



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Doe
515-725-3417
515-975-6769 cell
heather.doe@iowa.gov

Iowa College Aid's Guide Book Helps Students Plan Their Course to College *Fast Facts and Tips to Help Make College Planning Easy*

Des Moines, IA., September 22, 2011 – With the new school year underway, Iowa students have access to a free resource to help them plan for college and future careers. The newest edition of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission's (Iowa College Aid) guide, *Your Course to College*, is full of information to help students as they prepare for life after high school.

"It is extremely important that Iowa families have a neutral and reliable resource to guide them through the college planning and financial aid process," stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. "*Your Course to College* is full of everything that students and families need to know about the college financial aid process, federal and state financial aid programs, colleges and universities in Iowa, selecting a major and future career, as well as tips to help make the transition to college easier."

Your Course to College covers a wide range of topics including:

- Selecting a major
- Types of degrees and training opportunities
- Choosing a college
- Top must-have items for college
- How to supersize your score with free ACT and SAT test prep
- Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Cashing in on free money
- Student loans
- Understanding a Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Reviewing financial aid offers
- Federal and state loan forgiveness programs
- Services for students with disabilities

-more-

One of the most unique aspects of *Your Course to College* is the directory of Iowa colleges and universities. “The directory of Iowa colleges and universities is very popular with students, parents and educators,” explained Misjak. “*Your Course to College* profiles colleges and universities in Iowa. You will find information such as admission requirements, costs (including tuition, fees, room and board and estimated books and supplies), priority deadlines for filing for financial aid, and types of degree programs offered for each Iowa college or university. This year many colleges and universities provided a QR code to be included with their profile information. Students and parents can simply scan each QR code with a camera-enabled Smartphone for immediate access to college-specific information.”

Iowa College Aid is pleased to provide free resources to help Iowa students and families plan, prepare and pay for college. *Your Course to College*, as well as other college planning and financial aid publications, can be ordered for free from Iowa College Aid’s website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov. For more information about resources available to help families plan, prepare and pay for college, please contact Iowa College Aid’s Information Service Center at 877-272-4456.

###

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.*