



For Immediate Release
August 17, 2009

USTOA GAINS NETC AS NEW MEMBER, TRAVEL CONNECTION RESIGNS

National Educational Travel Council Joins USTOA

National Educational Travel Council (NETC) has joined USTOA as its newest Active Member. NETC serves the student travel market by organizing educational tours for teachers and students through a community of educators, travel experts and international education professionals.

“We’re very pleased to welcome NETC as our newest member,” states USTOA President Bob Whitley. “The company’s membership in USTOA exemplifies how the student travel market has emerged as a major player in both the domestic and international travel market,” adds Whitley.

Regarding their new affiliation with USTOA, NETC President Desmond Maguire says, “As one of the leading operators of educational tours for high school students, NETC is delighted to be joining the foremost U.S. trade association for tour operators. USTOA's Traveler Assistance Program provides reassurance to the traveling public and we are proud to be participating in it.”

Incorporated in 1993, NETC has organized educational tours for hundreds of thousands of teachers and students to The Americas, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. The company is located at 50 Franklin Street, Boston, MA, 02110.

For more information on NETC, visit www.EducationalTravel.com, or contact them at 1-800-771-2323, email: NETC@EducationalTravel.com.

To reach USTOA, email information@ustoa.com, visit www.ustoa.com, or phone 1-800-GO-ustoa (1-800-468-7862).

Travel Connection Resigns USTOA Membership

Effective August 11, 2009, Travel Connection has resigned its membership in USTOA and as such will no longer participate in the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program.

“Travel agents should be aware that purchases of Travel Connection products made prior to August 11, 2009 are fully protected under the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance

Program. Client payments thereafter will not be covered by the USTOA program,” advises USTOA President, Bob Whitley.

According to Travel Connection president, Kevin Eakin, Travel Connection’s current management group recently took advantage of the opportunity to purchase the company from AAA Washington. “At present, as a separate entity Travel Connection is not in a position to retain our USTOA membership. However, we look forward to reestablishing a relationship with the association in the near future. In the meantime, Travel Connection will maintain the high standards of integrity that USTOA membership has signified,” says Eakin.

“We are very sad to lose Kevin’s leadership, as he has been involved in helping the association grow to where it is today,” says Whitley. “We will miss him and his company, and we look forward to welcoming Travel Connection back to USTOA at a later date,” he adds.

Travel Connection is located at 12029 NE Ainsworth Circle, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220. Phone: (503) 252-2700. Email: info@travelconnection.com Web: www.travelconnection.com.

For questions and more information on USTOA: 212-599-6599, or email information@ustoa.com.

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