



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioner to Connect with Iowa's College Students Through Blog Iowa students asked to share comments and suggestions through Iowa College Aid Connections.

Des Moines, IA, August 22, 2011 –To kick off the new school year, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announces the launch of a new blog, *Iowa College Aid Connections*, designed to connect Iowa's college students with their representative on Iowa College Aid's Board of Commissioners (Commission). Appointed by former Governor Culver in August of 2010, Kelli Todd has served the first year of her four-year term as the representative of Iowa postsecondary students on the Commission. As she begins her second year, Ms. Todd is dedicated to connecting herself to those she serves, Iowa's college students.

“As a current graduate student, Kelli already understands many of the challenges and concerns of her constituency,” says Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “However, by implementing *Iowa College Aid Connections* we hope to assist her in reaching beyond her own educational experiences and connecting with students from across the state.”

Posts on the *Iowa College Aid Connections* blog will focus on Ms. Todd's activities on the Commission, as well as provide content related to postsecondary education, including college access and awareness, financial literacy and financial aid. However, Ms. Todd stresses that the needs of those following her blog will dictate much of the content.

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“My goal for this blog is to give Iowa’s college students a voice in decisions that affect their education,” states Commissioner Todd. “This will be a two-way street, with information about my activities on the Commission and postsecondary issues of concern to Iowa college students. As I hear from those following *Iowa College Aid Connections*, the information I provide will strive to address their questions and requests.”

Students interested in following *Iowa College Aid Connections* can do so directly at

<http://IowaCollegeAid.WordPress.com> or by following the links on www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

For more information about the topics addressed through Iowa College Aid Connections, or to learn how Iowa College Aid is helping Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college, contact Iowa College Aid’s Information Service Center at 877-272-4456 or visit our website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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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 nearly \$60.0 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 used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.