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MOHELA Establishes Cooperation Agreement Lewis & Clark Initiative Fund

\$65 million in initial funds reserved for the Lewis & Clark Cooperation Agreement Funding Account

St. Louis, (November 29, 2006) – “Members of the Higher Education Loan Authority of the State of Missouri (MOHELA) met today and passed a resolution directing the Authority to establish a reserve fund to be known as the Lewis & Clark Cooperation Agreement Reserve Fund Account. This account will be used to hold proceeds earmarked for distribution as detailed in the Cooperation Agreement recently approved by the MOHELA board. The Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative will be funded through a multi-party Cooperation Agreement between MOHELA, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Development Finance Board, and the Curators of the University of Missouri.

The Members further approved the transfer of \$65 million in funds to be placed in the account with additional funds forthcoming in the near future as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement. “The reserving of these funds demonstrates not only MOHELA’s strong commitment to fund the Governor’s Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative, but also the financial wherewithal to fund the plan”, stated Raymond H. Bayer, Jr., CEO & Executive Director. “MOHELA will hold these funds in this account until we have received final approval from the state legislature, which we anticipate to have early in the 2007 legislative session.”

MOHELA is one of the largest participants in the nonprofit sector of the student loan secondary market industry in America, and is a leading holder and servicer of student loans with more than \$5.9 billion in assets, and loan purchase activity in excess of \$1.5 billion per year. MOHELA advances its benevolent mission of eliminating barriers for students so they can access higher education through local, regional and national partnerships with a variety of educational and financial institutions.

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