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**New State Program Addresses Skilled Workforce Shortage in Iowa**  
*An estimated 4,400 community college students to receive funding through Kibbie Grant*

**Des Moines, IA., December 4, 2012** – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid), announced today that an estimated 4,400 students will be the first recipients of a new state grant program aimed at increasing the number of skilled workers in the state.

The Iowa Skilled Workforce Tuition Grant is also referred to as the Kibbie Grant after former Iowa Senate President, Jack Kibbie, who sponsored the bill that created the grant during the 2012 session. An additional \$5 million was provided in the education appropriations bill to fund the grants for Iowa students enrolled in specified vocational-technical or career option programs at Iowa community colleges. Iowa Workforce Development estimates that some 50 percent of all jobs in the state require an associate’s degree, certification, or apprenticeship training, but only 33 percent of Iowa workers have such skills.<sup>1</sup>

“Iowa employers have jobs they need to fill, but the state doesn’t currently have the skilled workforce needed,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the agency responsible for the administration of the program. “The Kibbie Grant is a win-win for everyone. It provides much needed financial assistance to students at our community colleges while helping to increase the number of skilled workers needed in job shortage fields.”

The minimum Kibbie Grant award is one-half of the average Iowa community college tuition and mandatory fees per year for up to two years of education. Part-time students may be eligible for pro-rated amounts. To be eligible, a student must:

- Be an Iowa resident.
- Be enrolled in at least 3 credit hours in a qualified program of study at an Iowa Community College.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or before July 1 of each year.
- Demonstrate a high level of financial need.

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<sup>1</sup> Iowa Workforce Development. May, 2012. *Middle-Skill Jobs in Iowa*. Retrieved December 3, 2012, from <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/careers/middleskilljobs.pdf>.

More information about the Kibbie Grant, including the qualified programs of study that were identified by both Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa's community college presidents, can be found on Iowa College Aid's website, [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov). For more information about other resources available to help families plan, prepare and pay for college, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.

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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 plan, prepare and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$60.0 million annually; provides I Have A Plan Iowa™, the state-designated career information system, free to all Iowans; partners with financial institutions in the state to offer an online financial literacy platform free to all Iowa high schools; conducts research and distributes higher education data; and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. 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. 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. Iowa College Aid is also responsible for registering postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and sections of Chapter 714. More information is available at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).*