



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Iowa Student Loan Helps Sponsor Fourth Annual Statewide  
Military and Veterans Conference**

*More Than 200 People Expected to Attend, Discuss Military Culture and  
Diversity Service Members Bring to Iowa's College Campuses*

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (Sept. 23, 2013) — Today, more than 200 people are expected to converge on the University of Northern Iowa's campus for the fourth annual Military and Veterans State Conference, which is being sponsored in part by Iowa Student Loan®. The goal of this year's conference is to educate the Iowa community about the military culture and the diversity service members bring to college campuses.

"Our hope is to provide a forum where service members, college faculty and community leaders can come together to talk about the challenges military members face when transitioning to campus life and how to best help this population of students succeed in college," said Julia Heuer, coordinator of Military and Veteran Student Services at UNI.

"We also want to bring awareness to the campus and community resources that are available to military and veteran students," Heuer added.

Helping students succeed in their postsecondary education endeavors is Iowa Student Loan's mission and the reason it stepped up to help sponsor this year's Military and Veterans State Conference. For several years now, the nonprofit student loan organization has worked to understand and find ways to address the special needs of military and veteran students. Since 2007, it has offered the Iowa Student Loan Armed Forces Interest Reduction Program, providing 0.00% interest for up to 24 months on its private student loans for deployed military members. The program has forgiven more than \$600,000 in interest since its inception.

“As a nonprofit, part of what we do is to reinvest in the futures of lowans with resources and assistance, like our interest reduction program for service members. We understand that military and veteran students face unique challenges, and in order to better serve this population, we need to make them aware of the resources we offer and that we’re here to help,” said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of Iowa Student Loan.

Inside conference attendees’ registration packets, Iowa Student Loan provided a flier detailing its interest reduction program as well as other services and programs, including federal and private student loan repayment assistance and Iowa Student Loan’s educational tools Web page, featuring Student Loan Game Plan<sup>SM</sup>, the Return on College Investment tool and multiple calculators. In addition, Iowa Student Loan staff will be on hand during the conference to answer military and veteran students’ questions.

The conference, titled “Uncamouflaging Campus Diversity: Creating Transparency Through Cultural Competence,” is being held from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today at Maucker Union on UNI’s campus. The event’s keynote speaker is Meredith Kleykamp, associate professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, whose research has focused on the social demography of the military and the social and economic consequences of military service. In addition to an employment fair, the conference includes breakout sessions on topics about military culture education, resources for military dependents, veterans disability benefits, suicide awareness and post-traumatic stress disorder. For more information about the fourth annual Military and Veterans State Conference, visit <http://www.uni.edu/military/conference-2013>.

The mission of UNI’s Military and Veterans Student Services is to support military members and veterans and their families as they transition between military duty, college and a new career. For more information about the office and its services, email Julia Heuer at [Julia.Heuer@uni.edu](mailto:Julia.Heuer@uni.edu) or call (319) 273-3040.

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### **About Iowa Student Loan**

Since 1981, Iowa Student Loan, a private, nonprofit organization, has helped Iowa students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. Iowa Student Loan has helped more than 375,000 students pay for college. The organization, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, also provides an array of borrower benefits, financial literacy tools and community reinvestment programs, including support for free college planning services for students and their families. For more information about Iowa Student Loan, visit [www.studentloan.org](http://www.studentloan.org).