



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa Nurse/Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program Sets Record Highs in 2014-15

Iowa College Aid program sees nearly 19 percent increase in applicants, almost double number of nurse educators

Des Moines, IA., June 1, 2015 – A record number of applicants were designated as recipients of the Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, according to numbers released today by Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The program, started in 2007 to offer loan repayment assistance to registered nurses employed in Iowa and nurse educators teaching at eligible colleges and universities in Iowa, received 309 applicants in the 2014-15 school year, an increase of 18.8 percent from the 260 applications received for the 2013-14 award. The designated recipients could qualify for an average loan repayment award of \$1,850 (based on full-time employment).

The number of nurse educators, who are given priority to the program's fund, almost doubled in 2014-15, attracting 56 applicants to the program. To be eligible for the Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, applicants must be a licensed nurse educator employed in Iowa by eligible Iowa colleges or universities; or a licensed registered nurse employed as a nurse in Iowa.

Cumulatively, the 56 recipients of the Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program have \$2,275,261 in outstanding federal student loans with an average debt of \$40,630 per person

For more information on the Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, visit <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/iowa-registered-nurse-nurse-educator-loan-forgiveness-program>.

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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.