

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Angela Molenaar
Executive Director
The Netherland-America Foundation
82 Wall Street, Suite 1101
New York, NY 10005
T: 212.825.1221
amolenaar@theNAF.org

**The Netherland-America Foundation
announces new
Maarten van Hengel Study Loan Program**

New York, New York—November 1, 2009

The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) announces the launch of a new study loan program, made possible by the legacy of former Director and Chairman **Maarten van Hengel**. In his will, Mr. van Hengel left more than \$325,000 to the NAF which the Foundation, in agreement with the Van Hengel family, dedicated to a Maarten van Hengel Educational Loan Fund. The *Maarten van Hengel Study Loan* is a three-year, interest-free loan made available to Dutch students for academic programs and training in the United States and to American students for the same in the Netherlands. A limited number of study loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 will be made annually. Prospective borrowers must submit a completed application form, curriculum vitae, references, proof of acceptance at an institution of higher learning and co-signers for the loan. Loans will be payable in full upon maturity.

The Maarten van Hengel Study Loan Program creates the opportunity for a borrower to make significant progress in his/her education, without accruing interest on loan monies or making payments of interest or principal for three years.

Dr. John Palms, Chair of the Foundation's Education Committee, explained that the program was designed to enable Dutch and American students to pursue their academic goals in the reciprocal country, facilitating international exchange, and laying the foundation for longer term academic, professional and business relationships. He credited Maarten van Hengel with a "lifelong passion for, and support of, educational and cultural exchange between the United States and the Netherlands and the wisdom and foresight to provide for ongoing exchange in his will."

Eligible students may apply for a Maarten van Hengel Loan beginning November 1, 2008.

For additional information, please visit www.thenaf.org or call 212.825.1221.

Building on the enduring heritage and values shared between the peoples of the Netherlands and the United States, the Netherland-America Foundation seeks to further strengthen the bonds between the two countries by exchanges in the arts, sciences, education, business and public affairs. The Netherland-America Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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