ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2019

IOWA COLLEGE AID

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Compiling Iowa College Aid's Annual Report is always a time of reflection for us as an agency. This year, however, is especially meaningful for me as I plan to retire during the next fiscal year, so this report will be my last.

When I came to Iowa College Aid 15 years ago, the agency was just beginning to move beyond its traditional role as an administrator and guarantor of financial aid. Understanding that finances are not the only barrier Iowans face as they make their college plans, we have adopted and created new programs to improve students' access to college and their chances of success once they get there.

In my time here, we have continued our administration of state-funded student aid—almost $64 million in FY19—even as we transitioned out of our role as a federal loan guarantor. I'm proud to say that we have become a true advocate for the students and families of Iowa at every step on their path toward higher education.

Today Iowa College Aid receives federal GEAR UP and AmeriCorps grants. We oversee school- and community-based programs including Local College Access Networks, the Course to College program, and the Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy. We authorize institutions to offer courses to Iowans, and we ensure that students receive the consumer protections that Iowa law affords them. We conduct research to evaluate both our own programs and the state's progress toward its education goals. We reach tens of thousands of Iowans with information, both digital and print, to promote college awareness and demystify the college-going process.

In my first Annual Report, I wrote, "We are mindful that our work is not done." Fifteen years later, despite the many accomplishments of this agency, that statement remains true. Continuing education beyond high school has never been more important to the success of individual Iowans or to our state than it is today.

In 2012-13, we adopted the motto "Because College Changes Everything." I believe those words. This agency and its staff work every day to enhance the lives of Iowans through education.

Karen Misjak
Executive Director
Iowa College Aid

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR MISSION

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

OUR MOTTO

Because college changes everything.

OUR VISION

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

AGENCY STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Be a trusted source of information for Iowa residents and higher education stakeholders on postsecondary education access, affordability, success, and completion.
2. Align programs and services with the postsecondary needs of Iowa residents and key stakeholders.
3. Increase and align resources to support agency programs and services.

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS' GOALS

1. Creating a competitive business climate.
2. Developing the most innovative energy policy in the country.
3. Educating our children for a knowledge economy.
4. Training Iowans for the jobs of tomorrow.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Michael Ash

President, Southeastern Community College

Represents community colleges*

Mr. Manny Atwood

Counselor, Central Decatur School

Represents K-12 practitioners*

Ms. Cassandra Bond

Represents Iowa college students*

Rep. Cecil Dolecheck

Represents Iowa House**

Sen. Jeff Edler

Represents Iowa Senate**

Mr. Timothy Fitzgibbon

Represents general public*

Ms. Rachael Johnson

Regent, State Board of Regents

Represents State Board of Regents

Dr. Kathleen Mulholland, Chair

Represents general public*

Dr. Mark Putnam

President, Central College

Represents private colleges and universities*

Sen. Herman Quirmbach

Represents Iowa Senate**

Mr. Doug Shull, Vice Chair

Represents general public*

Ms. Barbara Sloniker

Represents parents of Iowa students*

Ms. Emily Stork

Represents general public*

Mr. Jeremy Varner

Division Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, Iowa Department of Education

Represents Iowa Department of Education

Rep. Cindy Winckler

Represents Iowa House**

*Appointed by the Governor
**Ex officio (nonvoting)

DIVISIONS & TEAMS

Executive Director
Karen Misjak

Financial Aid, Communications & School Authorization
Todd Brown,
Division Administrator

- **Scholarships & Grants**
- **Communications**
- **Postsecondary School Authorization**

Community Engagement
Christina Sibaouih,
Division Administrator

- **Course to College**
- **Course to College AmeriCorps Programs**
- **LCANs**
- **Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy**
- **GEAR UP Iowa**

Fiscal, IT & Research
Julie Ntem,
Division Administrator

- **Accounting/ Procurement**
- **Compliance**
- **Information Technology**
- **Research**

FY19 IN REVIEW

"THESE EXPERIENCES OF WORKING WITH OTHERS AND COLLABORATING AS A TEAM IN SOLVING PROBLEMS HAVE HELPED ME STRENGTHEN MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS."

—Gorma Williams, Youth Leadership Summit attendee

JULY 2018

- Staff attended and presented at the NCCEP National Conference in Washington, D.C. Four GEAR UP Iowa students attended the Youth Leadership Summit.
- We awarded Local College Access Network (LCAN) grants to six Iowa communities: Estherville, Franklin County, Mason City, Muscatine, Ottumwa, and Sioux City.
- The expanded Course to College program for 2018-19 opened, offering five initiatives and two levels of involvement.
- The Health Care Loan Repayment Program began.
- The FAFSA became a requirement for the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program.
- We opened priority eligibility for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship to students whose parent was a public safety worker killed in the line of duty.
- We released rosters of eligible fall applicants for the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program, resulting in over 600 members receiving grants.
- We moved to our new office at 475 SW Fifth Street.

AUGUST 2018

- Four members of our Community Engagement team and 18 representatives from our Local College Access Networks attended the Michigan College Access Network Maritime Academy in Lansing.
- We published updated editions of "Your Course to College" and our financial aid brochures.
- We exhibited in the Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fair.
- The 2018 Iowa State Fair Queen received a $5,000 Iowa State Fair Scholarship

SEPTEMBER 2018

- Community Engagement Coordinator Julie Spicer and Kim Warren, director of Aligned Impact Muscatine (the Muscatine LCAN), presented at the inaugural Future Ready Iowa summit in Muscatine.
- Executive Research Officer Mark Wiederspan served on a college affordability panel at The Gazette's Iowa Ideas conference in Cedar Rapids.
- Division Administrator Christina Sibaouih and Community Engagement Consultants Jamie Covell and Keyli Keifer presented at the National College Access Network conference.
- We published the 2018 "Condition of Higher Education in Iowa" report.
- The 2018-19 AmeriCorps grant began.

OCTOBER 2018

- The first course in our new Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy began with three times the enrollment we expected.
- Iowa College Aid Commissioner Mark Putnam moderated a panel on applying education to the changing workforce at a Future Ready Iowa summit in Pella.
- Along with the Iowa Attorney General's Office, we issued a warning about "loan rescue" scams.
- Leaders of Sioux City CAN signed a Common Agenda at a Future Ready Iowa summit in Sioux City.
- Division Administrator Todd Brown presented at the National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs (NASSGAP) conference in Albuquerque.
- Coordinators of the Ottumwa and Sioux City LCANs attended the 2018 "Champions for Change" Collective Impact Forum in Los Angeles.
- Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed October as College Application Month in Iowa.

NOVEMBER 2018

- Our Board of Commissioners held a planning retreat.
- The GEAR UP Iowa Advisory Council, representing 15 Iowa colleges and universities, met to discuss the impending arrival of the GEAR UP 2.0 cohort on their campuses.
- Community Engagement Consultants Jamie Covell and Keyli Keifer presented at the Iowa School Counselor Association conference.

DECEMBER 2018

- Iowa numbered among the top 10 U.S. states for FAFSA completion rates.
- We awarded seven LCAN grants: Black Hawk County, Carroll and surrounding area, Iowa Latino Postsecondary Education Coalition, Dubuque CAN, Sioux City CAN, Queer Supports Advisory Team, and Q2030-Quad Cities LCAN.
- We released the roster of eligible spring applicants for the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program, resulting in just under 700 members receiving grants.

JANUARY 2019

- We released a policy brief on the effect of FAFSA verification on college enrollment.
- Public high school participation in our FAFSA Completion Initiative reached 100 percent.
- Staff presented to the community colleges to begin launch of the College Success Corps and Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program.

FEBRUARY 2019

- We launched our redesigned and rebranded website.
- Executive Director Karen Misjak and Division Administrator Todd Brown attended the National Council of Higher Education Resources Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.
- More than 70 GEAR UP Iowa staff, coaches and other team members attended our annual GEAR UP Iowa conference, "The Power of Promise," in Ames.
- Registration opened for College Decision Day.
- We released our annual Student and Faculty Diversity Report.

MARCH 2019

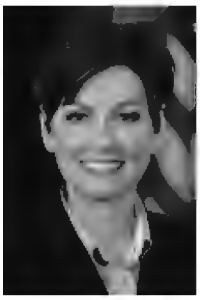
- Executive Research Officer Dr. Mark Wiederspan testified before a U.S. Senate committee about simplifying the FAFSA.
- We added a dashboard to our website, IowaCollegeAid.gov/Metrics, tracking college access, success, and completion in Iowa.
- More than 1,900 students took the ACT through GEAR UP Iowa's districtwide testing.
- The GEAR UP Iowa Advisory Council met to review our data sharing agreements, as well as the timeline for grant applications for 2020-21.
- The Research team held a planning retreat.
- Three students were selected to receive a $2,000 Iowa State Fair Scholarship in FY20.

APRIL 2019

- We held a Day on the Hill to give Legislators an opportunity to meet students who receive state-funded financial aid.
- The Senate adopted a resolution marking the 50th anniversary of the Iowa Tuition Grant.
- Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed April as Financial Literacy Awareness Month in Iowa.
- The Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators honored Student Financial Aid Program Specialist Tristan Lynn with its Meritorious Service Award.
- NCHER (the National Council of Higher Education Resources) spotlighted our College Decision Day initiative.
- We released a report outlining the benefits of higher education for both the state of Iowa and its citizens.
- GEAR UP Iowa facilitators Erin Valerio-Garsow and Elizabeth Medina presented at the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling's LEAP (Leading & Excelling, Academically & Professionally) Conference at DMACC in Ankeny.
- Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed May 1 as College Decision Day in Iowa.
- Ten children visited our office for Bring a Child to Work Day.
- Staff presented at the Iowa Association of Financial Aid Administrators conference, and began discussions with financial aid administrators about the new Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and Future Ready Iowa Grant.
- Eleven applicants were selected to receive up to $2,067,792 through the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program.
- Ten applicants were selected to receive up to $470,000 through the Health Care Professional Recruitment Program.

MAY 2019

- Nine GEAR UP Iowa districts that offered districtwide ACT testing this spring reported a jump in the percentage of students taking the test.
- College Decision Day events wrapped up, with a total of 53 high schools having taken part.
- Registration opened for Course to College 2019-20.
- Almost 300 students were designated for the Education and Training Voucher for FY20.
- We released expanded eligibility criteria and a higher maximum award for the Iowa Tuition Grant.
- We released eligibility criteria under the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant and Iowa Vocational Technical Tuition Grant programs, resulting in thousands of Iowans receiving grants in FY20.
- We began biweekly conference calls with colleges to support implementation of the Last-Dollar Scholarship.
- Over a thousand students were designated to receive the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship in FY20.
- 2019-20 AmeriCorps Access and Success Member positions opened.
- Community Engagement Consultant Jamie Covell presented at the Association for College Admission Counseling national convening,



"FUTURE READY IOWA RECOGNIZES THAT THERE IS DIGNITY IN MEANINGFUL WORK, THAT IOWANS YEARN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER THEMSELVES, AND THAT THOSE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST RIGHT HERE IN IOWA."

—Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds

JUNE 2019

- Nearly 50 representatives of Local College Access Networks and staff gathered in Des Moines for the 2019 LCAN Convening.
- Division Administrator Julie Ntem graduated from the Iowa Certified Public Manager program.
- Governor Kim Reynolds announced $16 million in funding for the Future Ready Iowa initiative, including $13 million for the Last-Dollar Scholarship and $1 million for the Future Ready Iowa Grant.
- The first cohort of the Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy completed their certificates.
- Community Engagement Consultants Megan Sibbel and Jamie Covell hosted the American College Application Campaign's inaugural webinar.
- The Accounting, GEAR UP Iowa, and AmeriCorps teams participated in a Lean Kaizen process improvement event.
- We repaid $148,149 in federal student loan balances for 33 recipients of the Health Care Loan Repayment Program.
- We collected, screened, and approved 17 institutional applications to participate in the Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and 33 institutional applications to participate in the Future Ready Iowa Grant.
- We provided $620,000 in income bonuses and federal student loan repayments for 155 Iowa teachers through the Teach Iowa Scholar Program.
- We repaid $224,064 in federal student loans for 59 teachers through the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program.
- We convened a discussion with all institutions participating in the Future Ready Iowa Grant Program.
- We released the roster of eligible Last-Dollar Scholarship applicants to colleges and issued awarding guidance, resulting in over 6,000 awards for fall 2019.
- We submitted the final 2019-20 AmeriCorps Success Grant.
- We released the GEAR UP Iowa Year 7 College Partner Grant Request for Proposals.

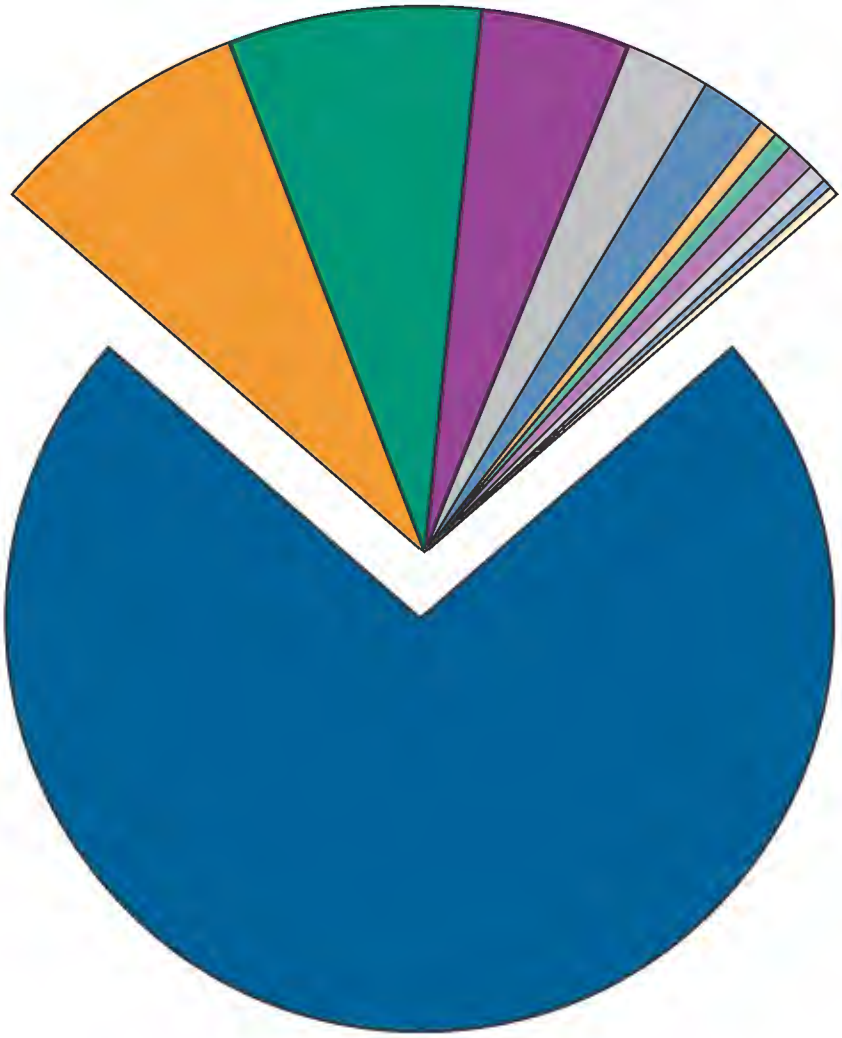
FINANCIAL AID

Iowa College Aid supports students and families as they plan, prepare and pay for higher education. Part of that support in FY19 was the administration of more than $63 million in Iowa General Fund appropriations under 11 need-based scholarship, grant, and loan forgiveness programs.

FY 2019 initial state appropriations: $63,958,792

- Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit
  $46,630,951 | 72.9%
- Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant (Kibbie Grant)
  $5,000,000 | 7.8%
- Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance
  $4,700,000 | 7.3%
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
  $2,840,854 | 4.4%
- Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant
  $1,750,185 | 2.7%
- Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment
  $1,124,502 | 1.8%
- Health Care Professional Recruitment (DMU)
  $400,973 | .6%
- Teach Iowa Scholar
  $400,000 | .6%
- Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit
  $376,220 | .6%
- Health Care Loan Repayment (formerly Registered Nurse & Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness)
  $200,000 | .3%
- Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness
  $105,828 | .2%

- Administration—General
  $429,279 | .7%



Scholarship & Grant Reserve Fund balance

June 30, 2018: $498,811.36 | June 30, 2019: $487,573.56

Iowa College Aid administers the Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund authorized in Iowa Code Section 261.20 "to alleviate a current fiscal year shortfall in appropriations for scholarship or tuition grant programs that have the same nature as the programs for which the monies were originally appropriated." The maximum balance is 1 percent of the funds appropriated to the Iowa Tuition Grant and Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant programs.

Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in undergraduate programs at Iowa's not-for-profit private colleges and universities.

Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant *(Kibbie Grant)* Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in high-demand career or technical programs of study at Iowa community colleges.

Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance *(to be renamed National Guard Service Scholarship for FY20)* For members of Iowa Air and Army National Guard units in undergraduate programs at Iowa colleges and universities.

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Need-based assistance for students at risk of not pursuing higher education because of social and financial barriers.

Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in career or technical programs of study at Iowa community colleges.

Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment For graduates of Des Moines University or the University of Iowa who practice in specified rural Iowa communities for up to five years.

Health Care Professional Recruitment *(DMU)* For Des Moines University graduates who practice in high-need communities in Iowa for up to four years.

Teach Iowa Scholar For highly qualified Iowa teachers who teach in designated shortage areas in Iowa for up to five years.

Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in undergraduate programs at Iowa's for-profit private colleges and universities.

Health Care Loan Repayment *(formerly Registered Nurse & Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness)* For nurse educators teaching full-time at eligible Iowa colleges and universities, as well as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who practice full-time in high-need communities for five consecutive years.

Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Provides an incentive for Iowans to become teachers in high-need positions in Iowa's elementary and secondary schools.

Education & Training Voucher *(federal)* For students who are or were in foster care or were adopted from foster care and who attend an eligible college or university.

GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship *(federal)* For students in the GEAR UP Iowa cohort (graduating class of 2020 at partner high schools).

Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship For outstanding Iowa high school seniors who have strong academic and leadership credentials and have actively participated in the Iowa State Fair.

"BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN MONUMENTAL TO MY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MY YOUNG ADULT LIFE, AS IT HAS ALLOWED ME TO HAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF HELP FINANCIALLY, AS WELL AS HAVE AMAZING ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MY COLLEGE CAREER."

—Gavin Sullivan, All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship and Education & Training Voucher recipient

Program	Initial appropriation	Total applicants	Unduplicated recipients	Total awards	Average award	Max award for FY19
Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit	$46,630,951	24,484	10,097	$46,551,716	$4,610	$5,650
Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant (Kibbie Grant)	$5,000,000	20,501	4,394	$4,694,729	$1,068	$2,700
Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance	$4,700,000	1,294	846	$4,170,305	$4,804	$7,725
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship	$2,840,854	7,498	777	$3,093,670	$3,982	$4,532
Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant	$1,750,185	20,501	2,638	$1,721,246	$652	$900
Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment	$1,124,502	NA	11	$2,067,792	$187,981	$200,000
Health Care Professional Recruitment (DMU)	$400,973	NA	10	$470,000	$47,000	$50,000
Teach Iowa Scholar	$400,000	207	155	$620,000	$4,000	$4,000
Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit	$376,220	2,143	416	$373,046	$897	$2,150
Health Care Loan Repayment	$200,000	139	33	$148,149	$4,489	$6,000
Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness	$105,828	63	59	$224,064	$3,798	$7,108
Education & Training Voucher (federal)	$492,212	403	143	$492,212	$3,442	$5,000
GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship (federal)	NA	2	2	$1,500	$750	$1,200
Branstad State Fair Scholarship	NA	95	2	$4,000	$2,000	$2,000

COURSE TO COLLEGE

119
High schools participated

2,464
College applications submitted

343
Schools received FAFSA reports

54
Schools hosted College Decision Day events

This program supports high schools in creating a college-going culture through five steps: Prepare, Apply, Finance, Decide, and Go. Iowa College Aid provides support and resources for schools to assist students from college preparedness through the transition to higher education. In FY19, for the first time, we offered two tracks: Participant and Partner. Partner sites commit to host a fall application event and/or activity, use FAFSA completion data to inform students of their completion status, host a spring decision celebration event and/or activity, develop a summer contact plan, implement year-round college preparation practices, and submit data to Iowa College Aid for each component. This year, 32 of our 119 registered schools chose to be Partner sites. This was also the first year that we offered automated FAFSA reports, and all of Iowa's public high schools signed up.

Apply

103 schools hosted college application campaigns

1,959 seniors participated

Finance

57% of seniors at participating schools filed the FAFSA

Decide

8,100 seniors participated

361 seniors completed end-of-year survey

Go

27 high schools developed summer melt plans

397 students participated in summer texting

"IT IS SO NICE TO HAVE A PERSONAL CONTACT RELATED TO COURSE TO COLLEGE, AND I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE RESOURCES AND INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS YOU HOST. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT US!"

—Carmen Stenger, school counselor, Monticello High School

COURSE TO COLLEGE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

7
Host sites

4,935
Member hours served

281
Program students

400
Students reached electronically

AmeriCorps members, recruited by Iowa College Aid through an AmeriCorps State Grant, are hosted in high schools around the state as college access coaches. These coaches provide customized direct support to students, as well as capacity development for the schools they serve. In FY19, we placed nine members at seven sites. "Program students" had at least one interaction and at least 15 minutes of time with an AmeriCorps member. In addition, 400 students received electronic communications only.

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps federal funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency for volunteering and service. 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Since its inception in 1994, more than 1 million Americans have served their country through the national service program.

AmeriCorps sites

- Cedar Rapids
- Clinton
- Estherville
- Mason City
- Muscatine
- Perry
- Sioux City (2 locations)

"THIS EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME SO MUCH NOT ONLY ABOUT MY FUTURE PATH IN LIFE, BUT A LOT ABOUT MYSELF. ... I DEFINITELY SEE MYSELF CONTINUING TO WORK ON COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS INITIATIVES."

—LaVerne Handfield, AmeriCorps VISTA alum, 2017-18 (now Programs Coordinator at Florida College Access Network)

LOCAL COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORKS

12
Networks

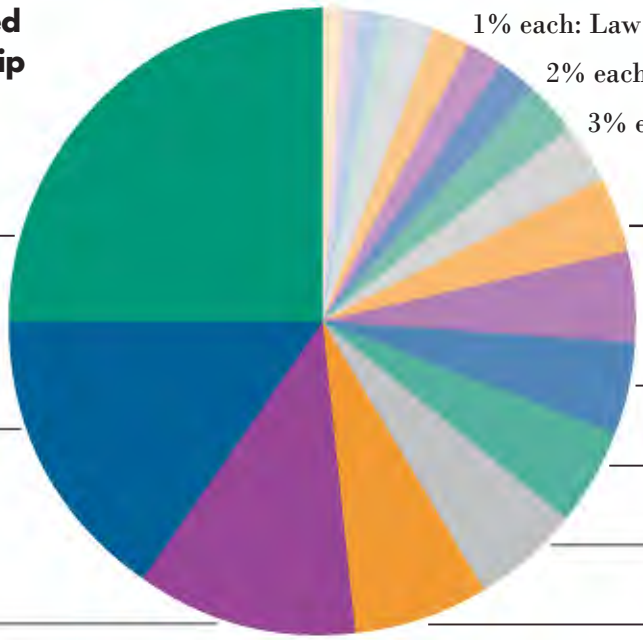
204
Leadership Team members

$460K
Awarded

20%
Increase in networks from last year

Local College Access Networks (LCANs) work collectively in communities to raise educational attainment. Iowa College Aid provides funding, training, and technical assistance to align the efforts of various sectors. The total awarded in FY19 was $460,401. The program grew from 10 to 12 networks, and newer initiatives engage special populations: LatinosCAN (established in FY19) focuses on Iowa's Latinx community, while QSAT (established in FY18) supports LGBTQ youth.

Sectors represented by LCAN Leadership



LCAN communities

- Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM)
- Black Hawk County CAN
- Carroll Area CAN
- Dubuque CAN
- Estherville CAN
- Latinos CAN*
- Mason City CAN
- Mission Possible Franklin County
- Ottumwa Cradle-College-Career (C3)
- Quad Cities CAN
- Queer Supports Advisory Team (QSAT)*
- Sioux City CAN

*statewide network

IOWA COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS ACADEMY

274
Total enrollees

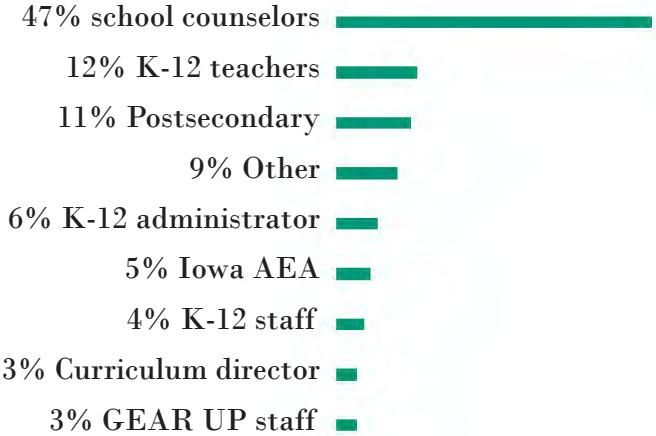
87
Entities represented

19
College Access Professional certificates

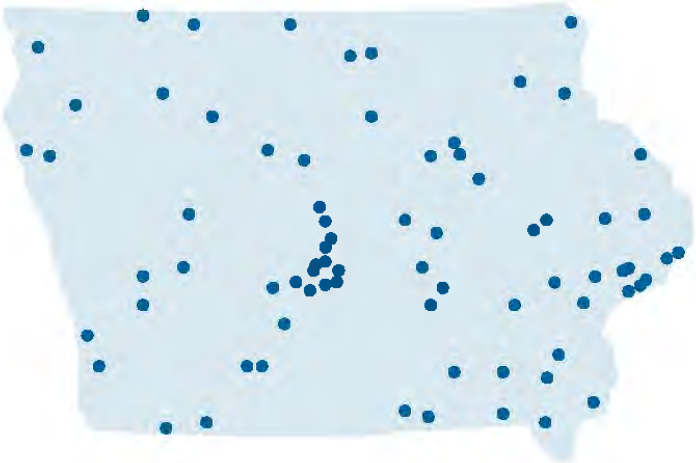
5
College Access Specialist certificates

This suite of Iowa-specific online courses helps college access and success professionals provide equitable postsecondary opportunities for all students. In FY 2019, 274 people from 87 school districts, community colleges, colleges/universities, and Iowa AEAs enrolled in our courses. Of those, 19 participants completed three courses to earn a College Access Professional certificate, and five individuals completed all Academy courses to earn a College Access Specialist certificate.

Participants' job categories:



Academy participants



"TAKING THESE COURSES WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM AND NETWORK WITH OTHER COLLEGE ACCESS PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE STATE."

—Trista Thompson, M.A., school counselor, Fort Dodge Senior High

GEAR UP IOWA

12
School districts

7,005
Students

4,687
Students received some form of service

1,875
Students went on college visits

This dollar-for-dollar matched federal grant partners with 25 high schools in 12 low-income school districts to help students complete high school and succeed in college. GEAR UP Iowa follows students from seventh grade through their first year in college. Current GEAR UP Iowa students were high school juniors in FY19. Nearly 70 percent received some form of service in FY19. GEAR UP sponsored ACT testing in nine districts, where the number of students who took the test increased by an estimated 50 percent over non-GEAR UP years.

GEAR UP-sponsored ACT district tests

3,417 students took ACT (3/4 of cohort)

9 districts participated

1,338 students participated in ACT prep

8,340 total hours of test prep offered

GEAR UP districts

- Cedar Rapids
- Clinton
- Columbus Junction
- Davenport
- Denison
- Des Moines
- Fort Dodge
- Marshalltown
- Ottumwa
- Perry
- Sioux City
- Storm Lake

"THE SERVICES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND RELATIONSHIPS GRANTED TO ME THROUGH THE GEAR UP PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY ARE THINGS THAT I WILL FOREVER CARRY WITH ME AND CHERISH."

—Tori Stien, Kennedy High School (Cedar Rapids), class of 2020

POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION

268
Schools authorized

203
Based in Iowa

65
Based out of state

38
Student complaints vetted

"WE HIGHLY VALUE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF IOWA AND THE STUDENTS THAT WE SERVE. ... THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO."

—Joseph A. Rives, Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities

The Postsecondary School Authorization team authorizes institutions to offer courses and programs to Iowans and ensures that students attending nonpublic postsecondary schools receive the financial protections afforded under Iowa law. We authorize 268 postsecondary institutions in Iowa and throughout the United States that range from unaccredited, nondegree vocational schools to accredited, degree-granting institutions. They offer programs via a variety of teaching methods including distance education. We also work with students who have concerns about their schools to help mitigate or resolve their issues. In FY19, we received and vetted 38 student complaints. The Postsecondary School Authorization team also monitors the status of schools under our oversight and takes action, when possible, to close Iowa enrollment and warn students when a school is in danger of sudden closure. When Iowa students are displaced by a school that suddenly closes, we provide advice about options for debt relief or transfer and, when possible, compile and publish a list of comparable programs at other accredited institutions.

Monitoring & preventive action

Schools where we closed new Iowa enrollment: 4

Number of those schools that abruptly closed within the year: 3

RESEARCH

1/3
Decrease in Iowa's college enrollment, 2010-2017

22%
Drop in Iowa FAFSA filing, 2012-2017

31%
Iowans who test as college-ready in all areas of ACT

$6,565
Annual average of federal loans awarded to undergrads in Iowa

—Findings from "Condition of Higher Education in Iowa 2018"

Iowa College Aid continuously evaluates its grants and programs to assess their effectiveness. The Research Team collaborates with the U.S. Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Board of Regents, and Area Education Agencies to provide analytics and insight. The team also maintains a Higher Education Data Center on the agency's website, analyzes data for distribution to the media and the public, and tracks Iowans along a "student continuum" from FAFSA completion to college graduation. In addition to the semiannual "Condition of Higher Education" report and state-mandated reports on college enrollment and diversity, the Research team released three research reports and a policy brief in FY19 and presented an analysis of the Iowa Tuition Grant to the Board of Commissioners. The team is currently working to convert the Higher Education Data Center to the Socrata platform, which will enable timelier updates and easier access for users.

Research publications

"Condition of Higher Education in Iowa 2018," September 2018

"Iowa College and University Enrollment Report," January 2019

"Impact of Verification on Iowa FAFSA Filers," January 2019

"Student and Faculty Diversity Report," March 2019

"How Iowa and Its Citizens Benefit from Higher Education," April 2019

"Income and Expected Family Contribution: How Do They Relate," June 2019

"HIGHER EDUCATION HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. … ANY INDIVIDUAL, REGARDLESS OF INCOME AND RACE, SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THESE BENEFITS."

—Dr. Mark Wiederspan, Executive Research Officer, in testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

COMMUNICATIONS

53,278
Visits to website

2,468
Followers on social media

42,193
Free publications given away

26,978
Digital newsletter subscriptions

Through digital and print media, Iowa College Aid puts information in the hands of students and families to help them navigate the often-complicated path to college. We maintain websites and social media accounts for both the agency and the GEAR UP Iowa program. We reach followers daily through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and weekly through our e-newsletters. Each year we publish "Your Course to College," a free step-by-step guide, along with brochures and fliers outlining the process of applying for financial aid.

FY19 highlights

August 2018: Photo booth at the Iowa State Fair—10,000+ visitors

February 2019: Redesign and rebranding of agency website

April 2019: Day on the Hill, where recipients of state financial aid thanked state lawmakers in person

"I USE 'YOUR COURSE TO COLLEGE' IN MY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE CLASSES IN OUR CAREER/MONEY MANAGEMENT UNIT. THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ON SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, FEDERAL LOANS, ETC., IS INVALUABLE."

—Colette Fisher, teacher, Ottumwa High School

FINAL FY19 OPERATING EXPENSES

	STATE APPROPRIATED PROGRAMS	STATE MANDATED/ UNFUNDED PROGRAMS*	FEDERAL GRANT/ PROGRAMS	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	FFELP/PLP COLLECTIONS, GREAT LAKES**	TOTALS
FY2019 Number of Programs	12	7	5	3	2	29
FY2019 Fed Award (Admin)/ Others		100,000	2,335,680	0	4,208,540	6,644,220
FY2019 State Appropriation/Grant (Scholarship)	63,480,833	11,000	540,856	-	-	64,032,689
FY2019 State Admin/Fed Drawdown/Fees/Others	429,279	144,876	3,865,068	-	5,822,962	10,262,185
Personnel	576,657	580,173	1,522,514	815,758	21,097	3,516,199
Travel	2,924	4,981	49,767	35,918	107	93,698
Supplies, Printing, Postage & Equip repair	13,439	14,518	44,920	25,197	492	98,566
Rent Communication & Prof/outside serv.	53,928	55,322	468,607	146,025	1,973	725,855
State Legal, Audit, State Reimbursements	10,940	11,840	32,537	16,588	400	72,305
Advertising & Publicity	2,853	2,870	10,365	12,733	104	28,926
State Transfer/Reimbursements/IT Exp	113,629	115,067	323,832	162,596	4,157	719,281
Total Operating Cost	**774,370**	**784,772**	**2,452,543**	**1,214,815**	**28,331**	**5,254,830**
Aid to Individuals	-	-	526,491	-	-	526,491
Transfer to Scholarship Trust	-	-	1,599,543	-	-	1,599,543
Grants to K-12 Schools/Communities (Sub Grants)	-	-	1,161,390	418,444	-	1,579,834
Scholarships/Grants	61,289,520	4,000	-	-	-	61,293,520
Total Expenditures (Incl. Scholarship)	62,063,890	788,772	5,739,967	1,633,259	28,331	70,254,218
Fund Committed for Scholarship and Aid	2,191,313	7,000	15,865	-	-	2,214,178
Net Gain / Loss	**(345,091)**	**(639,896)**	**(1,878,778)**	**(1,633,259)**	**5,794,631**	**1,297,608**
Overall % of Total Expense	**88.34%**	**1.12%**	**8.17%**	**2.32%**	**0.04%**	**100.00%**

*Related to Chapter 261 of Iowa Code—Postsecondary Education, Branstad State Fair Scholarship, Loan Programs

**Great Lakes Higher Education Corp. & Affiliates changed its name to Ascendium Education Group on November 15, 2018

Because College Changes Everything

IOWA COLLEGE AID

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