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## NEWS RELEASE

---For Immediate Release---

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### **Iowa College Aid Releases Education ‘Snapshot’**

*‘Condition of Higher Education’ report details college preparedness, debt and completion rates*

**Des Moines, IA, July 1, 2016** – Iowa College Aid today released “The 2016 Condition of Higher Education in Iowa,” a 36-page summary of postsecondary educational attainment in the state.

One key topic in the report is Governor Terry Branstad’s Goal 2025 initiative, which calls for 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce to have some postsecondary education by 2025. According to the report, the number of students enrolling in college or training straight out of high school and the number of older students returning to school will both need to increase to meet the goal.

“The governor’s goal is clear, and the challenges are also clear,” said Karen Misjak, Executive Director of Iowa College Aid. “This report truly is a ‘snapshot’—a look at where we are right now—and we hope the data we provide will help key decision-makers pave the way toward meeting Goal 2025. A better-educated workforce is good news for all Iowans.”

“Condition of Higher Education” looks at the number of Iowa high school graduates who are prepared for college according to ACT benchmarks: about a third, with lower rates among black, Hispanic and low-income students. The report also tracks recent increases in education costs versus the smaller increases in median income, as well as the average student loan debt in Iowa, which is the eighth-highest in the United States.

“The 2016 Condition of Higher Education in Iowa” is available as a downloadable PDF at [IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://IowaCollegeAid.gov). For a printed copy of the report, call 877-272-4456 or submit a request under “Contact Us” at [IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://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 over \$70 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. More information is available at [IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://IowaCollegeAid.gov).*