



News Release
July 31, 2015

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Sioux City receives \$10,000 Planning Grant from Iowa College Aid
Grant funds local efforts in Iowa communities to increase college attainment.

Sioux City, IA, July 25, 2015 - Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP) has been selected by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission to receive a \$10,000 Planning Grant to support efforts to increase the college attainment rate in Sioux City as part of the agency's "Sioux City College Changes Everything" initiative.

The initiative will identify barriers that prevent students from furthering their education beyond high school during the planning period. When the planning period concludes, SHIP will be eligible to apply for a larger implementation grant that will help to eliminate the identified barriers and gaps in services.

The Sioux City College Changes Everything initiative is utilizing the "collective impact" model to encourage collaboration between the public and private school systems, colleges and universities, and the non-profit sector in building a community-based local college access network (LCAN) dedicated to the common agenda of increasing college attainment. Research shows that by 2020, it is estimated that close to 70 percent of all jobs in Iowa will require educational degrees or credentials beyond high school.

"SHIP has always been all about building collaboration to improve quality of life for members of the community," stated Matt Ohman, the Executive Director of SHIP. "Attaining postsecondary education – which can be defined in ways other than a typical four-year degree – is essential in securing better employment and building that quality of life. SHIP is thrilled that through this opportunity, we are able to get the key players around the table to start making things better."

The network members include representatives from Bishop-Heelan Schools, Briar Cliff University, Iowa Workforce Development, Juvenile Court Services, Morningside College, St. Luke's College – Unity Point Health, Sioux City BOOST program, the Sioux City Community School District, United Way of Siouxland, Western Iowa Tech Community College and the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors.

"We are excited to be part of such an important initiative for Siouxland," states Jessica McCormick, the Director of Academic Achievement at Briar Cliff University, "It's been a very eye-opening experience to realize where our community partnerships are robust and effective, as well as recognize where we have the most challenges when supporting our youth to participate in postsecondary programs—and be successful in them."

Iowa College Aid's "College Changes Everything" initiative had adopted Goal 2025, a goal set by the Lumina Foundation, which aims to increase the number of students receiving high-value educational degrees to 60 percent by 2025. Initiatives such as "College Changes Everything" play critical roles in achieving this goal by mobilizing communities and increasing the visibility and impact of collaborative work to increase higher educational attainment.

"Iowa College Aid is excited to add Sioux City to our network of communities around Iowa working to increase college attainment. Working together to leverage Sioux City's strengths will be the best way to make progress that can be sustained," says Rachel Scott, the Division Administrator for the Iowa Student College Aid Commission.

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Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP) provides leadership in response to identified community needs and collaboratively provides for the delivery of health, human services, education and public safety in Siouxland. For more information about SHIP, go to www.siouxlandship.org.

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission 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.