Iowa College Aid **INSIDER**

Checklist for your juniors

With the PSAT behind them, it's time to:

- Step up **RESEARCH ON COLLEGES** that interest them. The college directory on our website can help.

- Attend **COLLEGE FAIRS** and make **CAMPUS VISITS.** Schedule appointments with college financial aid and admissions offices.

- Look ahead to the **ACT or SAT** in the spring. Here's a rundown of the differences.

- Investigate **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT** options for senior year. Students might be able to earn college credit while still in high school.

- Keep those **GRADES UP.** Admissions offices look at more than senior year.

- Begin researching **FINANCIAL AID** options. Our website has a list of Iowa's state-administered scholarships and grants.

November 18, 2016

Teaching & Advising College-Bound Students

STEM: High interest, not enough prep

This year's high school graduates were highly interested in STEM careers but not well prepared for them, according to a report released this week by ACT. While 48 percent of students who took the ACT expressed an interest, only 26 percent met readiness benchmarks in STEM-related subjects. Those numbers "show a big disconnect between students' interests and their actual preparation," said Marten Roorda, ACT chief executive officer. Less than 1 percent indicated an interest in teaching math or science. Read the full report.

Comedy videos promote FAFSA filing

Do your students like "Adam Ruins Everything"? (Hint: Yes, they do.) Adam Conover, star of the TruTV hit, worked with Federal Student Aid to create a video debunking common myths about the FAFSA. Another FAFSA promotion video, a game show spoof produced by CollegeHumor, features First Lady Michelle Obama. Show 'em, share 'em—help spread the word!

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Iowa Financial Aid Application

As your students complete the FAFSA, be sure they follow up with the Iowa Financial Aid Application. This application is required to qualify for about half of the state-administered scholarships and grants available to Iowans. Like the FAFSA, the window to file the Iowa Financial Aid Application opened on October 1 this year.

Get free handouts for college events

Do you have a College Day or College Night scheduled at your school? Iowa College Aid provides free booklets and brochures for college-bound students. Make sure you have some on hand. Orders ship within 48 hours, but allow a few extra days for delivery. These publications are also downloadable as PDFs.