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*For Immediate Release*

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**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
PARTICIPATES IN  
NATIONAL FAFSA COMPLETION PILOT PROJECT**

*Davenport, Iowa-* Tammy Conrad, Associate Principal, Josh Sun, Data Analyst and Ellen Reilly, Learning Support Specialist of Davenport Community Schools attended a convening sponsored by [Lumina Foundation](#), [Kresge Foundation](#), and the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) in Indianapolis on Oct. 9-10. This convening brought together representatives of 87 school districts from across the nation focusing on the kick-off of the US Department of Education FAFSA Completion Pilot Project.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that provides access to all types of federal financial aid, including Pell Grants and federal student loans. The FAFSA also acts as an application for state and institutional aid in many cases. The FAFSA Completion Pilot Project will enable participating districts to track student completion of the form, and target efforts to ensure that many more students take that step. "Students do not realize the amount of money available and additional opportunities that are out there if they complete a FAFSA" says Lou Means, a school counselor at Davenport West. Davenport Schools will focus on getting high school seniors and their parents to a computer to complete the FAFSA application by offering various FAFSA completion events between February and April 2013.

This work is critically important as research shows that 90% of students who complete the FAFSA will enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of high school graduation. Davenport Community Schools, in partnership with local colleges, community agencies and the City of Davenport are working together to increase student understanding and access to financial aid available to them. The goal is to increase the number of student's higher college participation and success. Davenport Community Schools is organizing additional community support to sponsor FAFSA completion events at the high school, district and community level.

Davenport High School websites will be posting information regarding FAFSA completion events starting in December.

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