



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help Available for Federal Student Aid Application

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA – Feb. 2, 2009 – Iowa students can get free assistance with the form required for federal financial aid at Iowa College Goal Sunday in five Iowa locations in February.

Volunteers for Iowa College Goal Sunday will help students and their families fill out and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of a national program that helps students qualify for federal financial aid. The FAFSA, which is a free form available in paper and electronic forms from the U.S. Department of Education, is the first step in the qualification process.

“Our main focus is students who are low-income or are the first generation of their families to attend college, or both,” says Juan Garcia, manager of the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) and state coordinator of the 2009 Iowa College Goal Sunday. “Of course, we’d also like anyone who has questions or wants help with the FAFSA to come out for free assistance.”

This year’s event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

Saturday, Feb. 14 Des Moines Public Library 1000 Grand Avenue Des Moines	Saturday, Feb. 21 Indian Hills Community College 525 Grandview Ave Ottumwa	Saturday, Feb. 28 Iowa Western Community College 2700 College Road Council Bluffs
Iowa College Access Network College Planning Center 160 S. 68 th Street, Suite 1101 West Des Moines	UNI Talent Search – UNI Center for Urban Education 800 Sycamore Street Waterloo	Western Iowa Tech Community College 4647 Stone Avenue Sioux City

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Students or parents may attend individually, but it's best if the student and at least one parent or guardian are present. Certain paperwork is required to fill out the forms. (See sidebar.)

For more information, please visit the Iowa College Goal Sunday Web site, www.iowaCGS.org. Details are also available from ICAN by calling (877) 272-4692 or e-mailing CGS@ICANSucceed.org.

Iowa College Goal Sunday is part of the national College Goal Sunday program, currently held in 36 states and funded by grants from Lumina Foundation for Education. A number of Iowa organizations are partnering to plan and implement Iowa College Goal Sunday, including the Des Moines Schools GEAR UP program, Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Iowa College Access Network, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Dollars for Scholars, Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates, Iowa TRIO programs and Scholarship America.

[Sidebar]

To complete the FAFSA, families should bring, for both the student and parent, the following:

- Social Security number, driver's license number and date of birth
- Most recent federal and state tax returns
- W-2 forms or other records of income earned last year
- Current bank statements and investment records
- Records of untaxed income received last year
- 2008 business and farm records
- Alien registration numbers if not a U.S. citizen

Students and parents may also register in advance for federal personal identification numbers (PINs) to electronically sign the forms and make future changes. To request a PIN, visit www.pin.ed.gov.

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