



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Heather Doe
877-272-4456
515-725-3417 direct
515-975-6769 cell
heather.doe@iowa.gov

2012-13 Iowa Financial Aid Application Now Available *Easy Online Process Streamlines Application for Iowa-Funded Financial Aid Programs*

Des Moines, IA, January 4, 2012 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today the release of the 2012-2013 Iowa Financial Aid Application. The application, which can be accessed through the state-designated career information system, www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov, allows students to apply for five state-administered financial aid programs through one application process. Collectively, these programs provided over \$6 million in funding for students during the 2011-12 academic year.

“Traditionally, applying for student aid has been complicated and confusing for students and families. We are committed to continually improving the application process and believe the Iowa Financial Aid Application is a step in the right direction,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. “The Iowa Financial Aid Application establishes a centralized location where students can apply for multiple programs, and uses an eligibility screening process to ensure students apply for every state aid program they’re eligible to receive,” Misjak explained. “The intuitive nature of the online application helps determine a student’s eligibility for many of the state aid programs and provides students with the flexibility to save, view, and submit an application at any time.”

The Iowa Financial Aid Application serves as the application for the following programs:

- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
- All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant
- Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship
- Education and Training Voucher Program, and
- Iowa National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP)

-more-

The Iowa Financial Aid Application does not replace the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a standardized federal form used to determine eligibility for federal, state, and in some cases, institutional financial aid. It is still the required application for need-based state programs such as the Iowa Grant, Iowa Tuition Grant, Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant, and the Barber and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Tuition Grant. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov. Students who complete their FAFSA online will have the opportunity to link directly from the FAFSA confirmation page to the Iowa Financial Aid Application. In doing so, students can pre-populate many of the demographic information fields on the state application.

Deadlines play a critical role and often determine the amount of financial assistance available to help students pay for college. Students are encouraged to apply early to meet the priority deadlines associated with different programs. The Iowa Financial Aid Application indicates the priority application deadlines for each of the five programs included in the application.

Students and families who have questions about applying for financial aid or are interested in learning more about the free resources available through I Have A Plan Iowa™ can contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. More information about financial aid and products and services that help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid's website at 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 nearly \$60.0 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 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.