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Your Financial Aid Connection

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Iowa College Aid Sponsors Leadership Camp to Help Students Overcome Barriers to Academic and Personal Success**

*More than 90 GEAR UP Iowa students will participate in the Quantum Learning for Students program*

**Des Moines, IA, June 5, 2012** –While many high schools students view summer break as a respite from the rigors of school, over 90 GEAR UP Iowa students from across the state have chosen instead to learn ways to recognize and surpass barriers to success. They will arrive on the University of Iowa campus on June 10, 2012, to participate in a unique week-long camp which combines academics with life skill sessions.

The camp, Quantum Learning for Students, is based on more than 30 years experience and research with more than 8 million students and 55,000 educators across the United States. The program stresses personal as much as academic development that can be applied to tackling schoolwork and other obstacles faced by students. This is the second year that the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) has made the leadership camp possible by using funds from a federal GEAR UP Grant.

“The mission of GEAR UP Iowa is to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education,” explained John Gilman, GEAR UP Iowa Project Coordinator for Iowa College Aid. “Many of our GEAR UP Iowa students are from economically disadvantaged and academically at-risk backgrounds,” said Gilman. “Throughout the week, sessions will consist of approximately a 50 / 50 mix of academic and life skills content. Students will build confidence and add to their toolbox of academic skills while taking a giant leap forward on their pathway to success in educational endeavors beyond high school.”

Partnering with the University of Iowa provides an added benefit for students. “The GEAR UP Iowa students will be high school juniors in the fall which is an opportune time to start researching potential colleges,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the state agency charged with administering the statewide GEAR UP Iowa grant. “While on the University of Iowa campus, the students will have the opportunity to explore the campus and get a feel for college life.”

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Training sessions similar to this year's GEAR UP Iowa Quantum Learning for Students summer camp on the University of Iowa campus often cost as much as thousands of dollars per student to attend. Thanks to funding from Iowa's federal GEAR UP grant and partnerships with Quantum Learning and the University of Iowa, GEAR UP Iowa cohort students will attend the camp at no cost.

In addition to the student camp, a professional development track is also being held the same week for educators teaching in GEAR UP Iowa schools across the state. Traditional approaches, mixed with new research on learning, aim to boost the ability of educators to inspire students to achieve. Quantum Learning shows educators how to orchestrate student success by taking into account everything in the classroom, including the environment, the design of the curriculum and how it's presented.

For more information about GEAR UP Iowa or the Quantum Learning Program, go to [www.gearupiowa.gov](http://www.gearupiowa.gov) or contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. In addition, more information to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid's website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://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 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](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).*

***About GEAR UP Iowa***

*Funded by a \$16.8 million Federal grant, GEAR UP Iowa (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is charged with significantly increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP Iowa works to create a college-going culture through statewide and school-based services to a cohort of approximately 6,000 high school students and their families in 18 communities across Iowa. The [Iowa College Student Aid Commission](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov) administers GEAR UP Iowa in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education and other state agencies; local school districts; postsecondary educational institutions; and community organizations, businesses, and industries.*

***About Quantum Learning Network***

*Quantum Learning Network (QLN) is a global education organization that began in the United States in 1981 with a small group of educators and has expanded into a worldwide company that has introduced student, school and business programs into 16 countries around the globe. QLN provides students, teachers, academic administrators and business people with learning and life skills programs that motivate each individual to reach their full potential and increase academic achievement. QLN's SuperCamp youth and teen summer camp programs provide training for students in grades 4 through 12 and college. Additional information on the company is available at <http://www.QLN.com>.*