



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

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NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid Makes Financial Literacy Training Affordable for Iowa Educators *Training will Prepare 75 Educators to Teach Financial Literacy in Iowa Schools*

Des Moines, IA, July 14, 2011 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today that for a second year in a row, it has subsidized the cost of the Family Economics and Financial Education Project Training (FEFE), which is underway at Iowa State University July 13, 2011 through July 15, 2011. Seventy-five Iowa educators and counselors from across the state are participating in the cutting-edge training program designed to strengthen a school’s ability to raise the personal financial capabilities of Iowa students.

“Financial literacy is a key initiative of our agency,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “The FEFE training and curriculum complements our Iowa Financial Literacy Program.” The Iowa Financial Literacy Program is an online and fully-interactive program administered by Iowa College and is provided free to all Iowa high schools thanks to a public-private partnership between Iowa College Aid, the Iowa Banker’s Association, local banks, credit unions and organizations interested in promoting financial literacy in their communities.

“We didn’t want the cost of the training to be out of reach for our Iowa counselors and educators.” explained Misjak. “With an affordable price tag, the response to the training was overwhelming. Educators are looking for ways to better prepare students to make smart financial decisions.”

The Iowa Core, which was signed into law on May 1, 2008, requires that all students leave school prepared to succeed in the complex new, 21st century. Essential concepts and skill sets include employability skills, financial literacy, health literacy, and technology literacy. The curriculum must be fully implemented in Iowa high schools by July 1, 2012, and in kindergarten through eighth grade by 2014-2015.

Through interactive workshops, educators attending the training will gain the skills and confidence to teach financial education, ultimately empowering future generations to make smart financial decisions. In addition, training attendees will receive hard copies of the following curriculum:

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- Take Charge of Your Finances semester/trimester course (a \$340 value),
- Get Ready to Take Charge of Your Finances introductory course (a \$160 value),
- Best Practices facilitation binder with teaching tips to customize each lesson (a \$50 value), and
- All Answers Keys Binder (a \$35 value).

More information about the financial literacy training is available at

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/fefe/home.html>. To learn about products and services that help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college, including the Iowa Financial Literacy Program, go to Iowa College Aid's website at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or call 877-272-4456.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$68.5 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR-UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa's students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.