



NEWS RELEASE

from

AICUP

Association of Independent Colleges
and Universities of Pennsylvania

101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101 | www.aicup.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CASEY SMITH
717.232.8649 x 232
smith@aicup.org

AICUP: “WHEN IT COMES TO COLLEGE TUITION, WHAT YOU SEE ISN’T WHAT YOU GET”

HARRISBURG, August 26, 2014 -- According to a new analysis issued by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), data indicate that while published tuition prices at Pennsylvania’s independent colleges and universities have risen over the years, the average net cost of tuition and fees for students receiving financial aid in 2012 was actually lower than it was in 2007.

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, \$13,360 in inflation-adjusted dollars in tuition and fees in 2007. In 2012, that number dropped by over three hundred dollars to \$13,036. AICUP added that 89 percent of full-time, first year students attending Pennsylvania’s private colleges and universities received financial aid.

“The data uncovered in this report clearly demonstrate that when it comes to college tuition, what you see isn’t what you get,” 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 have developed aid packages that keep costs affordable and make higher education accessible to students. 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.”

Additionally, researchers found that in 2012, students who received aid paid an average of only 41 percent of the \$31,263 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.

-more-

-more-

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: Chart and infographic are attached.

###