February 10, 2010

TO: High School Counselors / Principals/ Trio Coordinators

FROM: Misty Burke, Program Administration

RE: All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship – Application Process

The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship application for academic year 2010-11 is now available on the I Have a Plan Iowa web site http://www.ihaveaplanioawa.gov/. To apply, click on the Apply Now! State of Iowa Financial Aid icon located under the Quicklinks section. The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (Opportunity Scholarship) is a state-funded program that provides scholarships to students who do well in high school and demonstrate financial need. The Opportunity Scholarship is administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (the Commission).

Priority of Applicants

Priority for awards will be given to students who participate in the federal TRIO Programs while in high school, to applicants who graduate from alternative high schools or alternative high school programs, and to homeless youth. These students will be identified by the Commission with the assistance of high school guidance counselors, TRIO Program administrators, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and the Iowa Department of Education.

Please urge all of your graduating seniors who will likely meet the eligibility criteria listed below to apply.

Student Eligibility

High school seniors who will graduate with the class of 2010 are eligible to apply for Opportunity Scholarships if they meet the following criteria:

- Iowa resident who begins his or her initial period of enrollment at an eligible Iowa college or university within two academic years of graduation from high school and continuously receives an award;

- Iowa high school senior maintaining at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale or its equivalent;
• Enrolls for at least 3 semester hours, or the trimester or quarter equivalent, in a program leading to an undergraduate degree from an eligible college or university;

• Completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the date specified in the application instructions and meets the designated Expected Family Contribution (EFC); and

• Completes any additional applications or documents required by the Commission.

Certification

We will again seek your assistance with certifying student applications following our first priority application date of March 1, 2010. When the certification portion of the application is available for your use, we will provide additional information.

Award

Students attending eligible Iowa colleges and universities may receive awards of up to the average tuition and fee rate established for students attending a Regent Universities for the award year or the amount of tuition and fees paid by students, whichever is less. For academic year 2009-10, the maximum award is $6,704. For academic year 2010-11, the maximum award is $7,141. Opportunity Scholarships are renewable for a second year if the student is attending an Iowa community college (applicants attending and Iowa community college must reapply the following year and meet eligibility requirements during their second year of enrollment). Students are required to meet the academic progress standards of the college or university to continue to receive the Scholarship.

The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program may assist with expenses associated with attending an approved education program. This may include tuition and fees, books and supplies, day care, transportation, or housing costs.

Application Year

The 2010-11 application will provide assistance for students attending college from August 1, 2010, through May 31, 2011.

Application Information

The 2010/11 application is now available at: https://apps.iowacollegeaid.gov/common/default.aspx?cmd=wizInfoView. First priority will be provided to students whose applications are received on or before March 1, 2010. Awards will be made to students whose applications are received after March 1, 2010, only if funding remains available after all renewals and on-time, eligible applicants have been served.
Contact Information

If you have any questions about the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship, please contact the Commission’s Information Service Center at 1-877-272-4456.