



NEWS RELEASE

from

AICUP

Association of Independent Colleges
and Universities of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PA PRIVATE COLLEGES MORE AFFORDABLE TODAY THAN FIVE YEARS AGO

Infographic: [Private College in PA: An Affordable Choice](#)

Chart: [Published Tuition and Fees, Financial Aid and Net Tuition & Fees For First-Year Students With Financial Need at Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania](#)

HARRISBURG, OCTOBER 1, 2015 -- Students who received financial aid at Pennsylvania's private colleges and universities in 2013 on average paid lower net tuition and fees than students in 2008, according to new analysis issued by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). Nearly 90 percent of full-time, first year students attending Pennsylvania's private colleges and universities received financial aid.

While published tuition prices at Pennsylvania's independent colleges and universities have risen over the years, colleges have developed grant aid packages that keep costs affordable and make higher education accessible to students. According to the AICUP analysis of federal data, full-time, first-year students receiving financial aid at an independent college or university in Pennsylvania paid, on average, \$13,391 in inflation-adjusted dollars in net tuition and fees in 2008. In 2013, that number dropped by \$341 to \$13,050. Net tuition reflects federal, state and institutional grant aid received; many students secure student loans to pay net tuition. This continues a trend that began several years ago.

"Over the past few years, the average net tuition and fees at independent colleges and universities have actually fallen for many students, and that is why students and parents should not rule out private colleges based on sticker price," said AICUP President Don Francis. "Pennsylvania's independent colleges and universities have upped the ante in their contributions to full-time students with need, and provide aid packages that keep costs affordable and make higher education accessible to students."

Additionally, researchers found that in 2013, students who received aid paid an average of only 40 percent of the \$32,629 in published tuition and fees. The study noted that federal, state, and

institutional grant aid was used to make college more affordable to students and help them attain a degree at a reasonable price.

The tuition report was gathered by AICUP researchers using the most recent data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Financial Aid survey.

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The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), the only statewide organization that serves exclusively the interests of private higher education within the Commonwealth, exists to complement and support the work of campus leaders. With a membership of 88 private colleges and universities within Pennsylvania, the Association provides a variety of services and programs tailored specifically to the needs and situation of independent higher education. A list of AICUP's member colleges and universities is included on its website at www.aicup.org.

NOTE: Infographic and chart are attached.

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