



Our mission

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

Our motto

Because college changes everything.

Our vision

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

Our values

- Put students first
- Respect and honor the dignity of each other and all those we serve
- Uphold the public trust
- Create and nurture internal and external partnerships that benefit our customers
- Provide services to our customers that exceed expectations and address their changing needs
- Develop and empower a motivated, compassionate, professional and accountable team
- Utilize evidence-based decision-making
- Strive to improve internal and external communication and increase transparency

November 22, 2016

Iowa College Aid Programs

College and career training for counselors

This fall, in partnership with Southern Regional Educational Board and AEA PD Online, Iowa College Aid began offering continuing education for middle and high school counselors through Go Alliance Academy. These online training modules help counselors deepen their knowledge about college and career advisement. For participants who complete the first course offering, Iowa College Aid will reimburse the fee. The first two classes in October, “Building a College-Going Culture for All Students,” were full with waiting lists. The course targets counselors, but teachers and other professionals are also welcome. An elementary track and a course for administrators will be added next year.



6,700 Iowa Financial Aid Applications filed

As of November 17, more than 6,700 people had filed the Iowa Financial Aid Application for the 2017-18 academic year. That number reflects the first seven weeks the application window was open. (Like the FAFSA, the window for the Iowa Financial Aid application opened on October 1 this year.) This application is required to qualify for about half of the state-administered scholarships and grants available to Iowans.



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Success story: Bridging the gap

Sarah Bernhard is the GEAR UP Iowa Coordinator at Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids, and she tries to instill in students and families the value of higher education for success in career and life. “Having spent 20 years as a classroom teacher in Alternative Education, I know firsthand the obstacles many students face when it comes to college readiness and preparation,”

she says. “So when the occasion came about to become a GEAR UP Iowa Coordinator, I knew this would be the perfect role for me to continue to support students but more importantly, to help break down those barriers and obstacles by creating numerous academic supports and opportunities. GEAR UP Iowa truly represents the ideal that ALL students deserve the chance to continue their education after graduation. GEAR UP Iowa creates a support system, develops a path of career exploration, bridges the gap between teacher, student, and family communication, but most importantly it creates a culture of success beyond the classroom.”

