



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioner's Blog Focuses on College Costs and Iowa Student Stories **Iowa College Aid Connections talks rising cost of education, as well as ways to save.**

Des Moines, IA, September 13, 2011 – Today's post "*The Cost of College: Students' Concerns and Savings Strategies*" is the inaugural post to *Iowa College Aid Connections*, a blog designed to connect Iowa's college students with their representative on Iowa College Aid's Board of Commissioners, Kelli Todd. Appointed by former Governor Culver in August of 2010, Commissioner Todd has served the first year of her four-year term as the representative of Iowa postsecondary students on the Commission. With her second year underway, Ms. Todd is making strides in connecting herself to those she serves, Iowa's college students. Ms. Todd's first post addresses one of the hottest topics in college planning, the rising cost of a college degree.

"My inspiration for this first post came from University of Iowa student, Will Mattessich," says Commissioner Todd. "Mr. Mattessich wrote an article for *The Daily Iowan* in which he spoke about the cost of education and called on his peers to become active participants in the processes that affect their future. I wanted my post to touch on some of the points Will made in his article, as well as provide information about what Iowa's students can do to reduce the cost of their college education."

Iowa College Aid Connections is meant to be a two-way street between Commissioner Todd and Iowa's students. Students are encouraged to subscribe to the blog and post comments in response to her posts. Ms. Todd hopes that the questions and comments she receives from students through her blog will help her understand what issues are most important to Iowa's college students and enable her to be their voice on Iowa College Aid's Board of Commissioners.

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“My goal is to give Iowa’s college students a voice in decisions that affect their education,” states Commissioner Todd. “I will provide my subscribers with information about my activities on the Commission and postsecondary issues relevant to Iowa college students. As I hear from those following *Iowa College Aid Connections*, I plan to share their thoughts with my fellow commissioners and allow them to be a part of my actions on the Board.”

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.