



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Doe
515-725-3417
515-975-6769 cell
heather.doe@iowa.gov

Iowa College Aid Releases Condition of Higher Education 2014 Report

Iowa faces an aging and more diverse population with increasingly higher need for financial aid

Des Moines, IA, July 10, 2014 – Today, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) released the Condition of Higher Education in Iowa 2014 report. The report provides policymakers with an overview of Iowa’s population in relation to college readiness, persistence, affordability, educational attainment and the future employability of the citizens of Iowa.

“As we work towards increasing Iowa’s overall educational attainment, the data in this report highlights where we are as a state and the challenges we will need to overcome in the process,” explains Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “The report is a great resource for policymakers and those working towards increasing college preparation, access and persistence and completion rates in Iowa.”

Among other things, the report illustrates that:

- With an aging population, increasing the state’s educational attainment will require more adults to pursue postsecondary education.
- Iowans with bachelor’s degrees earn approximately 60 percent more than individuals with only a high school diploma and 110 percent more than those with less than a high school diploma.
- Less than 36 percent of Iowa’s working-age population holds an associate’s degree or higher, yet it is projected that 62 percent of all jobs in the state will require postsecondary education by 2018.
- Iowa counties with a high percent of their populations holding an associate’s degree or higher tend to have higher median earnings.
- Iowa students in the college pipeline are projected to be fewer in number and more racially and ethnically diverse.
- Increasingly, Iowans applying for financial aid for college have higher need.

-more-

- The median income of most state financial aid program recipients is well below that of the state as a whole.
- Increases in college costs have outpaced increases in household income and appropriations for state financial aid programs.

The full report can be accessed from Iowa College Aid's Higher Education Data Center, <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/higher-education-data-center>. For more information about the report, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. In addition, information to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid's website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

###

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 \$64.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. 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.