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## **Iowa Selects Bridges' Innovative Career Information System**

*Statewide system empowers Iowa students with the opportunity to achieve education and career success*

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Des Moines, IA –May 7, 2007** – Iowa has selected Bridges Transitions, a Xap Corporation company, through a competitive RFP process for a statewide career information system. Hundreds of thousands of students in the state have utilized the company's industry-leading online career exploration and planning resources for meaningful college and career planning since 1990 when the first statewide agreement was signed.

"The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC) has a long-standing valued relationship with Bridges," said Karen Misjak, ICSAC's Executive Director. "We are very pleased to expand our current base of Bridges and Xap solutions by continuing to offer Choices Explorer and Choices Planner at middle and high schools respectively, with the ability to provide Choices Planner in our post-secondary institutions across the state."

Sparking career awareness in middle school students, Bridges' engaging Choices Explorer creates a motivational foundation for meaningful planning. Students build integrated online portfolios that effortlessly transition from Choices Explorer in middle school to Choices Planner in high school, where they develop informed education and career plans.

"We are excited about this continuing partnership with ICSAC, as we work together to deliver a robust career information and decision-making system that helps inspire students throughout the state," said J. Michael Thompson, CEO of Xap Corporation. "We look forward to working with our Iowa partners to meet the state's future needs through our proven combination of exploration, planning and preparation solutions."

The contract is a one year deal starting July 1, 2007 with renewal options for up to four years.

### **About Xap**

Xap Corporation ([www.xap.com](http://www.xap.com)), the trusted industry choice for one-stop integrated education and career solutions, empowers successful lifelong transitions through market-leading innovations and smart, flexible tools that are reliable, valid and secure. Its products have helped over eleven million students in the past decade. Bridges Transitions ([www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com)), a Xap Corporation company, is the leader in online career exploration solutions used in over 14,000 schools and agencies in North America.

### **About ICSAC**

As the state's designated guaranty agency for the Family Federal Education Loan Program (FFELP), the Commission guarantees more than \$450 million annually in student loans from private lenders to support over 73,000 Iowa students. In addition, the Commission administers state scholarship and grant programs, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. More information is available at [www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov).