



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

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Thomas Jefferson Student Named Winner of College Savings Iowa 529 Plan *GEAR UP Iowa Program Partners with the State Treasurer's Office to Sponsor Drawing*

Des Moines, IA., November 7, 2012 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today that Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson student, Brian Herring, is one of eight high school juniors who will receive an extra \$1,000 to help pay for future college expenses thanks to GEAR UP Iowa's partnership with the Office of State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald. Juniors attending a GEAR UP Iowa high school and whose parent or guardian completed a GEAR UP Iowa parent survey were entered into a drawing to win one of eight \$1,000 College Savings Iowa 529 Plan accounts. Brian is the son of Kirk Herring of Council Bluffs.

This year's drawing was the second held by GEAR UP Iowa in collaboration with the Iowa State Treasurer's Office. "We have crafted a very beneficial partnership with State Treasurer Fitzgerald to help inform GEAR UP Iowa students and their families about the College Savings Iowa 529 program," said John Gilman, GEAR UP Iowa project coordinator. "Our goal at Iowa College Aid, the agency that administers GEAR UP Iowa, is to help all Iowans plan, prepare, and pay for college. A College Savings Iowa 529 Plan is a great way to start."

"The advantage to saving and investing for college is clear, and we're here to help. Families who start saving early will be in a better position to meet the challenge of paying for college when the time arrives," stated Fitzgerald. "Our partnership with GEAR UP Iowa allows us to inform students and families across the state who are moving forward on their path to success in some type of postsecondary education about the benefits of College Savings Iowa."

The College Savings Iowa 529 Plan offers an affordable, flexible, convenient and tax-advantaged way for anyone – parents, grandparents, friends and relatives – to invest for college on behalf of a child. An account can be established with as little as \$25. Iowa tax payers can deduct up to \$2,811 in contributions per beneficiary account annually from their adjusted gross income and there are no income, residency or age restrictions.* Multiple contribution and withdrawal options, plus convenient online account management are real time-savers for today's busy families.

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GEAR UP Iowa works to create and sustain a college-going culture through statewide and school-based services provided to a cohort of approximately 7,000 high school students from the class of 2014 in more than 200 Iowa high schools. The program, administered by Iowa College Aid, is funded through a \$16.8 million federal GEAR UP grant. In addition, all students in the GEAR UP Iowa cohort will be eligible to receive a GEAR UP Iowa scholarship upon high school graduation to help pay higher education costs.

More information about the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and GEAR UP Iowa is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov, or by calling 877-272-4456. To learn more about College Savings Iowa or to open an account, call 1-888-672-9116 or visit www.collegesavingsiowa.com.

**Adjusted annually for inflation. If withdrawals are not qualified, the deductions must be added back to Iowa taxable income.*

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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 plan, prepare and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$60.0 million annually; provides I Have A Plan Iowa™, the state-designated career information system, free to all Iowans; partners with financial institutions in the state to offer an online financial literacy platform free to all Iowa high schools; conducts research and distributes higher education data; and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Additionally, 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. 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. Iowa College Aid is also responsible for registering postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and sections of Chapter 714. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

About College Savings Iowa 529 Plan

College Savings Iowa is an Iowa trust sponsored by the Iowa State Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer of the State of Iowa sponsors and is responsible for overseeing the administration of the College Savings Iowa 529 Plan. The Vanguard Group, Inc., serves as Investment Manager and Vanguard Marketing Corporation, an affiliate of The Vanguard Group, Inc., assists the Treasurer with marketing and distributing the Plan. Upromise Investment Advisors, LLC, provides records administration services. The Plan's portfolios, although they invest in Vanguard mutual funds, are not mutual funds. More information about the College Savings Iowa 529 Plan is available at www.collegesavingsiowa.com.