



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid Releases Annual Report

FY 2011 Accomplishments Prepared Iowans to Enter and Succeed in Postsecondary Education

Des Moines, IA, January 11, 2012 – Today the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) released its annual report for FY 2011. This report, required of all State of Iowa agencies, discloses the activities of Iowa College Aid from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This comprehensive report, which contains information about the programs administered by the agency, as well as financial data, is available online at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

Highlights of this year's report include:

- In its first year, nearly 33,000 applicants used the Iowa Financial Aid Application to determine their eligibility for state-funded financial aid programs.
- Nearly 26,000 Iowans received a total of over \$58 million in scholarship, grant and loan forgiveness opportunities.
- 201,061 Iowa residents filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a five percent increase over the previous year and a 38 percent increase from the number of filers in 2006-2007.
- Iowans logged into I Have A Plan Iowa™, Iowa's state-designated career information system, 964,748 times during FY 2011, a 27.8 percent increase over FY 2010.
- GEAR UP Iowa allocated approximately \$647,000 directly to GEAR UP Iowa high schools to support programs which improve academic performance, increase academic aspirations and promote a college-going culture in Iowa.
- Over 245,000 printed publications regarding college access, college planning, financial aid, financial literacy and default prevention were sent to Iowa College Aid customers in FY 2011.
- Iowa College Aid recouped over \$67 million in defaulted student loans on behalf of taxpayers.

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“This fiscal year has been filled with challenges and I am pleased that our agency was able to provide so many Iowans with valuable services and resources,” explained Karen Misjak, Executive Director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid). “During times of recession, I believe it is important that we focus on the positive things occurring in our state which are creating a more promising and prosperous future for Iowa.”

Students and families who are interested in learning more about the resources available through Iowa College Aid can contact the Information Service Center at 877-272-4456. Additional resources for Iowa families as they plan, prepare and pay for college are available on Iowa College Aid’s 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.