



IowaCollegeAid.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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

Iowa College Aid Announces Launch of its Blog, Education Empowers *New blog features student stories, covers financial aid, college and career planning*

Des Moines, IA., November 21, 2013 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today, the official launch of its agency blog, Education Empowers. The blog is a new resource for students, parents, and educators providing practical, informative and engaging tips and insights related to financial aid and college and career planning.

“It’s meant to offer tips and advice from not only our agency, but from education experts across the state,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “We also include posts from current students and recent high school and college graduates to provide real-life insight for students as they plan for life after high school and college.”

The name Education Empowers was chosen as it encompasses the influence education has to change an individual’s life. New posts will be added to the blog on a weekly basis and will supplement Iowa College Aid’s efforts on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Iowa College Aid will even accept blog requests and write about topics readers find pressing. Several entries will be written by guest bloggers, such as college admissions representatives, college graduates who overcame unique circumstances and financial aid advisors.

“This blog represents the vision of our agency, that all Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school,” said Misjak. “It will serve as a resource to students, their families and the professionals that serve them. We hope this blog will contribute to the success of our Iowa students as they not only plan for postsecondary success, but throughout their entire educational experience.”

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Education Empowers can be accessed at: <http://iowacollegestudentaidcommission.wordpress.com/>. “We hope that Iowans will bookmark our site or provide an email address to follow Education Empowers,” explained Misjak. “That way, they will conveniently receive the most recent posts as soon as they are available.”

For information about the resources and services provided by Iowa College Aid to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college, visit www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or 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 prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$68.0 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.