other information, or disrupt the Company's or our customers' business operations. A cyber attack or information security breach of this nature could significantly affect our ability to retain strategic business customers, which could lead to increased costs to retain customers or result in regulatory penalties or a material loss of future revenue.

Third parties with which we do business or that facilitate our business activities, including financial intermediaries, data centers, data storage locations, collection services, distribution centers, or other vendors that provide services or security solutions for our operations, could also be sources of operational and information security risk to us, including from breakdowns or failures of their own systems or capacity constraints.

Although to date we have not experienced a material loss relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches, there can be no assurance that we will not suffer such losses in the future or that a current threat remains undetected at this time. Our risk and exposure to these matters remains heightened because of, among other things, the evolving nature of these threats, the size and scale of our servicing contracts, including our loan servicing contract with the Department.

As a result, cyber security and the continued development and enhancement of our training, controls, processes, and practices designed to protect and monitor our systems, computers, software, data, and networks from attack, damage, or unauthorized access remain a priority for the Company and each of our business segments. Even though we maintain technology and telecommunication, professional services, media, network security, privacy, injury, and liability insurance coverage to offset costs that may be incurred as a result of a cyber attack, information security breach or extended system outage, this insurance coverage may not cover all costs of such incidents.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend significant additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate and remediate any information security vulnerabilities.

Additionally, we must continually and cost-effectively maintain and improve our information technology systems and infrastructure in order to successfully deliver competitive products and services to our customers. The widespread



adoption of new technologies and market demands could require substantial expenditures to enhance system infrastructure and existing products and services. If we fail to enhance and scale our systems and operational infrastructure or products and services, our operating segments may lose their competitive advantage and this could adversely affect financial and operating results.

We also face the risk of business disruption if system outages occur as a result of changes in infrastructure, introduction of new software or software enhancements, relocation of infrastructure, or failure to perform required services, which could have a material impact upon our reputation and our ability to retain customers. Although we have business continuity management plans, a major physical disaster or other calamity that causes significant damage to or the loss of our information systems or business operations for a sustained period of time could adversely affect our business, cash flows, and ability to retain customers.

We must satisfy certain requirements necessary to maintain the federal guarantees of our federally insured loans, and we may incur penalties or lose our guarantees if we fail to meet these requirements.

As of December 31, 2013, we serviced \$25.2 billion of FFELP loans that maintained a federal guarantee, of which \$21.4 billion and \$3.8 billion were owned by the Company and third-party entities, respectively.

We must meet various requirements in order to maintain the federal guarantee on our federally insured loans. The federal guarantee on our federally insured loans is conditional based on our compliance with origination, servicing, and collection policies set by the Department and guaranty agencies. Federally insured loans that are not originated, disbursed, or serviced in accordance with the Department's and guaranty agency regulations may risk partial or complete loss of the guarantee. If we experience a high rate of servicing deficiencies (including any deficiencies resulting from the conversion of loans from one servicing platform to another, errors in the loan origination process, establishment of the borrower's repayment status, and due diligence or claim filing processes), it could result in the loan guarantee being revoked or denied. In most cases we have the opportunity to cure these deficiencies by following a prescribed cure process which usually involves obtaining the borrower's reaffirmation of the debt. However, not all deficiencies can be cured.

We are allowed three years from the date of the loan rejection to cure most loan rejections. If a cure cannot be achieved during this three year period, insurance is permanently revoked, although we maintain our right to collect the loan proceeds from the borrower. In cases where we purchase loans that were serviced previously by another servicing institution and we identify a serving deficiency by the prior servicer, we may, based on the terms of the purchase agreement, have the ability to require the previous lender to repurchase the rejected loans.

A guaranty agency may also assess an interest penalty upon claim payment if the deficiency does not result in a loan rejection. These interest penalties are not subject to cure provisions and are typically related to isolated instances of due diligence deficiencies. Additionally, we may become ineligible for special allowance payment benefits from the time of the first deficiency leading to the loan rejection through the date that the loan is cured.

Failure to comply with federal and guarantor regulations may result in penalties, a loss of special allowance payment benefits, or a loss of the federal guarantee. A loss of a federal guarantee on a third party serviced loan could subject us to potential claims from our servicing customers.

Our largest fee-based customer, the Department of Education, represents 23 percent of our fee-based revenue. Failure to extend the Department contract, unfavorable contract modifications, or our inability to consistently surpass competitor performance metrics, could significantly lower loan servicing revenue and hinder future servicing opportunities.

We are one of four private sector companies awarded a student loan servicing contract by the Department to provide additional servicing capacity for loans owned by the Department. The Department allocates new loan volume among the four servicers based on five performance metrics. The amount of future allocations of new loan volume could be negatively impacted if we are unable to consistently surpass competitor performance metrics. The contract spans five years (through June 2014), with one five-year extension at the option of the Department. On October 25, 2013, we received a letter from the Department notifying us of the Department's intent to exercise its optional ordering period to extend the term of the contract for an additional five years through June 16, 2019, with actual extension subject to the availability of government funds. As of December 31, 2013, we were servicing \$110.5 billion of loans for 5.3 million borrowers under this contract. During 2013, we earned \$97.4 million in revenue under this contract. In the event that the Department contract is not extended or substantial unfavorable modifications are made to the existing Department contract or as part of the extension, loan servicing revenue would decrease significantly.

We are partially dependent on the existing Department contract to broaden servicing operations with the Department and other federal and state agencies. The size and importance of this contract provides us the scale and infrastructure needed to profitably expand into new government and commercial servicing opportunities. Failure to extend the Department contract would significantly hinder future servicing opportunities.

Federal budget deficits and their effect on budgetary and regulatory provisions could adversely impact future fee-based revenue.

A significant portion of guaranty servicing revenue earned by us relates to rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans (collection services). In December 2013, President Obama signed a federal budget agreement passed by Congress that includes provisions for the reduction of payments by the Department to guaranty agencies for assisting student loan borrowers with the rehabilitation of defaulted loans under FFELP, which will become effective on July 1, 2014. These provisions reduce the amount guaranty agencies retain upon successful rehabilitation from 37 percent to 16 percent of the loan balance. We earn revenue from rehabilitating

defaulted FFELP student loans on behalf of guaranty agencies. The decrease in the retention percent earned by guaranty agencies will negatively impact our guaranty collections revenue, and we believe there will not be a substantial decrease in costs incurred to earn this revenue. During the year ended December 31, 2013, we recognized \$54.2 million in revenue from rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans for guaranty agencies. We anticipate that guaranty agencies will reduce their level of FFELP student loan rehabilitation activities in response to the reduced payment framework.

The federal budget agreement also eliminates mandatory funding the Department was authorized to use to pay eligible and qualified not-for-profit (NFP) student loan servicers who have contracts with the Department. The agreement does not require the termination of any existing servicing contracts as long as sufficient discretionary funds are appropriated. However, the Department will no longer consider new or existing requests for modifications to existing NFP arrangements. Our revenue associated with hosted software sales to NFPs who service loans for the Department was \$7.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. These budgetary provisions will limit future growth in NFP loan servicing software sales and could lower future revenue from existing NFP clients.

Our ability to continue to grow and maintain our contracts with commercial businesses and government agencies is partly dependent on our ability to maintain compliance with various laws, regulations, and industry standards applicable to those contracts.

We are subject to various laws, regulations, and industry standards related to our commercial and government contracts. In most cases, these contracts are subject to termination rights, audits, and investigations. If we are found to be in noncompliance with the contract provisions or applicable laws, regulations, or standards, or the contracted party exercises its termination or other rights for that or other reasons, our reputation could be negatively affected, and our ability to compete for new contracts or maintain existing contracts could diminish. If this were to occur, our results of operations from existing contracts and future opportunities for new contracts could be negatively affected.

#### Regulatory and Legal

Federal and state laws and regulations can restrict our business, and noncompliance with these laws and regulations could result in penalties, litigation, reputation damage, and a loss of customers.

Our operating segments and customers are heavily regulated by federal and state government regulatory agencies. The laws and regulations enforced by these agencies are proposed or enacted to protect consumers and the financial industry as a whole, not necessarily the Company, our operating segments, or our shareholders. We have procedures and controls in place to monitor compliance with numerous federal and state laws and regulations and believe we are in compliance with such laws and regulations. However, because these laws and regulations are complex, differ between jurisdictions, and are often subject to interpretation, or because of a result of unintended errors, we may, from time to time, inadvertently violate these laws and regulations. Compliance with these laws and regulations is expensive and requires the time and attention of management. These costs divert capital and focus away from efforts intended to grow our business. If we do not successfully comply with laws, regulations, or policies, we could incur fines or penalties, lose existing or new customer contracts, or suffer damage to our reputation. Changes in these laws and regulations can significantly alter our business environment, limit business operations, and increase costs of doing business, and we cannot predict the impact such changes would have on our profitability. The use of Executive Order provisions from the Executive Branch of the Federal Government has created new regulations that have impacted our Company. The use of Executive Order provisions to define regulations creates additional uncertainty and risks within the education and student loan industry.

Our Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing and Asset Generation and Management operating segments are subject to the Higher Education Act and various consumer protection and privacy regulations. These operating segments take

what we believe are necessary steps to evaluate, monitor, and comply with these regulations. However, the Department or other government agencies could, based on regulatory interpretation, determine we are not compliant. Failure to comply with these regulations could lead to a loss of the guarantee on our federally insured loans, increased servicing costs to cure such loans, or suspension or termination of our rights to participate as a servicer. In addition, although new FFELP loan originations were eliminated effective July 1, 2010, we continue to face risks from potential legislative changes or other government initiatives with respect to existing FFELP loans, including potential initiatives to allow or encourage student loan borrowers to consolidate or otherwise refinance their existing FFELP loans.

Certain provisions of the Higher Education Act that became effective July 1, 2011 have impacted our Enrollment Services operating segment in connection with services it provides to for-profit schools. To be eligible to participate in federal student aid programs, the Higher Education Act requires educational institutions, including for-profit schools, to enter into a program participation agreement with the Department. This agreement includes a number of requirements with which an institution must comply to be

granted initial and continuing eligibility to participate in the federal student aid program. The related regulations impose strict liability on educational institutions for misrepresentations made by entities, like us, who contract with these institutions to provide marketing services. As a result, our school customers have demanded, and in limited circumstances we have agreed to, limited contractual indemnification provisions for our customers that cover actions by our third-party inquiry generation vendors. Significantly all inquiry generation and management revenue (which makes up approximately 80 percent of total revenue included in the Enrollment Services operating segment) is generated from for-profit schools. The regulations discussed above may subject us to greater risk of liability and may increase our cost of compliance with these regulations or limit our ability to serve for-profit schools. In addition, the regulations could negatively impact enrollment at for-profit schools, which could adversely affect revenue.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) represents a comprehensive overhaul of the regulatory framework for the financial services industry within the United States, and established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the “CFPB”), which has broad authority to regulate a wide range of consumer financial products and services. On December 3, 2013, the CFPB issued a rule that allows the CFPB to supervise nonbank student loan servicers that handle more than one million borrowers, including the Company, thus giving the CFPB broad authority to examine, investigate, supervise, and otherwise regulate our businesses, including the authority to impose fines and require changes with respect to any practices that the CFPB finds to be unfair, deceptive, or abusive. In addition, the CFPB maintains an online system that allows consumers to log complaints, which could impact future CFPB decisions with respect to regulatory, enforcement, or examination focus. There is significant uncertainty regarding how the CFPB's strategies and priorities will impact our businesses and our results of operations going forward. Actions by the CFPB could result in requirements to alter our services, causing them to be less attractive or effective and impair our ability to offer them profitably. In the event that the CFPB changes regulations adopted in the past by other regulators, or modifies past regulatory guidance, our compliance costs and litigation exposure could increase. Our litigation exposure could also increase if the CFPB exercises its authority to limit or ban pre-dispute arbitration clauses in contracts for consumer financial services. Recent reports released by the CFPB have clearly indicated their focus to protect student loan borrowers. This additional focus and regulatory oversight will most likely increase our operating costs and could limit revenue opportunities.

The Dodd-Frank Act also provides the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) and the SEC with substantial authority to regulate over-the-counter derivative transactions, and includes provisions that require derivative transactions to be executed through an exchange or central clearinghouse. These regulations could affect future student loan asset-backed securities transactions by requiring issuers of asset-backed securities or persons who organize and initiate asset-backed securities transactions to retain a portion of the underlying assets' credit risk, disclose and report requirements for each tranche of asset-backed securities, including new loan-level data requirements, and disclose requirements relating to the representations, warranties, and enforcement mechanisms available to investors. Although we cannot predict the ultimate outcome of these processes and regulations, they may increase our costs and cash collateral margin requirements and affect the terms of future asset-backed securities transactions and derivatives used to manage financial risks related to interest rate and foreign currency exchange rate volatility.

Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act added new provisions commonly referred to as the “Volcker Rule” to U.S. federal banking laws which generally prohibit various covered banking entities from engaging in proprietary trading of financial instruments and limit such entities' investments in, and relationships with, hedge funds and private equity funds. On December 10, 2013, five U.S. federal regulatory agencies issued final regulations to implement the Volcker Rule. Banking entities subject to the Volcker Rule are required to fully conform their activities and investments to the final regulations by July 21, 2015. As discussed below under “Principal Shareholder and Related Party Transactions,” we have certain relationships with Farmers & Merchants Investment Inc. (“F&M”), which controls Union Bank and Trust Company (“Union Bank”). F&M and Union Bank are banking entities subject to the Volcker Rule. The Volcker Rule and the final implementing regulations are very complex, and many aspects of their ultimate interpretation,

scope, and implementation remain uncertain. We are currently assessing the Volcker Rule and the final regulations, and monitoring for further regulatory guidance and other developments thereunder, to determine the extent to which our activities may be affected.

As a result of the Reconciliation Act of 2010, interest income on our existing FFELP loan portfolio, as well as fee-based revenue from guaranty and third-party FFELP servicing and FFELP loan servicing software licensing and consulting fees will decline over time as our and our third-party lender clients' FFELP loan portfolios are paid down.

The Reconciliation Act of 2010 prohibits new loan originations under the FFEL Program and requires that all new federal loan originations be made through the Federal Direct Loan Program. The law did not alter or affect the terms and conditions of existing FFELP loans.

During the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, we recognized approximately \$406 million, \$344 million, and \$367 million, respectively, of interest income on our FFELP loan portfolio, approximately \$106 million, \$96 million, and \$91 million,

respectively, in guaranty and third-party FFELP servicing revenue, and approximately \$7 million, \$6 million, and \$7 million, respectively, in FFELP loan servicing software licensing and consulting fees related to the FFEL Program. These amounts will decline over time as our and our third-party lender clients' FFELP loan portfolios are paid down.

If the Company is unable to grow or develop new revenue streams, the Company's consolidated revenue and operating margin will decrease as a result of the decline in FFELP loan volume outstanding.

Exposure related to certain tax issues could decrease our net income.

Federal and state income tax law and regulations are often complex and require interpretation. The nexus standards and the sourcing of receipts from intangible personal property and services have been the subject of state audits and litigation with state taxing authorities and tax policy debates by various state legislatures. As the U.S. Congress and U.S. Supreme Court have not provided clear guidance in this regard, conflicting state laws and court decisions create significant uncertainty and expense for taxpayers conducting interstate commerce. Changes in income tax regulations could negatively impact our results of operations. If states enact legislation, alter apportionment methodologies, or aggressively apply the income tax nexus standards, we may become subject to additional state taxes.

From time to time, we engage in transactions in which the tax consequences may be subject to uncertainty. Examples of such transactions include asset and business acquisitions and dispositions, financing transactions, apportionment, nexus standards, and income recognition. Significant judgment is required in assessing and estimating the tax consequences of these transactions. We prepare and file tax returns based on the interpretation of tax laws and regulations. In the normal course of business, our tax returns are subject to examination by various taxing authorities. Such examinations may result in future tax and interest assessments by these taxing authorities. In accordance with authoritative accounting guidance, we establish reserves for tax contingencies related to deductions and credits that we may be unable to sustain. Differences between the reserves for tax contingencies and the amounts ultimately owed are recorded in the period they become known. Adjustments to our reserves could have a material effect on our financial statements.

The costs and effects of litigation, investigations, or similar matters, or adverse facts and developments related thereto, could materially affect our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

We may be involved from time to time in a variety of lawsuits, investigations, or similar matters arising out of our business operations. Our insurance may not cover all claims that may be asserted against us, and any claims asserted against us, regardless of merit or eventual outcome, may harm our reputation. If the ultimate judgments or settlements in any litigation or investigation significantly exceed our insurance coverage, they could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows for any particular period.

#### Principal Shareholder and Related Party Transactions

Our Executive Chairman beneficially owns 67.4 percent of the voting rights of our shareholders and effectively has control over all matters at our Company.

Michael S. Dunlap, our Executive Chairman and a principal shareholder, beneficially owns 67.4 percent of the voting rights of our shareholders. In addition, Mr. Dunlap, Stephen F. Butterfield, our Vice Chairman, and Angela L. Muhleisen, Mr. Dunlap's sister, beneficially own stock that in the aggregate has 82.6 percent of the voting rights of our shareholders. Accordingly, each member of the Board of Directors and each member of management has been elected or effectively appointed by Mr. Dunlap and can be removed by Mr. Dunlap. As a result, Mr. Dunlap, as Executive Chairman and controlling shareholder, has control over all matters at our Company and has the ability to take actions that benefit him and Ms. Muhleisen but may not benefit other minority shareholders, and may otherwise



exercise his control in a manner with which other minority shareholders may not agree or which they may not consider to be in their best interests.

Our contractual arrangements and transactions with Union Bank, which is under common control with us, present conflicts of interest and pose risks to our shareholders that the terms may not be as favorable to us as we could receive from unrelated third parties.

Union Bank is controlled by F&M, which owns 81.4 percent of Union Bank's common stock and 15.4 percent of Union Bank's non-voting non-convertible preferred stock. Mr. Dunlap, a significant shareholder, as well as Executive Chairman, and a member of our Board of Directors, along with his spouse and children, owns or controls a total of 39.3 percent of the stock of F&M, and Mr. Dunlap's sister, Angela L. Muhleisen, along with her husband and children, owns or controls 38.4 percent of F&M stock. Mr.

Dunlap serves as a Director and Chairman of F&M. Ms. Muhleisen serves as Director and President of F&M and as a Director, Chairperson, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Union Bank. Union Bank is deemed to have beneficial ownership of various shares of Nelnet it holds because it serves in a capacity of trustee or account manager and may share voting and/or investment power with respect to such shares. As of December 31, 2013, Union Bank was deemed to beneficially own 11.5 percent of the voting rights of our common stock. As of December 31, 2013, Mr. Dunlap and Ms. Muhleisen beneficially owned 67.4 percent and 12.7 percent, respectively, of the voting rights of our outstanding common stock.

We have entered into certain contractual arrangements with Union Bank, including loan purchases, loan servicing, loan participations, banking services, 529 Plan administration services, lease arrangements, and various other investment and advisory services. The net aggregate impact on our consolidated statements of income for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011 related to the transactions with Union Bank was income of \$16.6 million, \$11.9 million, and \$9.4 million, respectively. See note 19 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report for additional information related to the transactions between us and Union Bank.

Transactions between Union Bank and us are generally based on available market information for comparable assets, products, and services and are extensively negotiated. In addition, all related party transactions between Union Bank and us are approved by both the Union Bank Board of Directors and our Board of Directors. Furthermore, Union Bank is subject to regulatory oversight and review by the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, and the State of Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance. The FDIC and the State of Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance regularly review Union Bank's transactions with affiliates. The regulatory standard applied to the bank falls under Regulation W, which places restrictions on certain "covered" transactions with affiliates.

We intend to maintain our relationship with Union Bank, which our management believes provides certain benefits to us. Those benefits include Union Bank's knowledge of and experience in the FFELP industry, its willingness to provide services, and at times liquidity and capital resources, on an expedient basis, and the proximity of Union Bank to our corporate headquarters located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The majority of the transactions and arrangements with Union Bank are not offered to unrelated third parties or subject to competitive bids. Accordingly, these transactions and arrangements not only present conflicts of interest, but also pose the risk to our shareholders that the terms of such transactions and arrangements may not be as favorable to us as we could receive from unrelated third parties. Moreover, we may have and/or may enter into contracts and business transactions with related parties that benefit Mr. Dunlap and his sister, as well as other related parties, that may not benefit us and/or our minority shareholders.

#### ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

The Company has no unresolved comments from the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding its periodic or current reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

## ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The following table lists the principal facilities for office space owned or leased by the Company as of December 31, 2013. The Company owns the building in Lincoln, Nebraska where its principal office is located. The building is subject to a lien securing the outstanding mortgage debt on the property.

Location	Primary function or segment	Approximate square feet	Lease expiration date
Lincoln, NE	Corporate Headquarters, Asset Generation and Management, Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing, Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce, Enrollment Services	187,000	–
Aurora, CO	Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing	96,000	February 2015
Lincoln, NE	Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing and Asset Generation and Management	70,000	June 2014 and December 2015
Highlands Ranch, CO	Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing	67,000	March 2017
Lincoln, NE	Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing and Asset Generation and Management	49,000	March 2024
Omaha, NE	Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing, Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce	32,000	December 2018
Paramus, NJ	Enrollment Services	18,000	March 2015

The square footage amounts above exclude a total of approximately 27,000 square feet of owned office space in Lincoln, Nebraska, and 17,000 square feet of leased office space in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, that the Company leases to third parties. On February 11, 2014, the Company amended its lease agreement on existing space in Aurora, Colorado, which resulted in a reduction of the total square footage leased to approximately 43,000, and extended the lease term to September 2019. Additionally, the Company plans to vacate 54,000 square feet of space associated with the Lincoln, Nebraska lease upon its expiration in June 2014.

The Company leases other office facilities located throughout the United States. These properties are leased on terms and for durations that are reflective of commercial standards in the communities where these properties are located. The Company believes that its respective properties are generally adequate to meet its long term business goals. The Company's principal office is located at 121 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

## ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to note 15 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report.

## ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

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## PART II.

## ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Company's Class A common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "NNI," while its Class B common stock is not publicly traded. As of January 31, 2013, there were 34,879,315 and 11,495,377 shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock outstanding, respectively. The number of holders of record of the Company's Class A common stock and Class B common stock as of January 31, 2013 was 886 and 27, respectively. The record holders of the Class B common stock are Michael S. Dunlap and Stephen F. Butterfield, an entity controlled by them, various members of their families, and various estate planning trusts established by them. Because many shares of the Company's Class A common stock are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of shareholders, the Company is unable to estimate the total number of beneficial owners represented by these record holders. The following table sets forth the high and low intraday sales prices for the Company's Class A common stock for each full quarterly period in 2013 and 2012.

	2013				2012			
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
High	\$35.55	\$39.98	\$41.74	\$45.49	\$27.20	\$26.64	\$24.99	\$29.98
Low	28.85	31.56	36.06	38.00	23.72	21.49	22.16	23.17

Dividends on the Company's Class A and Class B common stock were paid as follows during the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

	2013				2012			
Record date	3/1/13	5/31/13	8/30/13	12/2/13	3/1/12	6/1/12	9/1/12	11/19/12
Payment date	3/15/13	6/14/13	9/13/13	12/16/13	3/15/12	6/15/12	9/15/12	11/27/12
Dividend amount per share	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$ 1.10*

\*This dividend consisted of a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.10 per share and a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per share.

The Company currently plans to continue making regular quarterly dividend payments, subject to future earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, and other factors. In addition, the payment of dividends is subject to the terms of the Company's outstanding junior subordinated hybrid securities, which generally provide that if the Company defers interest payments on those securities it cannot pay dividends on its capital stock.

## Performance Graph

The following graph compares the change in the cumulative total shareholder return on the Company's Class A common stock to that of the cumulative return of the S&P 500 Index and the S&P Financials Index. The graph assumes that the value of an investment in the Company's Class A common stock and each index was \$100 on December 31, 2008 and that all dividends, if applicable, were reinvested. The performance shown in the graph represents past performance and should not be considered an indication of future performance.

Company/Index	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	12/31/2013
Nelnet, Inc.	\$100.00	\$120.74	\$171.62	\$180.44	\$231.96	\$331.57
S&P 500	100.00	126.46	145.51	148.59	172.37	228.19
S&P Financials	100.00	117.22	131.44	109.01	140.42	190.46

The preceding information under the caption “Performance Graph” shall be deemed to be “furnished” but not “filed” with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### Stock Repurchases

The following table summarizes the repurchases of Class A common stock during the fourth quarter of 2013 by the Company or any “affiliated purchaser” of the Company, as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Period	Total number of shares purchased (a)	Average price paid per share	Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs (b)	Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (b)
October 1 - October 31, 2013	808	\$40.62	—	3,875,367
November 1 - November 30, 2013	395	44.37	—	3,875,367
December 1 - December 31, 2013	1,680	42.13	—	3,875,367
Total	2,883	\$42.01	—	

The total number of shares includes shares owned and tendered by employees to satisfy tax withholding obligations (a) upon the vesting of restricted shares and, unless otherwise indicated, were purchased at the closing price of the Company’s shares on the date of vesting.

On May 9, 2012, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized a stock repurchase program to (b) repurchase up to a total of five million shares of the Company's Class A common stock during the three-year period ending May 24, 2015.

#### Equity Compensation Plans

For information regarding the securities authorized for issuance under the Company's equity compensation plans, see Part III, Item 12 of this report.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth selected financial and other operating information of the Company. The selected financial data in the table is derived from the consolidated financial statements of the Company. The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements, the related notes, and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included in this report.

	Year ended December 31,				
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	(Dollars in thousands, except share data)				
<b>Operating Data:</b>					
Net interest income	\$413,875	345,287	364,565	371,071	235,345
Loan and guaranty servicing revenue	243,428	209,748	175,657	158,584	129,911
Tuition payment processing and campus commerce revenue	80,682	74,410	67,797	59,824	53,894
Enrollment services revenue	98,078	117,925	130,470	139,897	119,397
Other income	46,298	39,476	29,513	31,310	26,469
Gain on sale of loans and debt repurchases	11,699	4,139	8,340	78,631	76,831
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	302,672	177,997	204,335	189,034	139,125
Earnings per common share attributable to Nelnet, Inc. shareholders - basic and diluted:					
Dividends per common share	0.40	1.40	0.37	0.70	0.07
<b>Other Data:</b>					
Fixed rate floor income, net of derivative settlements	\$148,431	145,345	144,454	132,243	145,098
Core student loan spread	1.54	% 1.44	% 1.52	% 1.48	% 1.18
Origination and acquisition of student loans (par value)	\$4,058,997	3,885,138	2,841,334	4,202,164	2,779,873
Student loans serviced (at end of period)	138,208,897	97,492,053	76,119,717	61,477,651	37,549,563
	As of December 31,				
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	(Dollars in thousands, except share data)				
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$63,267	66,031	42,570	283,801	338,181
Student loans receivables, net	25,907,589	24,830,621	24,297,876	24,033,001	23,926,957
Goodwill and intangible assets	123,250	126,511	145,492	155,830	197,255
Total assets	27,770,849	26,607,895	25,852,217	25,893,892	25,876,427
Bonds and notes payable	25,955,289	25,098,835	24,434,540	24,672,472	24,805,289
Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity	1,443,662	1,165,208	1,066,205	906,633	784,563
Tangible Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity (a)	1,320,412	1,038,697	920,713	750,803	587,308
Book value per common share	31.13	25.00	22.62	18.75	15.73
Tangible book value per common share (a)	28.47	22.28	19.53	15.53	11.77

Ratios:

Shareholders' equity to total assets	5.20	% 4.38	% 4.12	% 3.50	% 3.03	%
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(a) Tangible Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity, a non-GAAP measure, equals "Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity" less "goodwill" and "intangible assets, net." Management believes presenting tangible equity and tangible book value per common share are useful measures of evaluating the strength of the Company's capital position. These measures may be calculated differently by other companies.



## ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

(Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011. All dollars are in thousands, except share data, unless otherwise noted.)

The following discussion and analysis provides information that the Company's management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of the consolidated results of operations and financial condition of the Company. The discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements and related notes included in this report. This discussion and analysis also contains forward-looking statements and should also be read in conjunction with the disclosures and information contained in "Forward-Looking and Cautionary Statements" and Item 1A "Risk Factors" included in this report.

### OVERVIEW

The Company is an education services company focused primarily on providing fee-based processing services and quality education-related products and services in four core areas: asset management and finance, loan servicing, payment processing, and enrollment services (education planning). These products and services help students and families plan, prepare, and pay for their education and make the administrative and financial processes more efficient for schools and financial organizations. In addition, the Company earns interest income on a portfolio of federally insured student loans.

A reconciliation of the Company's GAAP net income to net income, excluding derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, is provided below.

	Year ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	2011
GAAP net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$302,672	177,997	204,335
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, net of tax	(30,128	) 29,384	11,041
Net income, excluding derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments (a)	\$272,544	207,381	215,376
Earnings per share:			
GAAP net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$6.50	3.76	4.24
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, net of tax	(0.65	) 0.62	0.23
Net income, excluding derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments (a)	\$5.85	4.38	4.47

The Company provides non-GAAP information that reflects specific items management believes to be important in the evaluation of its financial position and performance. "Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments" include (i) the unrealized gains and losses that are caused by changes in fair values of derivatives which do not qualify for "hedge treatment" under GAAP; and (ii) the foreign currency transaction gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the Company's Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars. The Company believes these point-in-time estimates of asset and liability values related to these financial instruments that are subject to interest and currency rate fluctuations affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. Accordingly, the Company provides operating results excluding these items for comparability purposes.

The increase in earnings in 2013 compared to 2012 was due to an increase in net interest income earned from the Company's student loan portfolio, an increase in revenue and operating margin from the Company's fee-based operating segments, an increase in income from providing investment advisory services, and an increase in gains recognized from the repurchases of the Company's debt.

The Company earns net interest income on its FFELP student loan portfolio in its Asset Generation and Management ("AGM") operating segment. This segment is expected to generate a stable net interest margin and significant amounts of cash as the FFELP portfolio amortizes. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had a \$25.9 billion student loan portfolio that will amortize over the next approximately 20 years. The Company actively seeks to acquire FFELP loan portfolios to leverage its servicing scale and expertise to generate incremental earnings and cash flow.

In addition, the Company earns fee-based revenue through the following reportable operating segments:

- Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing ("LGS") - referred to as Nelnet Diversified Solutions ("NDS")
- Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce ("TPP&CC") - referred to as Nelnet Business Solutions ("NBS")
- Enrollment Services - commonly called Nelnet Enrollment Solutions ("NES")

The information below provides the operating results for each reportable operating segment for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011 (dollars in millions).

(a) Revenue includes intersegment revenue of \$56.7 million, \$65.4 million, and \$69.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively, earned by LGS as a result of servicing loans for AGM.

Revenue includes "net interest income after provision for loan losses" and "total other income" from the Company's segment statements of income, excluding the impact from changes in fair values of derivatives and foreign currency transaction adjustments, which was income of \$35.3 million, an expense of \$51.8 million, and income of \$7.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively. Net income excludes changes in fair values of derivatives and foreign currency transaction adjustments, net of tax, which was income of \$21.9 million, an expense of \$32.1 million, and income of \$4.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively.

(c) Computed as income before income taxes divided by total revenue.

A summary of the results and financial highlights for each reportable operating segment for the year ended December 31, 2013 and a summary of the Company's liquidity and capital resources follows. See "Results of Operations" for each reportable operating segment and "Liquidity and Capital Resources" under this Item 7 for additional detail.

#### Student Loan and Guaranty Servicing

As of December 31, 2013, the Company was servicing \$138.2 billion in FFELP, private, and government owned student loans, as compared with \$97.5 billion and \$76.1 billion of loans as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The year over year increase was due to an increase in government servicing volume.

Revenue increased for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012 and for the year ended December 31, 2012 compared to 2011 due to growth in servicing volume under the Company's contract with the Department and an increase in collection revenue from getting defaulted FFELP loan assets current on behalf of guaranty agencies. These increases were partially offset by decreases in traditional FFELP and guaranty servicing revenue.

Before tax operating margin increased for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012, as a result of the investments made and certain costs incurred by the Company in 2012 to improve performance metrics under the Department servicing contract and to implement and comply with the Department's special direct consolidation loan initiative. In addition, intangible assets for this segment were fully amortized in 2012.

#### Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce

Revenue increased in the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, compared to the same periods in 2012 and 2011, respectively, due to an increase in the number of managed tuition payment plans as a result of providing more plans at existing schools and obtaining new school customers.

Before tax operating margin increased for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase was the result of efficiencies gained in the operations of the business and a decrease in amortization expense related to intangible assets. In addition, certain investments were made by the Company during 2012 in new products and services to meet customer needs and expand product and service offerings.

#### Enrollment Services

Enrollment services revenue has decreased year over year due to a decrease in inquiry generation and management revenue as a result of the regulatory uncertainty regarding recruiting and marketing to potential students in the for-profit college industry, which has caused schools to decrease spending on marketing efforts. Additionally, clients are shifting marketing budgets to more efficient or lower cost channels, which has caused a reduction in volume.

The Company continues to focus on improving the profitability of this segment by reducing operating expenses in reaction to the ongoing decline in revenue and gross margin.

#### Asset Generation and Management

The Company acquired \$4.1 billion of FFELP student loans during 2013, compared to \$3.9 billion in 2012 and \$2.8 billion in 2011. The average loan portfolio balance for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011 was \$25.0 billion, \$23.7 billion, and \$24.0 billion, respectively.

Core student loan spread increased to 1.54% for the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to 1.44% for the year ended December 31, 2012. This increase was due to the improved corresponding relationship between the interest rate indices governing what the Company earns on its loans and what the Company pays to fund such loans.

Due to historically low interest rates, the Company continues to earn significant fixed rate floor income. During the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, the Company earned \$148.4 million, \$145.3 million, and \$144.5 million, respectively, of fixed rate floor income (net of \$31.0 million, \$19.3 million, and \$20.2 million of derivative settlements, respectively, used to hedge such loans).

#### Corporate Activities

Whitetail Rock Capital Management, LLC ("WRCM"), the Company's SEC-registered investment advisory subsidiary, recognized revenue of \$17.4 million, \$9.3 million, and \$5.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively. These amounts include performance fees earned from the sale of managed securities.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had cash and investments of \$255.3 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company generated \$387.2 million in net cash provided by operating activities.

Forecasted undiscounted future cash flows from the Company's FFELP student loan portfolio financed in asset-backed securitization transactions are estimated to be approximately \$2.17 billion as of December 31, 2013.

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As of December 31, 2013, \$45.0 million was outstanding on the Company's unsecured line of credit and \$230.0 million was available for future use. The unsecured line of credit has a maturity date of March 28, 2018.

During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company repurchased 393,259 shares of Class A common stock for \$13.1 million (\$33.40 per share).

During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company repurchased \$90.5 million (par value) of its own asset-backed and unsecured debt securities for a gain totaling \$11.7 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company paid cash dividends of \$18.6 million.

The Company intends to use its liquidity position to capitalize on market opportunities, including FFELP student loan acquisitions; strategic acquisitions and investments in its core business areas of loan financing, loan servicing, payment processing, and enrollment services; and capital management initiatives, including stock repurchases, debt repurchases, and dividend distributions.

## CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Analysis of the Company's operating results for the years December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011 is summarized below.

The Company's operating results are primarily driven by the performance of its existing portfolio and the revenues generated by its fee-based businesses and the costs to provide such services. The performance of the Company's portfolio is driven by net interest income (which includes financing costs) and losses related to credit quality of the assets, along with the cost to administer and service the assets and related debt.

The Company operates as four distinct operating segments as described previously. For a reconciliation of the segment operating results to the consolidated results of operations, see note 13 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report. Since the Company monitors and assesses its operations and results based on these segments, the discussion following the consolidated results of operations is presented on a segment basis.

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	Year ended December 31,			
	2013	2012	2011	Additional information
Loan interest	\$638,142	609,237	589,686	Increase in 2013 from 2012 is due to an increase in the average student loan balance and student loan discount accretion (net), partially offset by a slight decrease in gross variable student loan yield.
Investment interest	6,668	4,616	3,168	Increase in 2012 from 2011 is due to an increase in gross variable student loan yield and student loan discount accretion (net), partially offset by a decrease in the average student loan balance. Includes income from unrestricted interest-earning deposits and investments and funds in asset-backed securitizations. Average investment balances increased year over year.
Total interest income	644,810	613,853	592,854	
Interest expense	230,935	268,566	228,289	The decrease in 2013 compared to 2012 is due to a decrease in student loan cost of funds, partially offset by an increase in average debt outstanding. The increase in 2012 compared to 2011 is due to an increase in student loan cost of funds, partially offset by a decrease in average debt outstanding.
Net interest income	413,875	345,287	364,565	See table below for additional analysis.
Less provision for loan losses	18,500	21,500	21,250	Represents the periodic expense of maintaining an allowance appropriate to absorb losses inherent in the portfolio of student loans.
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	395,375	323,787	343,315	
Other income (expense):				
LGS revenue	243,428	209,748	175,657	See LGS operating segment - results of operations.
TPP&CC revenue	80,682	74,410	67,797	See TPP&CC operating segment - results of operations.
NES revenue	98,078	117,925	130,470	See NES operating segment - results of operations.
Other income	46,298	39,476	29,513	See table below for the components of "other income."
Gain on sale of loans and debt repurchases	11,699	4,139	8,340	Gain is primarily from the repurchase of the Company's own asset-backed and unsecured debt securities.
Derivative settlements, net	(29,636 )	(14,022 )	(7,840 )	The Company maintains an overall risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments to reduce the economic effect of interest rate volatility. Derivative settlements for each applicable period should be evaluated with the Company's net interest income. See table below for additional analysis.
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, net	48,593	(47,394 )	(17,807 )	Includes (i) the unrealized gains and losses that are caused by changes in fair values of derivatives which do not qualify for "hedge treatment" under GAAP; and (ii) the foreign currency transaction gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the

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Company's Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars.

Total other income	499,142	384,282	386,130	
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and benefits	196,169	192,826	177,951	Increases due to additional personnel to support increased servicing volume and TPP&CC revenue, partially offset by expense reductions at NES.
Cost to provide enrollment services	64,961	78,375	86,548	See NES operating segment - results of operations.
Depreciation and amortization	18,311	33,625	29,744	Decrease in 2013 is due to certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized in 2012. Amortization expense for 2013, 2012, and 2011 was \$3.3 million, \$19.0 million, and \$17.1 million, respectively.
Other	149,542	128,738	113,415	Increase is due to an increase in (i) third party loan servicing fees incurred by AGM as volume at third parties has grown with recent loan purchases, (ii) costs incurred by LGS to support increased servicing volume; and (iii) collection costs incurred by LGS related to getting defaulted FFELP loans current on behalf of guaranty agencies.
Total operating expenses	428,983	433,564	407,658	
Income before income taxes	465,534	274,505	321,787	
Income tax expense	161,193	96,077	117,452	Effective tax rate: 2013 - 34.8%, 2012 - 35.0%, 2011 - 36.5%. During 2013, income tax expense was reduced by \$5.3 million due to the resolution of certain tax positions. During 2012, state income tax laws were enacted that reduced the Company's income tax expense by \$4.6 million.
Net income	304,341	178,428	204,335	
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	1,669	431	—	
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$302,672	177,997	204,335	
Additional information:				
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$302,672	177,997	204,335	The Company provides non-GAAP information that reflects specific items management believes to be important in the evaluation of its operating results.
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments	(48,593 )	47,394	17,807	The Company believes the point-in-time estimates of asset and liability values related to its derivatives and Euro-denominated bonds that are subject to interest and currency rate fluctuations affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. These items are excluded here for comparability purposes.
Tax effect	18,465	(18,010 )	(6,766 )	
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc., excluding derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments	\$272,544	207,381	215,376	



The following table summarizes the components of "net interest income" and "derivative settlements, net."

	Year ended December 31,			Additional information
	2013	2012	2011	
Variable student loan interest margin, net of settlements on derivatives	\$235,480	192,021	219,363	Represents the yield the Company receives on its student loan portfolio less the cost of funding these loans. Variable student loan spread is also impacted by the amortization/accretion of loan premiums and discounts, the 1.05% per year consolidation loan rebate fee paid to the Department, and yield adjustments from borrower benefit programs. See AGM operating segment - results of operations.
Fixed rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives	148,431	145,345	144,454	The Company has a portfolio of student loans that are earning interest at a fixed borrower rate which exceeds the statutorily defined variable lender rates, generating fixed rate floor income. See Item 3, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk" for additional information.
Investment interest	6,668	4,616	3,168	Increase is due to an increase in average investment balance.
Non-portfolio related derivative settlements	(1,671 )	(2,232 )	(611 )	
Corporate debt interest expense	(4,669 )	(8,485 )	(9,649 )	Includes interest expense on the Junior Subordinated Hybrid Securities and unsecured and secured lines of credit.
Net interest income (net of settlements on derivatives)	\$384,239	331,265	356,725	

The following table summarizes the components of "other income."

	Year ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	2011
Borrower late fee income	\$12,686	13,876	12,647
Investment advisory fees	17,422	9,347	5,062
Realized and unrealized gains/(losses) on investments, net	6,094	6,914	3,183
Other	10,096	9,339	8,621
Other income	\$46,298	39,476	29,513

## STUDENT LOAN AND GUARANTY SERVICING OPERATING SEGMENT – RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## Student Loan Servicing Volumes (dollars in millions)

Company owned	\$23,727	\$22,650	\$22,277	\$21,926	\$21,504	\$21,237	\$20,820	\$20,629	\$20,715	\$21,397
% of total	38.6%	29.8%	27.1%	25.6%	23.2%	21.8%	18.5%	17.7%	15.3%	15.5%
Number of servicing borrowers:										
Government servicing	2,804,502	3,036,534	3,096,026	3,137,583	3,588,412	3,892,929	4,261,637	4,396,341	5,145,901	5,305,498
FFELP servicing	1,912,748	1,799,484	1,779,245	1,724,087	1,659,020	1,626,146	1,586,312	1,529,203	1,507,452	1,462,122
Private servicing	155,947	164,554	163,135	161,763	175,070	173,948	170,224	173,588	178,935	195,580
Total:	4,873,197	5,000,572	5,038,406	5,023,433	5,422,502	5,693,023	6,018,173	6,099,132	6,832,288	6,963,200
Number of remote hosted borrowers										
	545,456	9,566,296	8,645,463	7,909,300	7,505,693	6,912,204	5,001,695	3,218,896	1,986,866	1,915,203

## Summary and Comparison of Operating Results

	Year ended December 31,			Additional information
	2013	2012	2011	
Net interest income	\$40	53	58	
Loan and guaranty servicing revenue	243,428	209,748	175,657	See table below for additional analysis.
Intersegment servicing revenue	56,744	65,376	69,037	Represents revenue earned by the LGS operating segment as a result of servicing loans for the AGM operating segment. Year over year decrease is due to portfolio run-off.
Total other income	300,172	275,124	244,694	
Salaries and benefits	119,092	115,126	102,878	Increase due to additional personnel to support the increase in volume under the government servicing contract.
Depreciation and amortization	11,419	18,415	15,313	Intangible assets were fully amortized during 2012. Amortization expense for 2012 and 2011 was \$8.7 million and \$8.5 million, respectively.
Other expenses	79,116	70,505	60,442	Increase due to additional servicing volume and collection costs incurred related to rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans on behalf of guaranty agencies. Collection costs were \$32.0 million, \$28.0 million, and \$23.8 million in 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively.
Intersegment expenses, net	4,359	5,280	4,776	
Total operating expenses	213,986	209,326	183,409	
Income before income taxes and corporate overhead allocation	86,226	65,851	61,343	
Corporate overhead allocation	(6,150 )	(5,904 )	(4,138 )	
Income before income taxes	80,076	59,947	57,205	
Income tax expense	(30,430 )	(22,780 )	(21,736 )	
Net income	\$49,646	37,167	35,469	
Before tax operating margin	26.7 %	21.8 %	23.4 %	

## Loan and guaranty servicing revenue

	Year ended December 31,			Additional information
	2013	2012	2011	
Government servicing	\$97,351	69,493	50,978	Increase due to an increase in the number of borrowers serviced under the government servicing contract.
FFELP servicing	20,420	24,255	26,653	Decrease will continue as third-party customers' FFELP portfolios run off.
Private servicing	9,485	9,201	9,911	
FFELP guaranty servicing	12,251	13,183	16,249	Decrease will continue as FFELP portfolios run off and guaranty volume decreases.
FFELP guaranty collection	73,628	58,926	47,801	The Company earns revenue from rehabilitating defaulted FFELP loans on behalf of guaranty agencies. This revenue has increased as a result of an

increase in defaulted loan volume. However, over time, this FFELP-related revenue source will decrease as FFELP portfolios continue to run off. Also, recent federal budget provisions to become effective July 1, 2014 will reduce payments by the Department to guaranty agencies for assisting student loan borrowers with the rehabilitation of defaulted loans under FFELP. Rehabilitation collection revenue was \$54.2 million, \$43.8 million, and \$34.2 million in 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively. The Company anticipates this revenue will be negatively impacted as a result of these federal budget provisions. In October 2011, the Company began providing hosted student loan servicing to a significant customer, which resulted in an increase in software services revenue. The contract with this customer expired in December 2013. The number of remote hosted borrowers and related revenue decreased from this customer throughout 2013 as this customer's loan volume was transferred to other servicers. The Company received a portion of these transfers, which increased the number of full-service borrowers under the Department's servicing contract. Revenue earned from this customer in 2013, 2012, and 2011 was \$6.2 million, \$14.7 million and \$6.2 million, respectively. Excluding revenue from this customer, software services revenue increased year over year due to an increase in the number of borrowers from other remote hosted customers.

Software services	28,609	33,512	23,443
Other	1,684	1,178	622
Loan and guaranty servicing revenue	\$243,428	209,748	175,657

## TUITION PAYMENT PROCESSING AND CAMPUS COMMERCE OPERATING SEGMENT – RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This segment of the Company's business is subject to seasonal fluctuations which correspond, or are related to, the traditional school year. Tuition management revenue is recognized over the course of the academic term, but the peak operational activities take place in summer and early fall. Higher amounts of revenue are typically recognized during the first quarter due to fees related to financial aid applications. The Company's operating expenses do not follow the seasonality of the revenues. This is primarily due to generally fixed year-round personnel costs and seasonal marketing costs. Based on the timing of revenue recognition and when expenses are incurred, revenue and pre-tax operating margin are higher in the first quarter as compared to the remainder of the year.

### Summary and Comparison of Operating Results

	Year ended December 31,			Additional information
	2013	2012	2011	
Net interest income	\$—	8	21	
Tuition payment processing and campus commerce revenue	80,682	74,410	67,797	Increase due to an increase in the number of managed tuition payment plans as a result of providing more plans at existing schools and obtaining new school customers.
Salaries and benefits	37,575	34,314	30,070	Increase due to additional personnel to support the increase in payment plans and customers.
Depreciation and amortization	4,518	7,240	6,179	Certain intangible assets were fully amortized at the end of 2012. Amortization of intangible assets was \$3.3 million, \$6.3 million, and \$5.0 million in 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively.
Other expenses	9,147	10,439	10,192	Implementation of electronic communications and processes has resulted in reductions in paper forms, postage, and freight which have decreased expenses in 2013 compared to 2012. In addition, certain investments were made by the Company during 2012 in new products and services to meet customer needs and expand product and service offerings.
Intersegment expenses, net	5,989	5,383	4,714	
Total operating expenses	57,229	57,376	51,155	
Income before income taxes and corporate overhead allocation	23,453	17,042	16,663	
Corporate overhead allocation	(1,957 )	(1,968 )	(1,379 )	
Income before income taxes	21,496	15,074	15,284	
Income tax expense	(8,168 )	(5,728 )	(5,807 )	
Net income	\$13,328	9,346	9,477	
Before tax operating margin	26.6 %	20.3 %	22.5 %	



## ENROLLMENT SERVICES OPERATING SEGMENT – RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## Summary and Comparison of Operating Results

	Year ended December 31,			Additional information
	2013	2012	2011	
Enrollment services revenue	\$98,078	117,925	130,470	See table below for additional analysis.
Salaries and benefits	19,296	22,816	25,155	Decrease due to cost saving measures initiated by the Company in reaction to the ongoing decline in revenue.
Cost to provide enrollment services	64,961	78,375	86,548	See table below for additional analysis.
Depreciation and amortization	232	6,491	6,854	Intangible assets were fully amortized in 2012. Amortization expense related to intangible assets and student list costs for 2012 and 2011 was \$5.9 million and \$6.4 million, respectively.
Other expenses	6,084	10,416	9,425	Decrease is due to cost saving measures initiated by the Company in reaction to the ongoing decline in revenue. Additionally, included in 2012 expense is an impairment charge of \$2.9 million related to student list costs.
Intersegment expenses, net	4,588	3,768	3,521	
Total operating expenses	95,161	121,866	131,503	
Income (loss) before income taxes and corporate overhead allocation	2,917	(3,941 )	(1,033 )	
Corporate overhead allocation	(1,943 )	(1,968 )	(1,379 )	
Income (loss) before income taxes	974	(5,909 )	(2,412 )	
Income tax (expense) benefit	(369 )	2,244	917	
Net income (loss)	\$605	(3,665 )	(1,495 )	
Before tax operating margin	1.0	% (5.0 )%	(1.8 )%	

The following tables summarize the components of "Enrollment services revenue" and "cost to provide enrollment services."

	Inquiry generation (a)	Inquiry management (agency) (a)	Inquiry management (software)	Digital marketing	Content solutions (b)	Total
Year ended December 31, 2013						
Enrollment services revenue	\$ 14,285	59,852	3,985	4,399	15,557	98,078
Cost to provide enrollment services	9,108	52,919	—	318	2,616	64,961
Gross profit	\$ 5,177	6,933	3,985	4,081	12,941	33,117
Gross profit %	36.2%	11.6%				
Year ended December 31, 2012						
Enrollment services revenue	\$ 17,650	72,930	3,620	4,850	18,875	117,925
Cost to provide enrollment services	10,717	64,705	—	268	2,685	78,375
Gross profit	\$ 6,933	8,225	3,620	4,582	16,190	39,550
Gross profit %	39.3%	11.3%				

	Year ended December 31, 2011					
Enrollment services revenue	\$24,556	78,804	2,690	4,455	19,965	130,470
Cost to provide enrollment services	14,552	69,533	—	317	2,146	86,548
Gross profit	\$10,004	9,271	2,690	4,138	17,819	43,922
Gross profit %	40.7%	11.8%				

(a) Inquiry generation revenue decreased \$3.4 million (19.1%) and \$6.9 million (28.1%) and inquiry management (agency) revenue decreased \$13.1 million (17.9%) and \$5.9 million (7.5%) for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, compared to 2012 and 2011, respectively. Revenues from these services have been affected by the ongoing regulatory uncertainty regarding recruiting and marketing to potential students in the for-profit college industry, which has caused schools to decrease spending on marketing efforts. Additionally, clients are shifting marketing budgets to more efficient or lower cost channels, which has caused a reduction in volume. The decrease in inquiry generation gross profit margin is due to increased costs for higher quality sources and a shift in revenue from higher profit margin clients to clients with lower profit margins.

(b) Content solutions revenue decreased \$3.3 million (17.6%) and \$1.1 million (5.5%) for the years ended December 31, 2013, and 2012, respectively, compared to 2012 and 2011, respectively, due to the divestiture of the Company's list marketing business during 2013 and as the result of a decrease in list marketing services during 2012.



## ASSET GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT OPERATING SEGMENT – RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## Student Loan Portfolio

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had a \$25.9 billion student loan portfolio that will amortize over the next approximately 20 years. For a summary of the Company's student loan portfolio as of December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, see note 3 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report.

## Loan Activity

The following table sets forth the activity of loans:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	2011
Beginning balance	\$24,995,880	24,359,625	23,784,069
Loan acquisitions	4,058,997	3,885,138	2,841,334
Repayments, claims, capitalized interest, participations, and other	(2,375,806 )	(1,807,144 )	(1,650,489 )
Consolidation loans lost to external parties	(514,108 )	(1,331,163 )	(585,230 )
Loans sold	(43,657 )	(110,576 )	(30,059 )
Ending balance	\$26,121,306	24,995,880	24,359,625

## Allowance for Loan Losses, Loan Repurchase Obligations, and Loan Delinquencies

The Company maintains an allowance appropriate to absorb losses, net of recoveries, inherent in the portfolio of student loans, which results in periodic expense provisions for loan losses. In addition, the Company's servicing operations are obligated to repurchase certain non-federally insured loans subject to participation interests in the event such loans become 60 or 90 days delinquent, and the Company has also retained credit risk related to certain non-federally insured loans sold and will pay cash to purchase back any of these loans which become 60 days delinquent. Further, delinquencies have the potential to adversely impact the Company's earnings through increased servicing and collection costs and account charge-offs.

For a summary of the activity in the allowance for loan losses and accrual related to the Company's loan repurchase obligations for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, and a summary of the Company's federally insured student loan delinquency amounts as of December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, see note 3 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report.

Charge-offs of federally insured loans decreased in 2013 as compared to 2012 and 2011. During 2012 and 2011, the Company focused significant time and resources on improving the performance metrics results for the Department servicing contract, which negatively impacted delinquencies and charge-offs of its own portfolio during these periods.

## Student Loan Spread Analysis

The following table analyzes the student loan spread on the Company's portfolio of student loans, which represents the spread between the yield earned on student loan assets and the costs of the liabilities and derivative instruments used to fund the assets.

	Year ended December 31,					
	2013		2012		2011	
Variable student loan yield, gross	2.58	%	2.63	%	2.58	%
Consolidation rebate fees	(0.77	)	(0.75	)	(0.72	)
Discount accretion, net of premium and deferred origination costs amortization	0.03		—		(0.09	)
Variable student loan yield, net	1.84		1.88		1.77	
Student loan cost of funds - interest expense	(0.91	)	(1.09	)	(0.90	)
Student loan cost of funds - derivative settlements	0.01		0.03		0.05	
Variable student loan spread	0.94		0.82		0.92	
Fixed rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives	0.60		0.62		0.60	
Core student loan spread	1.54	%	1.44	%	1.52	%
Average balance of student loans	\$24,960,521		23,694,388		24,045,003	
Average balance of debt outstanding	24,954,546		23,932,304		24,237,459	

A trend analysis of the Company's core and variable student loan spreads is summarized below.

(a) Prior to April 1, 2012, the interest earned on the majority of the Company's FFELP student loan assets was indexed to the three-month commercial paper rate. As allowed by legislation, effective April 1, 2012, the Company elected to change the index on which the Special Allowance Payments are calculated for FFELP loans from the commercial paper rate to the one-month LIBOR rate. The Company funds the majority of its assets with three-month LIBOR indexed floating rate securities. The relationship between the indices in which the Company earns interest on its loans and funds such loans has a significant impact on student loan spread. This table (the right axis) shows the difference between the Company's liability base rate and the one-month LIBOR (Q2 2012 - Q4 2013) or commercial paper rate indices (Q1 2011 - Q1 2012) by quarter.

Variable student loan spread increased during the year ended December 31, 2013 as compared to 2012 as a result of the tightening of the Asset/Liability Base Rate spread as reflected in the previous table.

The primary difference between variable student loan spread and core student loan spread is fixed rate floor income. A summary of fixed rate floor income and its contribution to core student loan spread follows:

	Year ended December 31,			
	2013	2012	2011	
Fixed rate floor income, gross	\$179,453	164,615	164,700	
Derivative settlements (a)	(31,022)	) (19,270	) (20,246	)
Fixed rate floor income, net	\$148,431	145,345	144,454	
Fixed rate floor income contribution to spread, net	0.60	% 0.62	% 0.60	%

(a) Includes settlement payments on derivatives used to hedge student loans earning fixed rate floor income.

The high levels of fixed rate floor income earned during 2013, 2012, and 2011 are due to historically low interest rates. If interest rates remain low, the Company anticipates continuing to earn significant fixed rate floor income in future periods. See Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk," which provides additional detail on the Company's portfolio earning fixed rate floor income and the derivatives used by the Company to hedge these loans.

## Summary and Comparison of Operating Results

	Year ended December 31,			
	2013	2012	2011	Additional information
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	\$390,571	324,906	347,811	See table below for additional analysis. The primary component of other income is borrower late fees, which were \$12.7 million, \$13.9 million, and \$12.6 million in 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively. The primary item of other income that causes
Other income	15,223	18,219	15,416	fluctuations year over year is the net realized and unrealized gains/losses from investments, which were gains of \$0.2 million and \$1.7 million in 2013 and 2012, respectively, and a loss of \$0.1 million in 2011.
Gain on sale of loans and debt repurchases	11,004	3,814	1,433	Gains are primarily from the Company repurchasing its own asset-backed debt securities.
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, net	35,256	(51,809 )	7,571	Includes (i) the unrealized gains and losses that are caused by changes in fair values of derivatives which do not qualify for "hedge treatment" under GAAP; and (ii) the foreign currency transaction gains or losses caused by the re-measurement of the Company's Euro-denominated bonds to U.S. dollars.
Derivative settlements, net	(27,966 )	(11,792 )	(7,228 )	The Company maintains an overall risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments to reduce the economic effect of interest rate volatility. Derivative settlements for each applicable period should be evaluated with the Company's net interest income as reflected in the table below.
Total other income	33,517	(41,568 )	17,192	
Salaries and benefits	2,292	2,252	2,791	
Other expenses	30,945	16,435	13,381	Increase due to higher third party servicing fees related to a significant amount of recent loan purchases being serviced at third parties.
Intersegment expenses, net	57,572	66,215	70,018	Amount includes fees paid to the LGS operating segment for the servicing of the Company's student loan portfolio. Such amounts have

				decreased as the AGM portfolio serviced by LGS has run off.
Total operating expenses	90,809	84,902	86,190	
Income before income taxes and corporate overhead allocation	333,279	198,436	278,813	
Corporate overhead allocation	(3,896 )	(5,306 )	(6,896 )	
Income before income taxes	329,383	193,130	271,917	
Income tax expense	(125,165 )	(73,387 )	(103,327 )	
Net income	\$204,218	119,743	168,590	
Additional information:				
Net income	\$204,218	119,743	168,590	The Company provides non-GAAP information that reflects specific items management believes to be important in the evaluation of its operating results. The Company believes the point-in-time estimates of asset and liability values related to its derivatives and Euro-denominated bonds that are subject to interest and currency rate fluctuations affect the period-to-period comparability of the results of operations. These items are excluded here for comparability purposes.
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments, net	(35,256 )	51,809	(7,571 )	
Tax effect	13,397	(19,687 )	2,877	
Net income, excluding derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments	\$182,359	151,865	163,896	

The following table summarizes the components of "net interest income after provision for loan losses" and "derivative settlements, net."

	Year ended December 31,			Additional Information
	2013	2012	2011	
Variable interest income, net of settlements on derivatives	\$645,739	630,267	633,486	Increase in 2013 compared to 2012 is due to an increase in the average student loan portfolio, partially offset by a decrease in the gross yield earned on student loans, net of settlements on derivatives. Decrease in 2012 compared to 2011 is due to a decrease in the average student loan portfolio, partially offset by an increase in the yield earned on student loans, net of settlements on derivatives.
Consolidation rebate fees	(192,061 )	(178,211 )	(174,387 )	Increase due to an increase in the average consolidation loan balance.
Discount accretion, net of premium and deferred origination costs amortization	8,067	47	(21,095 )	Increase due to the Company's purchases of loans at a net discount over the prior few years. Decrease in 2013 compared to 2012 is due to a decrease in cost of funds, partially offset by an increase in average debt outstanding. Increase in 2012 compared to 2011 is due to an increase in cost of funds, partially offset by a decrease in average debt outstanding.
Interest on bonds and notes payable	(226,265 )	(260,082 )	(218,641 )	
Variable student loan interest margin, net of settlements on derivatives	235,480	192,021	219,363	
Fixed rate floor income, net of settlements on derivatives	148,431	145,345	144,454	The high levels of fixed rate floor income earned are due to historically low interest rates.
Investment interest	461	955	1,051	
Intercompany interest	(3,267 )	(3,707 )	(3,035 )	
Provision for loan losses - federally insured	(20,000 )	(22,000 )	(20,000 )	
Provision for loan losses - non-federally insured	1,500	500	(1,250 )	
Net interest income after provision for loan losses (net of settlements on derivatives)	\$362,605	313,114	340,583	

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company's fee generating businesses are non-capital intensive and all produce positive operating cash flows. As such, a minimal amount of debt and equity capital is allocated to the fee-based segments and any liquidity or capital needs are satisfied using cash flow from operations. Therefore, the Liquidity and Capital Resources discussion is concentrated on the Company's liquidity and capital needs to meet existing debt obligations in the Asset Generation and Management operating segment.

The Company may issue equity and debt securities in the future in order to improve capital, increase liquidity, refinance upcoming maturities, or provide for general corporate purposes. Moreover, the Company may from time-to-time repurchase certain amounts of its outstanding secured and unsecured debt securities, including debt securities which the Company may issue in the future, for cash and/or through exchanges for other securities. Such repurchases or exchanges may be made in open market transactions, privately negotiated transactions, or otherwise. Any such repurchases or exchanges will depend on prevailing market conditions, the Company's liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions, compliance with securities laws, and other factors. The amounts involved in any such transactions may be material.

The Company has historically utilized operating cash flow, secured financing transactions (which include warehouse facilities, asset-backed securitizations, and liquidity programs offered by the Department), operating lines of credit, and other borrowing arrangements to fund its Asset Generation and Management operations and student loan acquisitions. In addition, the Company has used operating cash flow, borrowings on its unsecured line of credit, and unsecured debt offerings to fund corporate activities, business acquisitions, and repurchases of common stock. The Company has also used its common stock to partially fund certain business acquisitions.

#### Sources of Liquidity Currently Available

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had cash and investments of \$255.3 million. In addition, the Company has historically generated positive cash flow from operations. For the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, the Company's net cash provided by operating activities was \$387.2 million, \$299.3 million, and \$310.9 million, respectively.

The Company has a \$275.0 million unsecured line of credit with a maturity date of March 28, 2018. As of December 31, 2013, \$45.0 million was outstanding on the unsecured line of credit and \$230.0 million was available for future use.

As part of the Company's asset-backed securitizations, the Company has retained certain of the Class B subordinated note tranches. In addition, the Company has repurchased certain of its own asset-backed securities (bonds and notes payable) in the secondary market. For accounting purposes, these notes are effectively retired and are not included on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. However, these securities are legally outstanding at the trust level and the Company could sell these notes to third parties or redeem the notes at par as cash is generated by the trust estate. Upon a sale of these notes to third parties, the Company would obtain cash proceeds equal to the market value of the notes on the date of such sale. As of December 31, 2013, the Company holds \$237.3 million (par value) of its own asset-backed securities that are not included in the consolidated financial statements.

The Company intends to use its liquidity position to capitalize on market opportunities, including FFELP student loan acquisitions; strategic acquisitions and investments, including continued investments in its core business areas of asset management and finance, loan servicing, payment processing, and enrollment services; and capital management initiatives, including stock repurchases, debt repurchases, and dividend distributions.

#### Cash Flows

During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company generated \$387.2 million from operating activities, compared to \$299.3 million for the same period in 2012. The increase in cash provided by operating activities reflects the higher level of net income in 2013, together with proceeds received in 2013 for the termination of one of the Company's cross currency interest rate swaps. The increase in cash provided by operating activities was partially offset by the impacts of changes in non-cash fair value adjustments for derivatives.

The primary items included in the statement of cash flows for investing activities are the purchase and repayment of student loans. The primary items included in financing activities are the proceeds from the issuance of and payments on bonds and notes payable used to fund student loans. Cash provided by investing activities and cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$496.6 million and \$886.5 million, respectively. Cash used in investing activities and cash provided by financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$792.7 million and \$516.8 million, respectively. Investing and financing activities are further addressed in the discussion that follows.

#### Liquidity Needs and Sources of Liquidity Available to Satisfy Debt Obligations Secured by Student Loan Assets and Related Collateral

The Company had the following debt obligations outstanding that are secured by student loan assets and related collateral:

	As of December 31, 2013	
	Carrying amount	Final maturity
Asset Generation and Management:		
Bonds and notes issued in asset-backed securitizations	\$24,614,143	5/25/18 - 8/26/52
FFELP warehouse facilities	1,396,344	1/17/16 - 6/12/16
Other borrowings	61,401	4/11/14 - 11/11/15
	\$26,071,888	



#### Bonds and Notes Issued in Asset-backed Securitizations

The majority of the Company's portfolio of student loans is funded in asset-backed securitizations that are structured to substantially match the maturity of the funded assets, thereby minimizing liquidity risk. In addition, due to (i) the difference between the yield the Company receives on the loans and cost of financing within these transactions, and (ii) the servicing and administration fees the Company earns from these transactions, the Company has created a portfolio that will generate earnings and significant cash flow over the life of these transactions.

As of December 31, 2013, based on cash flow models developed to reflect management's current estimate of, among other factors, prepayments, defaults, deferment, forbearance, and interest rates, the Company currently expects future undiscounted cash flows from its portfolio to be approximately \$2.17 billion as detailed below. The \$2.17 billion includes approximately \$432.5 million

(as of December 31, 2013) of overcollateralization included in the asset-backed securitizations. These excess net asset positions are reflected variously in the following balances on the consolidated balance sheet: "student loans receivable," "restricted cash and investments," and "accrued interest receivable."

The forecasted cash flow presented below includes all loans funded in asset-backed securitizations as of December 31, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had \$24.6 billion of loans included in asset-backed securitizations, which represented 94.6 percent of its total FFELP student loan portfolio. The forecasted cash flow does not include cash flows that the Company expects to receive related to loans funded in its warehouse facilities or loans acquired subsequent to December 31, 2013.

The Company uses various assumptions, including prepayments and future interest rates, when preparing its cash flow forecast. These assumptions are further discussed below.

**Prepayments:** The primary variable in establishing a life of loan estimate is the level and timing of prepayments. Prepayment rates equal the amount of loans that prepay annually as a percentage of the beginning of period balance, net of scheduled principal payments. A number of factors can affect estimated prepayment rates, including the level of loan consolidation activity, borrower default rates, and utilization of FFEL Program debt management options such as income-based repayment, deferments, and forbearance. Should any of these factors change, management may revise its assumptions, which in turn would impact the projected future cash flow. The Company's cash flow forecast above assumes prepayment rates that are generally consistent with those utilized in the Company's recent asset-backed securities transactions. If management used a prepayment rate assumption two times greater than what was used to forecast the cash flow, the cash flow forecast would be reduced by approximately \$240 million to \$300 million.

**Interest rates:** The Company funds the majority of its student loans with three-month LIBOR indexed floating rate securities. Meanwhile, the interest earned on the Company's student loan assets is indexed primarily to a one-month LIBOR rate. The different interest rate characteristics of the Company's loan assets and liabilities funding these assets result in basis risk. The Company's cash flow forecast assumes three-month LIBOR will exceed one-month LIBOR by 12 basis points for the life of the portfolio, which approximates the historical relationship between these indices. If the forecast is computed assuming a spread of 24 basis points between three-month and one-month LIBOR for the life of the portfolio, the cash flow forecast would be reduced by approximately \$100 million to \$140 million.

The Company uses the current forward interest rate yield curve to forecast cash flows. A change in the forward interest rate curve would impact the future cash flows generated from the portfolio. An increase in future interest rates will reduce the amount of fixed rate floor income the Company is currently receiving. The Company attempts to mitigate the impact of a rise in short-term rates by hedging interest rate risks. As of December 31, 2013, the net fair value of the Company's interest rate derivatives used to hedge loans earning fixed rate floor income was a net liability of \$8.7 million. See Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — Interest Rate Risk."

#### FFELP Warehouse Facilities

The Company funds a portion of its FFELP loan acquisitions using its FFELP warehouse facilities. Student loan warehousing allows the Company to buy and manage student loans prior to transferring them into more permanent financing arrangements. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had three FFELP warehouse facilities with an aggregate maximum financing amount available of \$1.8 billion, of which \$1.4 billion was outstanding and \$0.4 billion was available for additional funding. One of the warehouse facilities provides for formula-based advance rates, depending on FFELP loan type, up to a maximum of the principal and interest of loans financed. The other two FFELP warehouse facilities have static advance rates that require initial equity for loan funding, but do not require increased equity based in market movements. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had \$88.5 million advanced as equity support on these facilities. For further discussion of the Company's FFELP warehouse facilities outstanding at December 31, 2013, see note 4 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report.

Upon termination or expiration of the warehouse facilities, the Company would expect to access the securitization market, obtain replacement warehouse facilities, use operating cash, consider the sale of assets, or transfer collateral to satisfy any remaining obligations.

#### Other Uses of Liquidity

Effective July 1, 2010, the Reconciliation Act of 2010 prohibits new loan originations under the FFEL Program and requires that all new federal loan originations be made through the Federal Direct Loan Program. As a result, the Company no longer originates new FFELP loans, but continues to acquire FFELP loan portfolios from third parties and believes additional loan purchase opportunities exist.

The Company plans to fund additional FFELP student loan acquisitions using current cash and investments; its Union Bank participation agreement (as described below); using its FFELP warehouse facilities (as described above); and continuing to access the asset-backed securities market.

#### Union Bank Participation Agreement

The Company maintains an agreement with Union Bank, as trustee for various grantor trusts, under which Union Bank has agreed to purchase from the Company participation interests in student loans. As of December 31, 2013, \$342.5 million of loans were subject to outstanding participation interests held by Union Bank, as trustee, under this agreement. The agreement automatically renews annually and is terminable by either party upon five business days notice. This agreement provides beneficiaries of Union Bank's grantor trusts with access to investments in interests in student loans, while providing liquidity to the Company. The Company can participate loans to Union Bank to the extent of availability under the grantor trusts, up to \$750 million or an amount in excess of \$750 million if mutually agreed to by both parties. Loans participated under this agreement have been accounted for by the Company as loan sales. Accordingly, the participation interests sold are not included on the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

#### Asset-backed Securities Transactions

During 2013, the Company completed five asset-backed securitizations totaling \$3.2 billion. On February 6, 2014, the Company completed an asset-backed securitization of \$458.5 million (par value). The proceeds of this securitization were used to provide permanent funding for student loans previously financed in the Company's warehouse facilities. Depending on market conditions, the Company anticipates continuing to access the asset-backed securitization market. Asset-backed securitization transactions would be used to refinance student loans included in the FFELP warehouse facilities and/or existing asset-backed securitizations.

### Liquidity Impact Related to Hedging Activities

The Company utilizes derivative instruments to manage interest rate sensitivity. By using derivative instruments, the Company is exposed to market risk which could impact its liquidity.

Based on the derivative portfolio outstanding as of December 31, 2013, the Company does not currently anticipate any movement in interest rates having a material impact on its capital or liquidity profile, nor does the Company expect that any movement in interest rates would have a material impact on its ability to meet potential collateral deposits with its counterparties. However, if interest rates move materially and negatively impact the fair value of the Company's derivative portfolio or if the Company enters into additional derivatives for which the fair value becomes negative, the Company could be required to deposit additional collateral with its derivative instrument counterparties. The collateral deposits, if significant, could negatively impact the Company's liquidity

and capital resources. As of December 31, 2013, the fair value of the Company's derivatives, which had a negative fair value (a liability in the Company's balance sheet), was \$18.0 million, and the Company had \$3.6 million posted as collateral with derivative counterparties.

#### Other Debt Facilities

As previously discussed, the Company has a \$275.0 million unsecured line of credit with a maturity date of March 28, 2018. As of December 31, 2013, the unsecured line of credit had an outstanding balance of \$45.0 million and \$230.0 million was available for future use. Upon the maturity date in 2018 there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to maintain this line of credit, increase the amount outstanding under the line, or find alternative funding if necessary.

The Company has issued Junior Subordinated Hybrid Securities ("Hybrid Securities") that have a final maturity of September 15, 2061. The Hybrid Securities are unsecured obligations of the Company. As of December 31, 2013, \$96.5 million of Hybrid Securities were outstanding.

For further discussion of these unsecured debt obligations of the Company, see note 4 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report.

#### Debt Repurchases

Due to the Company's positive liquidity position and opportunities in the capital markets, the Company has repurchased its own debt over the last several years, and may continue to do so in the future. Gains recorded by the Company from the purchase of debt are included in "gain on the sale of loans and debt repurchases" on the Company's consolidated statements of income. A summary of debt repurchases follows:

	Year ended December 31, 2013			Year ended December 31, 2012			Year ended December 31, 2011		
	Par value	Purchase price	Gain	Par value	Purchase price	Gain	Par value	Purchase price	Gain
Unsecured debt - Hybrid Securities	\$2,775	2,080	695	1,465	1,140	325	62,558	55,651	6,907
Asset-backed securities	87,696	76,725	10,971	134,667	130,969	3,698	12,254	12,199	55
	\$90,471	78,805	11,666	136,132	132,109	4,023	74,812	67,850	6,962

#### Stock Repurchases

The Board of Directors has authorized a stock repurchase program to repurchase up to a total of five million shares of the Company's Class A common stock during the three-year period ending May 24, 2015. Shares may be repurchased from time to time depending on various factors, including share prices and other potential uses of liquidity. Shares repurchased by the Company during 2013, 2012, and 2011 are shown in the table below.

	Total shares repurchased	Purchase price (in thousands)	Average price of shares repurchased (per share)
Year ended December 31, 2013	393,259	\$13,136	\$33.40
Year ended December 31, 2012	806,023	22,814	28.30
Year ended December 31, 2011	1,436,423	27,134	18.89

As of December 31, 2013, 3,875,367 shares remain authorized for purchase under the Company's repurchase program.

Dividends

Dividends of \$0.10 per share on the Company's Class A and Class B common stock were paid on March 15, 2013, June 14, 2013, September 13, 2013, and December 16, 2013, respectively.

The Company's Board of Directors declared a first quarter 2014 cash dividend on the Company's Class A and Class B common stock of \$0.10 per share. The dividend will be paid on March 14, 2014, to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 28, 2014.

The Company currently plans to continue making regular quarterly dividend payments, subject to future earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, and other factors. In addition, the payment of dividends is subject to the terms of the Company's outstanding Hybrid Securities, which generally provide that if the Company defers interest payments on those securities it cannot pay dividends on its capital stock.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future effect on its financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources that are material to investors.

#### Contractual Obligations

The Company's contractual obligations were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2013				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	More than 5 years
Bonds and notes payable (a)	\$26,213,345	56,900	1,400,845	447,245	24,308,355
Operating lease obligations	16,554	5,889	5,958	2,451	2,256
Total	\$26,229,899	62,789	1,406,803	449,696	24,310,611

(a) Amounts exclude interest as substantially all bonds and notes payable carry variable rates of interest.

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had a reserve of \$12.4 million for uncertain income tax positions (including the federal benefit received from state positions). This obligation is not included in the above table as the timing and resolution of the income tax positions cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

As of December 31, 2013, the Company had participated a cumulative amount of \$120.9 million (par value) of non-federally insured loans to third parties. Loans participated under these agreements have been accounted for by the Company as loan sales. Accordingly, the participation interests sold are not included on the Company's consolidated balance sheets. Per the terms of the servicing agreements, the Company's servicing operations are obligated to repurchase loans subject to the participation interests in the event such loans become 60 or 90 days delinquent. In addition, on January 13, 2011, the Company sold a portfolio of non-federally insured loans for proceeds of \$91.3 million (100% par value). The Company retained credit risk related to this portfolio and will pay cash to purchase back any loans which become 60 days delinquent. As of December 31, 2013, the outstanding balance of loans related to this loan sale was \$63.6 million (par value). As of December 31, 2013, the Company has \$16.1 million accrued related to these repurchase obligations which is included in "other liabilities" in the Company's consolidated balance sheet. These obligations are not included in the above table.

#### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discusses the Company's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting periods. The Company bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that the Company believes are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under varying assumptions or conditions. Note 2 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report includes a summary of the significant accounting policies and

methods used in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments, particularly as they relate to accounting policies that management believes are most "critical" — that is, they are most important to the portrayal of the Company's financial condition and results of operations and they require management's most difficult, subjective, or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Management has identified the following critical accounting policies that are discussed in more detail below: allowance for loan losses, revenue recognition, consolidation of Variable Interest Entities ("VIEs"), income taxes, and accounting for derivatives.



## Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses represents management's estimate of probable losses on student loans. This evaluation process is subject to numerous estimates and judgments. The Company evaluates the appropriateness of the allowance for loan losses on its federally insured loan portfolio separately from its non-federally insured loan portfolio.

The allowance for the federally insured loan portfolio is based on periodic evaluations of the Company's loan portfolios considering loans in repayment versus those in a nonpaying status, delinquency status, trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data, past experience, trends in student loan claims rejected for payment by guarantors, changes to federal student loan programs, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the level of the Company's future provision for loan losses.

In determining the appropriateness of the allowance for loan losses on the non-federally insured loans, the Company considers several factors including: loans in repayment versus those in a nonpaying status, delinquency status, type of program, trends in defaults in the portfolio based on Company and industry data, past experience, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the level of the Company's future provision for loan losses. The Company places a non-federally insured loan on nonaccrual status when the collection of principal and interest is 30 days past due and charges off the loan and accrued interest when the collection of principal and interest is 120 days past due.

The allowance for federally insured and non-federally insured loans and the repurchase obligation related to loans sold are maintained at a level management believes is appropriate to provide for estimated probable credit losses inherent in the loan portfolios. This evaluation is inherently subjective because it requires estimates that may be susceptible to significant changes.

## Revenue Recognition

Student loan income – The Company recognizes student loan income as earned, net of amortization/accretion of loan premiums and discounts and deferred origination costs. Loan income is recognized based upon the expected yield of the loan after giving effect to borrower utilization of incentives such as principal reductions for timely payments (“borrower benefits”) and other yield adjustments. The estimate of the borrower benefits discount is dependent on the estimate of the number of borrowers who will eventually qualify for these benefits. For competitive and liquidity purposes, the Company frequently changed the borrower benefit programs in both amount and qualification factors. These programmatic changes must be reflected in the estimate of the borrower benefit discount. Loan premiums/discounts, deferred origination costs, and borrower benefits are included in the carrying value of the student loan on the consolidated balance sheet and are amortized over the estimated life of the loan. The most sensitive estimate related to the amortization/accretion of loan premiums/discounts, deferred origination costs, and borrower benefits is the estimate of the constant prepayment rate (“CPR”). CPR is a variable in the life of loan estimate that measures the rate at which loans in a portfolio pay before their stated maturity. The CPR is directly correlated to the average life of the portfolio. CPR equals the percentage of loans that prepay annually as a percentage of the beginning of period balance, net of scheduled principal payments. A number of factors can affect the CPR estimate, including the level of loan consolidation activity, borrower default rates, and utilization of FFEL Program debt management options such as income-based repayment, deferments, and forbearance. Should any of these factors change, the estimates made by management would also change, which in turn would impact the amount of loan premium/discount and deferred origination cost amortization recognized by the Company in a particular period.

The Company also earns revenue from its service and product offerings in its fee-based operating segments, including Loan and Guaranty Servicing, Tuition Payment Processing and Campus Commerce, and Enrollment Services revenue.

The revenue recognition policy for these services and products can be found in note 2 to the consolidated financial statements included in this report.

Fees associated with the majority of the services included in the fee-based operating segments are recognized in the period services are rendered and earned under service arrangements with clients where service fees are fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. The Company's service fees are determined based on written price quotations or service agreements having stipulated terms and conditions that do not require management to make any significant judgments or assumptions regarding any potential uncertainties.

The Company assesses collectability of revenues and its allowance for doubtful accounts based on a number of factors, including past transaction history with the customer and the credit-worthiness of the customer. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established to record accounts receivable at estimated net realizable value. If the Company determines that collection of revenues is not reasonably assured at or prior to delivery of the Company's services, revenue is recognized upon the receipt of cash.

### Consolidation of VIEs

The Company's education lending subsidiaries, or VIEs, are engaged in the securitization of education finance assets. These education lending subsidiaries hold beneficial interests in eligible loans, subject to creditors with specific interests. The Company has determined it is the primary beneficiary of its VIEs. The primary beneficiary is the entity which has both: (1) the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, and (2) the obligation to absorb losses or receive benefits of the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE. There can be considerable judgment required in determining the primary beneficiary of the VIEs with which the Company is associated, and there are no "bright line" tests. Rather, the assessment of who has the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly affect the VIE's economic performance and who has the obligation to absorb losses or receive benefits of the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE can be very qualitative and judgmental in nature. The Company is generally the administrator and master servicer of the securitized assets held in its education lending subsidiaries and owns the residual interest of the securitization trusts. As a result, for accounting purposes, the transfers of student loans to the eligible lender trust do not qualify as sales. Accordingly, all the financial activities and related assets and liabilities, including debt, of the securitizations are reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements and are summarized as supplemental information on the balance sheet.

### Income Taxes

The Company is subject to the income tax laws of the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the states and municipalities in which the Company operates. These tax laws are complex and subject to different interpretations by the taxpayer and the relevant government taxing authorities. In establishing a provision for income tax expense, the Company must make judgments and interpretations about the application of these inherently complex tax laws. The Company must also make estimates about when in the future certain items will affect taxable income in the various tax jurisdictions. Disputes over interpretations of the tax laws may be subject to review/adjudication by the court systems of the various tax jurisdictions or may be settled with the taxing authority upon examination or audit. The Company reviews these balances quarterly and as new information becomes available, the balances are adjusted, as appropriate.

### Derivative Accounting

The Company records derivative instruments at fair value on the balance sheet as either an asset or liability. The Company determines the fair value for its derivative contracts using either (i) pricing models that consider current market conditions and the contractual terms of the derivative contract or (ii) counterparty valuations. These factors include interest rates, time value, forward interest rate curve, and volatility factors, as well as foreign exchange rates. Pricing models and their underlying assumptions impact the amount and timing of unrealized gains and losses recognized, and the use of different pricing models or assumptions could produce different financial results. Management has structured the majority of the Company's derivative transactions with the intent that each is economically effective. However, the Company's derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting. Accordingly, changes in the fair value of derivative instruments are reported in current period earnings.

### RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS ISSUED, BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE

In January 2014, the FASB issued accounting guidance regarding the accounting for investments by a reporting entity in flow-through limited liability entities that manage or invest in affordable housing projects that qualify for the low-income housing tax credit. The Company has relatively small investments in affordable housing projects that qualify for the low-income housing tax credits, and currently accounts for these investments using the equity method. The new guidance will allow the Company to account for these investments using the proportional amortization

method. The Company plans to early adopt this standard effective January 1, 2014, and does not expect the adoption to have a material impact on its financial position or results of operations.

## ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

(All dollars are in thousands, except share amounts, unless otherwise noted)

## Interest Rate Risk

The Company's primary market risk exposure arises from fluctuations in its borrowing and lending rates, the spread between which could impact the Company due to shifts in market interest rates.

The following table sets forth the Company's loan assets and debt instruments by rate characteristics:

	As of December 31, 2013		As of December 31, 2012		
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	
Fixed-rate loan assets	\$ 11,090,583	42.5	% \$ 11,271,233	45.1	%
Variable-rate loan assets	15,030,723	57.5	13,724,647	54.9	
Total	\$ 26,121,306	100.0	% \$ 24,995,880	100.0	%
Fixed-rate debt instruments	\$—	—	% \$—	—	%
Variable-rate debt instruments	26,213,345	100.0	25,270,865	100.0	
Total	\$ 26,213,345	100.0	% \$ 25,270,865	100.0	%

Loans originated prior to April 1, 2006 generally earn interest at the higher of the borrower rate, which is fixed over a period of time or a floating rate based on the SAP formula set by the Department. The SAP rate is based on an applicable index plus a fixed spread that depends on loan type, origination date, and repayment status. The Company generally finances its student loan portfolio with variable rate debt. In low and/or declining interest rate environments, when the fixed borrower rate is higher than the SAP rate, the Company's student loans earn at a fixed rate while the interest on the variable rate debt typically continues to reflect the low and/or declining interest rates. In these interest rate environments, the Company may earn additional spread income that it refers to as floor income.

Depending on the type of loan and when it was originated, the borrower rate is either fixed to term or is reset to an annual rate each July 1. As a result, for loans where the borrower rate is fixed to term, the Company may earn floor income for an extended period of time, which the Company refers to as fixed rate floor income, and for those loans where the borrower rate is reset annually on July 1, the Company may earn floor income to the next reset date, which the Company refers to as variable rate floor income. All FFELP loans first originated on or after April 1, 2006 effectively earn at the SAP rate, since lenders are required to rebate fixed rate floor income and variable rate floor income for those loans to the Department.

No variable-rate floor income was earned by the Company during the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011. A summary of fixed rate floor income earned by the Company during these years follows.

	Year ended December 31,		
	2013	2012	2011
Fixed rate floor income, gross	\$ 179,453	164,615	164,700
Derivative settlements (a)	(31,022	) (19,270	) (20,246
Fixed rate floor income, net	\$ 148,431	145,345	144,454

(a) Includes settlement payments on derivatives used to hedge student loans earning fixed rate floor income.

The high levels of fixed rate floor income earned during 2013, 2012, and 2011 are due to historically low interest rates. If interest rates remain low, the Company anticipates continuing to earn significant fixed rate floor income in future periods.

Absent the use of derivative instruments, a rise in interest rates may reduce the amount of floor income received and this may have an impact on earnings due to interest margin compression caused by increasing financing costs, until such time as the federally insured loans earn interest at a variable rate in accordance with their special allowance payment formulas. In higher interest rate environments, where the interest rate rises above the borrower rate and fixed rate loans effectively become variable rate loans, the impact of the rate fluctuations is reduced.

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The following graph depicts fixed rate floor income for a borrower with a fixed rate of 6.75% and a SAP rate of 2.64%:

The following table shows the Company's student loan assets that are earning fixed rate floor income as of December 31, 2013:

Fixed interest range	Borrower/lender weighted average yield	Estimated variable conversion rate (a)	Loan balance
< 3.0%	2.87%	0.23%	\$1,753,639
3.0 - 3.49%	3.20%	0.56%	2,101,999
3.5 - 3.99%	3.65%	1.01%	1,919,895
4.0 - 4.49%	4.20%	1.56%	1,448,691
4.5 - 4.99%	4.72%	2.08%	845,296
5.0 - 5.49%	5.24%	2.60%	578,336
5.5 - 5.99%	5.67%	3.03%	350,308
6.0 - 6.49%	6.18%	3.54%	405,238
6.5 - 6.99%	6.70%	4.06%	367,927
7.0 - 7.49%	7.16%	4.52%	151,774
7.5 - 7.99%	7.71%	5.07%	259,141
8.0 - 8.99%	8.17%	5.53%	612,919
> 9.0%	9.04%	6.40%	295,420
			\$11,090,583

The estimated variable conversion rate is the estimated short-term interest rate at which loans would convert to a (a) variable rate. As of December 31, 2013, the weighted average estimated variable conversion rate was 1.83%. As of December 31, 2013, the short-term interest rate was 17 basis points.

The following table summarizes the outstanding derivative instruments as of December 31, 2013 used by the Company to hedge loans earning fixed rate floor income.

Maturity	Notional amount	Weighted average fixed rate paid by the Company (a)	
2014	\$1,750,000	0.71	%
2015	1,100,000	0.89	
2016	750,000	0.85	
2017	1,250,000	0.86	
	\$4,850,000	0.81	%

(a) For all interest rate derivatives, the Company receives discrete three-month LIBOR.

The Company is also exposed to interest rate risk in the form of basis risk and repricing risk because the interest rate characteristics of the Company's assets do not match the interest rate characteristics of the funding for those assets. The following table presents the Company's FFELP student loan assets and related funding for those assets arranged by underlying indices as of December 31, 2013:

Index	Frequency of variable resets	Assets	Debt outstanding that funded student loan assets
1 month LIBOR (a)	Daily	\$25,037,097	—
3 month Treasury bill	Daily	1,013,106	—
3 month LIBOR (a) (b)	Quarterly	—	16,253,353
1 month LIBOR	Monthly	—	7,804,457
Auction-rate or remarketing (c)	Varies	—	1,134,250
Asset-backed commercial paper (d)	Varies	—	818,427
Other (e)		21,685	61,401
		\$26,071,888	26,071,888

(a) The Company has certain basis swaps outstanding in which the Company receives three-month LIBOR and pays one-month LIBOR plus or minus a spread as defined in the agreements (the "1:3 Basis Swaps"). The Company entered into these derivative instruments to better match the interest rate characteristics on its student loan assets and the debt funding such assets. The following table summarizes these derivatives as of December 31, 2013:

Maturity		Notional amount	
2021		\$250,000	
2022		1,900,000	
2023		3,650,000	
2024		250,000	
2026		800,000	
2028		100,000	
2036		700,000	
2039	(1)	150,000	
2040	(2)	200,000	
		\$8,000,000	(3)

(1) This derivative has a forward effective start date in 2015.

(2) This derivative has a forward effective start date in 2020.

(3) The weighted average rate paid by the Company on the 1:3 Basis Swaps as of December 31, 2013 was one-month LIBOR plus 3.5 basis points.

(b) The Company has Euro-denominated notes that reprice on the EURIBOR index. The Company has entered into a cross-currency interest rate swap that converts the EURIBOR index to three-month LIBOR. As a result, these notes



are reflected in the three-month LIBOR category in the above table. See “Foreign Currency Exchange Risk” below.

The interest rates on certain of the Company's asset-backed securities are set and periodically reset via a "dutch auction" ("Auction Rate Securities") or through remarketing utilizing remarketing agents ("Variable Rate Demand Notes"). As of December 31, 2013, the Company is currently sponsor for \$915.1 million of Auction Rate Securities and \$219.2 million of Variable Rate Demand Notes.

Since February 2008, problems in the auction rate securities market as a whole has led to failures of the auctions pursuant to which the Company's Auction Rate Securities' interest rates are set. As a result, the Auction Rate Securities generally pay interest to the holder at a maximum rate as defined by the indenture. While these rates will vary, they will generally be based on a spread to LIBOR or Treasury Securities, or the Net Loan Rate as defined in the financing documents.

For Variable Rate Demand Notes, the remarketing agents set the price, which is then offered to investors. If there are insufficient potential bid orders to purchase all of the notes offered for sale, the Variable Rate Demand Notes will generally pay interest to the holder at a rate as defined in the indenture.

(d) The interest rates on certain of the Company's warehouse facilities are indexed to asset-backed commercial paper rates.

(e) Assets include restricted cash and investments and other assets. Debt outstanding includes other debt obligations secured by student loan assets and related collateral.

#### Sensitivity Analysis

The following tables summarize the effect on the Company's earnings, based upon a sensitivity analysis performed by the Company assuming hypothetical increases in interest rates of 100 basis points and 300 basis points while funding spreads remain constant. In addition, a sensitivity analysis was performed assuming the funding index increases 10 basis points and 30 basis points while holding the asset index constant, if the funding index is different than the asset index. The sensitivity analysis was performed on the Company's variable rate assets (including loans earning fixed rate floor income) and liabilities. The analysis includes the effects of the Company's interest rate and basis swaps in existence during these periods.

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	Interest rates				Asset and funding index mismatches			
	Change from increase of 100 basis points		Change from increase of 300 basis points		Increase of 10 basis points		Increase of 30 basis points	
	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent
Year ended December 31, 2013								
Effect on earnings:								
Decrease in pre-tax net income before impact of derivative settlements	\$(70,599)	(15.1 )%	\$(124,864)	(26.8 )%	\$(16,831)	(3.6 )%	\$(50,493)	(10.8 )%
Impact of derivative settlements	60,123	12.9	180,370	38.7	6,855	1.5	20,565	4.4
Increase (decrease) in net income before taxes	\$(10,476)	(2.2 )%	\$55,506	11.9 %	\$(9,976 )	(2.1 )%	\$(29,928)	(6.4 )%
Increase (decrease) in basic and diluted earnings per share	\$(0.14 )		\$0.74		\$(0.13 )		\$(0.40 )	
Year ended December 31, 2012								
Effect on earnings:								
Decrease in pre-tax net income before impact of derivative settlements	\$(66,283)	(24.1 )%	\$(117,342)	(42.7 )%	\$(23,935)	(8.7 )%	\$(71,805)	(26.2 )%
Impact of derivative settlements	47,263	17.2	141,789	51.6	1,717	0.6	5,152	1.9
Increase (decrease) in net income before taxes	\$(19,020)	(6.9 )%	\$24,447	8.9 %	\$(22,218)	(8.1 )%	\$(66,653)	(24.3 )%
Increase (decrease) in basic and diluted earnings per share	\$(0.25 )		\$0.32		\$(0.29 )		\$(0.87 )	
Year ended December 31, 2011								
Effect on earnings:								
Decrease in pre-tax net income before impact of derivative settlements	\$(69,225)	(21.5 )%	\$(124,602)	(38.7 )%	\$(24,237)	(7.5 )%	\$(72,712)	(22.6 )%
Impact of derivative settlements	50,569	15.7	151,705	47.1	—	—	—	—
Increase (decrease) in net income before taxes	\$(18,656)	(5.8 )%	\$27,103	8.4 %	\$(24,237)	(7.5 )%	\$(72,712)	(22.6 )%
Increase (decrease) in basic and diluted earnings per share	\$(0.24 )		\$0.35		\$(0.31 )		\$(0.94 )	

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

The Company has issued €352.7 million of student loan asset-backed Euro Notes ("2006-2 Notes") with an interest rate based on a spread to the EURIBOR index. As a result, the Company is exposed to the market risk related to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and Euro. The Company has entered into a cross-currency interest rate swap in connection with the issuance of the 2006-2 Notes. See note 6 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this report for additional information, including a summary of the terms of the cross-currency interest rate swap associated with the 2006-2 Notes and the related financial statement impact.

Financial Statement Impact – Derivatives and Foreign Currency Transaction Adjustments

For a table summarizing the effect of derivative instruments in the consolidated statements of income, including the components of "derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments and derivative settlements, net" included in the consolidated statements of income, see note 6 of the notes to consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Reference is made to the consolidated financial statements listed under the heading "(a) 1. Consolidated Financial Statements" of Item 15 of this report, which consolidated financial statements are incorporated into this report by reference in response to this Item 8.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

## ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

### Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under supervision and with the participation of certain members of the Company's management, including the chief executive and chief financial officers, the Company completed an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in SEC Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on this evaluation, the Company's principal executive and principal financial officers concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in reports the Company files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the chief executive and chief financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

### Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the Company's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) for the Company. The Company's internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management maintains a comprehensive system of controls intended to ensure that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization, assets are safeguarded, and financial records are reliable. Management also takes steps to ensure that information and communication flows are effective and to monitor performance, including performance of internal control procedures.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 based on the criteria for effective internal control described in Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2013, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 has been audited by KPMG LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report included herein, which expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013.

### Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Internal Controls

The Company's management, including the chief executive and chief financial officers, understands that the disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting are subject to certain limitations, including the exercise of judgment in designing, implementing, and evaluating the controls and procedures, the assumptions used in identifying the likelihood of future events, and the inability to eliminate misconduct completely. The design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of a control system must be considered relative to their costs. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Controls can also be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Projections of any evaluation of controls effectiveness to future periods are subject to risks. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

As a result, there can be no assurance that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls over financial reporting will prevent all errors or fraud or ensure that all material information will be made known to management in a timely fashion. By their nature, the Company's or any system of disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls over financial reporting, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance regarding management's control objectives.

#### Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders  
Nelnet, Inc.:

We have audited Nelnet, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Nelnet, Inc.'s (the Company) management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Nelnet, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Nelnet, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the

related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2013, and our report dated February 27, 2014 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Lincoln, Nebraska  
February 27, 2014

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

During the fourth quarter of 2013, no information was required to be disclosed in a report on Form 8-K, but not reported.

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## PART III.

## ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information as to the directors, executive officers, corporate governance, and Section 16(a) beneficial ownership reporting compliance of the Company set forth under the captions “PROPOSAL 1 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS - Nominees,” “EXECUTIVE OFFICERS,” “CORPORATE GOVERNANCE,” and “SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS - Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the definitive Proxy Statement to be filed on Schedule 14A with the SEC, no later than 120 days after the end of the Company's fiscal year, relating to the Company's Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 22, 2014 (the “Proxy Statement”), is incorporated into this report by reference.

## ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information set forth under the captions “CORPORATE GOVERNANCE” and “EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated into this report by reference.

## ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information set forth under the caption “SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS - Stock Ownership” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated into this report by reference. There are no arrangements known to the Company, the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in a change in the control of the Company.

The following table summarizes information about compensation plans under which equity securities are authorized for issuance.

## Equity Compensation Plan Information

Plan category	As of December 31, 2013		
	Number of shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants, and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants, and rights (b)	Number of shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders	—	—	3,007,307 (1)
Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders	—	—	—
Total	—	—	3,007,307

Includes 2,314,802, 116,291, and 576,214 shares of Class A Common Stock remaining available for future (1)issuance under the Nelnet, Inc. Restricted Stock Plan, Nelnet, Inc. Directors Stock Compensation Plan, and Nelnet, Inc. Employee Share Purchase Plan, respectively.

## ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information set forth under the captions “CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS,” “CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - Board Composition and Director Independence,” and “CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - Board Committees” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated into this report by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information set forth under the caption “PROPOSAL 2 - RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM - Independent Accountant Fees and Services” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated into this report by reference.

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PART IV.

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements of Nelnet, Inc. and its subsidiaries and the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm thereon are included in Item 8 above:

	Page
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	F-2
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2013 and 2012	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011	F-5
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011	F-6
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011	F-7
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-8

2. Financial Statement Schedules

All schedules are omitted because they are not applicable or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

3. Exhibits

The exhibits listed in the accompanying index to exhibits are filed, furnished, or incorporated by reference as part of this report.

(b) Exhibits

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Nelnet, Inc., and Articles of Amendment thereto, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
3.2	Articles of Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Nelnet, Inc., filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein.
3.3	Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of Nelnet, Inc., as amended as of March 18, 2011, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 24, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein.
3.4	Seventh Amended and Restated Bylaws of Nelnet, Inc., as amended as of February 6, 2014, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 11, 2014 and incorporated

by reference herein.

4.1 Form of Class A Common Stock Certificate of Nelnet, Inc., filed on November 24, 2003 as Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.

4.2 Certain instruments, including indentures of trust, defining the rights of holders of long-term debt of the registrant and its consolidated subsidiaries, none of which instruments authorizes a total amount of indebtedness thereunder in excess of 10 percent of the total assets of the registrant and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, are omitted from this Exhibit Index pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K. Many of such instruments have been previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the registrant hereby agrees to furnish a copy of any such instrument to the Commission upon request.

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Exhibit Index

- 4.3 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 16, 2003, by and among Nelnet, Inc. and the shareholders of Nelnet, Inc. signatory thereto, filed on November 24, 2003 as Exhibit 4.11 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.1\* Composite Form of Amended and Restated Participation Agreement, dated as of June 1, 2001, between NELnet, Inc. (subsequently renamed National Education Loan Network, Inc.) and Union Bank and Trust Company, as amended by the First Amendment thereto dated as of December 19, 2001 through the Cancellation of the Fifteenth Amendment thereto dated as of March 16, 2011 (such Participation Agreement and each amendment through the Cancellation of the Fifteenth Amendment thereto have been previously filed as set forth in the Exhibit Index for the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, and are incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.2 Sixteenth Amendment of Amended and Restated Participation Agreement, dated as of March 23, 2012, by and between Union Bank and Trust Company and National Education Loan Network, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.3 Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of March 19, 2001, by and between NELnet, Inc. (subsequently renamed National Education Loan Network, Inc.) and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed on September 25, 2003 as Exhibit 10.36 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.4 First Amendment of Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 1, 2002, by and between NELnet, Inc. (subsequently renamed National Education Loan Network, Inc.) and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed on September 25, 2003 as Exhibit 10.37 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.5 Second Amendment of Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 1, 2002, by and between Nelnet, Inc. (f/k/a/ NELnet, Inc.) (subsequently renamed National Education Loan Network, Inc.) and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed on September 25, 2003 as Exhibit 10.38 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.6 Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of September 1, 2010, by and between Nelnet, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.7 First Amendment of Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of March 22, 2011, by and between Nelnet, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.8 Amendment to Application and Agreement for Standby Letter of Credit, Loan Purchase Agreements, and Standby Student Loan Purchase Agreements, dated effective October 21, 2003, by and among National Education Loan Network, Inc., Nelnet, Inc., Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., Union Bank and Trust

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Company, and Bank of America, N.A., filed on October 27, 2003 as Exhibit 10.94 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-108070) and incorporated by reference herein.

10.9 February 2004 Amendment to Application and Agreement for Standby Letter of Credit, Loan Purchase Agreements and Standby Student Loan Purchase Agreements, dated as of February 20, 2004, among National Education Loan Network, Inc., Nelnet, Inc., Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., Union Bank and Trust Company, and Bank of America, N.A., filed as Exhibit 10.62 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.10 November 2003 Amendment to Application and Agreement for Standby Letter of Credit, Loan Purchase Agreements, and Standby Student Loan Purchase Agreements, dated effective as of November 20, 2003, by and among National Education Loan Network, Inc., Nelnet, Inc., Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., Union Bank and Trust Company, and Bank of America, N.A., filed as Exhibit 10.63 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.11 December 2003 Amendment to Application and Agreement for Standby Letter of Credit, Loan Purchase Agreements, and Standby Student Loan Purchase Agreements, dated effective as of December 19, 2003, by and among National Education Loan Network, Inc, Nelnet, Inc., Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., Union Bank and Trust Company, and Bank of America, N.A., filed as Exhibit 10.64 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.12 April 2004 Amendment to Application and Agreement for Standby Letter of Credit, Loan Purchase Agreements, and Standby Student Loan Purchase Agreements, dated effective April 15, 2004, among Bank of America, N.A., Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., National Education Loan Network, Inc, Nelnet, Inc., and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.67 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2004 and incorporated by reference herein.

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Exhibit Index

- 10.13 Amendment of Agreements dated as of February 4, 2005, by and between National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 10, 2005 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.14+ Nelnet, Inc. Employee Share Purchase Plan, as amended through March 17, 2011, filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.15 Office Building Lease dated June 21, 1996 between Miller & Paine and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.16 Amendment to Office Building Lease dated June 11, 1997 between Miller & Paine and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.17 Lease Amendment Number Two dated February 8, 2001 between Miller & Paine and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.18 Lease Amendment Number Three dated May 23, 2005 between Miller & Paine, LLC and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.6 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.19 Lease Agreement dated May 20, 2005 between Miller & Paine, LLC and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.20 Office Sublease dated April 30, 2001 between Union Bank and Trust Company and Nelnet, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.8 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 16, 2006 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.21+ Nelnet, Inc. Restricted Stock Plan, as amended through May 20, 2009, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 27, 2009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.22+ Nelnet, Inc. Directors Stock Compensation Plan, as amended through April 18, 2008, filed on June 27, 2008 as Exhibit 99.1 to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-151911) and incorporated herein by reference.

- 10.23 Loan Purchase Agreement, dated as of November 25, 2008, by and between Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., f/k/a NEBHELP, INC., acting, where applicable, by and through Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, not individually but as Eligible Lender Trustee for the Seller under the Warehouse Agreement or Eligible Lender Trust Agreement, and Union Bank and Trust Company, acting in its individual capacity and as trustee, filed as Exhibit 10.71 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.24 Loan Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 25, 2008, by and between Nelnet, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.72 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.25 Assurance Commitment Agreement, dated as of November 25, 2008, by and among Jay L. Dunlap, Angie Muhleisen, Michael S. Dunlap, Nelnet, Inc., Union Bank and Trust Company, and Farmers & Merchants Investment Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.73 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.26 Student Loan Servicing Contract between the United States Department of Education and Nelnet Servicing, LLC, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.27 Guaranteed Purchase Agreement, dated as of September 1, 2010, by and between Nelnet, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.28 Management Agreement, dated effective as of May 1, 2011, by Whitetail Rock Capital Management, LLC and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.29 Management Agreement, dated effective as of January 20, 2012, by and between Union Bank and Trust Company and Whitetail Rock Capital Management, LLC, filed as Exhibit 10.58 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.



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- 10.30 Investment Management Agreement, dated effective as of February 10, 2012, by and among Whitetail Rock SLAB Fund I, LLC, Whitetail Rock Fund Management, LLC, and Whitetail Rock Capital Management, LLC, filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.31\* Investment Management Agreement, dated effective as of February 14, 2013, by and among Whitetail Rock SLAB Fund III, LLC, Whitetail Rock Fund Management, LLC, and Whitetail Rock Capital Management, LLC.
- 10.32 Commercial lease agreement, dated effective as of October 31, 2011, by and between Union Bank and Trust Company and Nelnet, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.59 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.33 Credit Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2012, among Nelnet, Inc., U.S. Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent, Lead Arranger and Book Runner, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Syndication Agent, and Citibank, N.A. and Royal Bank of Canada, as Co-Documentation Agents, and various lender parties thereto, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 24, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.34 Guaranty, dated as of February 17, 2012, by and among each of the subsidiaries of Nelnet, Inc. signatories thereto, in favor of U.S. Bank National Association, as Administrative Agent, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 24, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.35 Amendment No. 1 dated as of March 16, 2012 to Credit Agreement dated as of February 17, 2012, by and among Nelnet, Inc., U.S. Bank National Association, as Agent for the Lenders, and various lender parties thereto, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 2, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.36 Amendment No. 2 dated as of March 28, 2013 to Credit Agreement dated as of February 17, 2012, by and among Nelnet, Inc., U.S. Bank National Association, as Agent for the Lenders, and various lender parties thereto, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 2, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.37 Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Interest in Aircraft dated effective as of March 1, 2012, by and between National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Financial Services, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.38 Second Amended and Restated Aircraft Joint Ownership Agreement made and entered into as of March 1, 2012, by and between National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Financial Services, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012

and incorporated by reference herein.

10.39 Aircraft Purchase Agreement dated as of May 20, 2013, by and between Galena Air Services Company and National Education Loan Network, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.40 First Amendment of Aircraft Purchase Agreement dated as of June 11, 2013, by and between Galena Air Services Company and National Education Loan Network, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.41 Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Interest in Aircraft dated as of June 25, 2013, by and between National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Financial Services, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.42 Aircraft Joint Ownership Agreement dated as of June 25, 2013, by and between National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Financial Services, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.43 Aircraft Management Agreement, dated as of June 25, 2013, by and between Duncan Aviation, Inc. and National Education Loan Network, Inc. and Union Financial Services, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.44 Consulting and Services Agreement made and entered into as of May 1, 2013, by and between Nelnet, Inc., and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

10.45 Amended and Restated Consulting and Services Agreement made and entered into as of October 1, 2013, by and between Nelnet, Inc. and Union Bank and Trust Company, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein.

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- 21.1\* Subsidiaries of Nelnet, Inc.
- 23.1\* Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 31.1\* Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey R. Noordhoek.
- 31.2\* Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Chief Financial Officer James D. Kruger.
- 32\*\* Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS\* XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE\* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Filed herewith

\*\* Furnished herewith

+ Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement contemplated by Item 15(a)(3) on Form 10-K.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: February 27, 2014

NELNET, INC

By: /s/ JEFFREY R. NOORDHOEK  
 Name: Jeffrey R. Noordhoek  
 Title: Chief Executive Officer  
 (Principle Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ JEFFREY R. NOORDHOEK Jeffrey R. Noordhoek	Chief Executive Officer (Principle Executive Officer)	February 27, 2014
/s/ JAMES D. KRUGER James D. Kruger	Chief Financial Officer (Principle Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	February 27, 2014
/s/ MICHAEL S. DUNLAP Michael S. Dunlap	Executive Chairman	February 27, 2014
/s/ STEPHEN F. BUTTERFIELD Stephen F. Butterfield	Vice Chairman	February 27, 2014
/s/ JAMES P. ABEL James P. Abel	Director	February 27, 2014
/s/ WILLIAM R. CINTANI William R. Cintani	Director	February 27, 2014
/s/ KATHLEEN A. FARRELL Kathleen A. Farrell	Director	February 27, 2014
/s/ THOMAS E. HENNING Thomas E. Henning	Director	February 27, 2014
/s/ KIMBERLY K. RATH Kimberly K. Rath	Director	February 27, 2014
/s/ MICHAEL D. REARDON Michael D. Reardon	Director	February 27, 2014



NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders

Nelnet, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Nelnet, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2013. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nelnet, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2013, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Nelnet, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 27, 2014 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Lincoln, Nebraska

February 27, 2014

## NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

December 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands, except share data)	
Assets:		
Student loans receivable (net of allowance for loan losses of \$55,122 and \$51,902, respectively)	\$25,907,589	24,830,621
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Cash and cash equivalents - not held at a related party	8,537	7,567
Cash and cash equivalents - held at a related party	54,730	58,464
Total cash and cash equivalents	63,267	66,031
Investments	192,040	83,312
Restricted cash and investments	735,123	815,462
Restricted cash - due to customers	167,576	96,516
Accrued interest receivable	314,553	307,518
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,045 and \$1,529, respectively)	56,072	63,638
Goodwill	117,118	117,118
Intangible assets, net	6,132	9,393
Property and equipment, net	33,829	31,869
Other assets	115,043	88,976
Fair value of derivative instruments	62,507	97,441
Total assets	\$27,770,849	26,607,895
Liabilities:		
Bonds and notes payable	\$25,955,289	25,098,835
Accrued interest payable	21,725	14,770
Other liabilities	164,300	161,671
Due to customers	167,576	96,516
Fair value of derivative instruments	17,969	70,890
Total liabilities	26,326,859	25,442,682
Commitments and contingencies		
Equity:		
Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares; no shares issued or outstanding	—	—
Common stock:		
Class A, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 600,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 34,881,338 shares and 35,116,913 shares, respectively	349	351
Class B, convertible, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 60,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 11,495,377 shares	115	115
Additional paid-in capital	24,887	32,540
Retained earnings	1,413,492	1,129,389
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	4,819	2,813
Total Nelnet, Inc. shareholders' equity	1,443,662	1,165,208
Noncontrolling interest	328	5
Total equity	1,443,990	1,165,213



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Total liabilities and equity	\$27,770,849	26,607,895
Supplemental information - assets and liabilities of consolidated variable interest entities:		
Student loans receivable	\$26,020,629	24,920,130
Restricted cash and investments	732,771	753,511
Fair value of derivative instruments	36,834	82,841
Other assets	313,748	306,454
Bonds and notes payable	(26,244,222 )	(25,209,341 )
Other liabilities	(303,142 )	(348,364 )
Net assets of consolidated variable interest entities	\$556,618	505,231

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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## NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Income

Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011

	2013	2012	2011
	(Dollars in thousands, except share data)		
Interest income:			
Loan interest	\$638,142	609,237	589,686
Investment interest	6,668	4,616	3,168
Total interest income	644,810	613,853	592,854
Interest expense:			
Interest on bonds and notes payable	230,935	268,566	228,289
Net interest income	413,875	345,287	364,565
Less provision for loan losses	18,500	21,500	21,250
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	395,375	323,787	343,315
Other income (expense):			
Loan and guaranty servicing revenue	243,428	209,748	175,657
Tuition payment processing and campus commerce revenue	80,682	74,410	67,797
Enrollment services revenue	98,078	117,925	130,470
Other income	46,298	39,476	29,513
Gain on sale of loans and debt repurchases	11,699	4,139	8,340
Derivative market value and foreign currency adjustments and derivative settlements, net	18,957	(61,416)	(25,647)
Total other income	499,142	384,282	386,130
Operating expenses:			
Salaries and benefits	196,169	192,826	177,951
Cost to provide enrollment services	64,961	78,375	86,548
Depreciation and amortization	18,311	33,625	29,744
Other	149,542	128,738	113,415
Total operating expenses	428,983	433,564	407,658
Income before income taxes	465,534	274,505	321,787
Income tax expense	161,193	96,077	117,452
Net income	304,341	178,428	204,335
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	1,669	431	—
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$302,672	177,997	204,335
Earnings per common share:			
Net income attributable to Nelnet, Inc. shareholders - basic and diluted	\$6.50	3.76	4.24
Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic and diluted	46,570,314	47,369,331	48,157,403

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011

	2013	2012	2011
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Net income	\$304,341	178,428	204,335
Other comprehensive income:			
Available-for-sale securities:			
Unrealized holding gains arising during period, net	9,134	10,230	—
Less reclassification adjustment for gains recognized in net income, net of losses	(5,938)	) (5,798	) —
Income tax effect	(1,190)	) (1,619	) —
Total other comprehensive income	2,006	2,813	—
Comprehensive income	306,347	181,241	204,335
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interest	1,669	431	—
Comprehensive income attributable to Nelnet, Inc.	\$304,678	180,810	204,335

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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## NELNET, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity

Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011

	Nelnet, Inc. Shareholders		Preferred stock	Class B common stock	Class A common stock	Additional paid-in capital	Retained earnings	Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	Employee notes receivable	Noncontrolling interest	Total equity
	Preferred stock	Common stock shares									
	Class A shares	Class B	Class B stock	Class A stock	Class A stock						
(Dollars in thousands, except share data)											
Balance as of December 31, 2010	—36,846,353	11,495,377	\$—368	115	76,263	831,057	—	(1,170)	—	—	906,633
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	204,335	—	—	—	—	204,335
Cash dividend on Class A and Class B common stock - \$0.37 per share	—	—	—	—	—	(17,763)	—	—	—	—	(17,763)
Contingency payment related to business combination	—	—	—	—	(5,893)	—	—	—	—	—	(5,893)
Issuance of common stock, net of forfeitures	—233,172	—	—	2	4,694	—	—	—	—	—	4,696
Compensation expense for stock based awards	—	—	—	—	1,301	—	—	—	—	—	1,301
Repurchase of common stock	—(1,436,423)	—	—	(14)	(27,120)	—	—	—	—	—	(27,134)
Reduction of employee stock notes receivable	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	30
Balance as of December 31, 2011	—35,643,102	11,495,377	—	356	49,245	1,017,629	—	(1,140)	—	—	1,066,205
Issuance of noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	177,997	—	—	—	431	178,428
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,813	—	—	—	2,813
Distribution to noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(431)	(431)
	—	—	—	—	—	(66,237)	—	—	—	—	(66,237)

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Cash dividends on Class A and Class B common stock - \$1.40 per share										
Issuance of common stock, net of forfeitures	—279,834	—	— 3	—	3,913	—	—	—	—	3,916
Compensation expense for stock based awards	—	—	— —	—	2,188	—	—	—	—	2,188
Repurchase of common stock	—(806,023 )	—	— (8 )	—	(22,806)	—	—	—	—	(22,814 )
Reduction of employee stock notes receivable	—	—	— —	—	—	—	—	1,140	—	1,140
Balance as of December 31, 2012	—35,116,913	11,495,377	— 351	115	32,540	1,129,389	2,813	—	5	1,165,213
Issuance of noncontrolling interest	—	—	— —	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Net income	—	—	— —	—	—	302,672	—	—	1,669	304,341