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NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid, Iowa High Schools Celebrate Senior Success on Iowa College Decision Day

Events at 24 Iowa High Schools Promote, Recognize College-Attainment

Des Moines, IA, April 26, 2016 – High school athletes may get press conferences when they announce their choice of college, but thanks to Iowa College Decision Day, all students committing to a college education are getting the star treatment at 24 Iowa high schools.

Iowa College Decision Day is the final part of Iowa College Aid’s “3-Step Process,” a year-long program working with Iowa high schools to encourage and celebrate college commitment while building a college-going culture in schools. Now in its third year, Iowa College Decision Day coincides with National College Signing Day, part of the “Reach Higher” Initiative promoted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

“Iowa College Decision Day celebrates ALL students’ educational plans after high school -- 2-year and 4-year college or university attendance, military service or pursuit of a postsecondary certificate,” said Iowa College Aid Executive Director Karen Misjak. “It’s an event that not only supports students continuing their education, but also gets younger students thinking about their educational goals after high school.”

The “3-Step Process” program begins in the fall with the College Application Campaign, aimed at encouraging students to apply to at least one college or post-secondary school, and continues throughout the fall, winter and spring with the FAFSA Completion Initiative, which focusses on completing applications for federal student financial aid, before concluding with College Decision

Day, a day when students are encouraged to choose what they will pursue beyond high school, on or around May 1.

Iowa College Aid provides support and resources for schools holding Iowa College Decision Day events. While National College Signing Day is recognized on April 26, Iowa high schools will hold events within the next two weeks. Iowa College Decision Day events are planned at the following Iowa high schools:

April 26: Carlisle High School, Carlisle; Ogden High School, Ogden; Osage High School, Osage; Starmont High School, Arlington.

April 27, 2016: Cedar Falls High School, Cedar Falls; Grinnell High School, Grinnell.

April 28, 2016: Colo-NESCO J/S High School, Colo; Ottumwa High School, Ottumwa; West Burlington High School, West Burlington.

April 29, 2016: Abraham Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs; Charles City High School, Charles City; Clinton High School, Clinton; Iowa Connections Academy, Anita; Linn-Mar High School, Marion; Southeast Polk High School, Pleasant Hill; Thomas Jefferson High School, Council Bluffs; West Central Valley High School, Stuart; West Monona High School, Onawa.

May 2, 2016: Clarke High School, Osceola; Lewis Central High School, Council Bluffs.

May 4, 2016: Prairie High School, Cedar Rapids.

May 6, 2016: Ankeny Centennial High School, Ankeny; Marshalltown High School, Marshalltown.

For more information on Iowa College Aid's "3-Step Process," please visit 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 over \$70.0 million annually, 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.

