



NEWS RELEASE

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GEAR UP Iowa’s Sibouih Recognized as Iowa “Face of Volunteerism” *Division Administrator recognized by Volunteer Iowa for work with Refugee Resource Center*

Des Moines, IA, January 11, 2016 – Iowa College Aid announced today that Division Administrator and GEAR UP Iowa Program Director Christina Sibouih has been honored as a “Face of Volunteerism” by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) for her work in the community with the Refugee Resource Center.

Sibouih founded the Refugee Resource Center in 2014 as an inter-faith, interdisciplinary and intercultural alliance working to meet the needs of Iowa’s refugee community and advocates on behalf of refugee-related efforts. Sibouih is a student of diplomacy and has long been involved in international affair issues for such groups as the Iowa International Center, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and Morocco’s Al Akhawayn University.

In her role as GEAR UP Iowa Program Director, Sibouih works closely on advocacy issues to improve college readiness throughout the state of Iowa but continues her dedication to the Refugee Resource Center.

“We are proud of the passion that Iowa College Aid staff displays every day on behalf of students and families,” said Karen Misjak, Iowa College Aid Executive Director. “Christina’s impressive volunteer support to central Iowa refugees helps strengthen our community and stabilize families so that each child and adult has the opportunity to live up to their potential.”

Starting today, Sibouih will be featured for a week at www.volunteeriowa.org as part of Governor Branstad’s “A Call to Service” initiative, designed to challenge and encourage Iowans to give back to their communities through volunteerism and service.

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For more information on the Refugee Resource Center, please visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RRCIowa/>

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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 prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$70.0 million annually, 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 utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa's students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.