College and Career Transition Counselor Initiative

Purpose Overview



As Iowa continues to prepare high school students to be college and career ready it has become increasingly evident that students need additional support of career awareness, exploration and training. Iowa's current College and Career Transitions Counselor (CCTC) model has helped provide high school juniors and seniors with the additional career-based services needed to be successful after high school graduation along with reducing barriers and expanding access to career and academic opportunities for students.

Model

The College and Career Transition Counselor program started in Iowa in 2017 as a partnership among Eastern Iowa Community College, Louisa Muscatine, and Columbus Community Schools, with Mississippi Bend AEA providing support through its Future Ready division. For the 2026-2027 school year, 55 CCTCs will be housed in 12 of Iowa's community colleges and will support students in over 100 Iowa high schools.

CCTCs work directly through the community college and secondary schools to support college transition and career exploration through targeted connections with students and families during crucial time frames, including preparation, transition to enrollment and persistence through their postsecondary experience. The CCTCs work closely with students in grades 11 and 12 in partner high schools, throughout the summer after high school graduation and as part of the first-year support system for students coming out of this program at the coordinating community college. The positions are hosted at the community college and partner with at least one school district.

The College and Career Transitions Counselors work as a liaison between the community college and secondary schools to ensure students are supported in their career exploration and receive proper assistance in transitioning into additional training which can include apprenticeships, military opportunities, two-year colleges, four-year colleges and the world of work. CCTCs provide additional targeted support to school counseling programs in the college and career domain and work with a variety of stakeholders, including concurrent enrollment partners and work-based learning coordinators. Currently, the preferred education requirement for a CCTC is a master's degree with a license or endorsement in school counseling, followed by a related master's with a minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree.

Current Partnerships

Community College	High School Partnership Participants
Des Moines Area Community College	• Ankeny HS and Ankeny Centennial • Adel-Desoto-Minburn • Ames and Collins Maxwell • Boone and Ogden • Colo Nesco and Ballard • Des Moines Public (East, Hoover, Lincoln, North, Roosevelt) • Earlham and Panorama • Interstate 35 and Van Meter • Johnston and West Des Moines Valley • Knoxville and PCM

	• North Polk and Bondurant • Southeast Polk • Waukee NW and Waukee High • To Be Determined
Eastern Iowa Community College	• Bellevue and Maquoketa • Calamus-Wheatland Secondary Attendance Center and Central DeWitt • Columbus and Louisa-Muscatine Jr/Sr • North Scott and Durant • West Liberty and Wilton
Hawkeye Community College	• Aplington-Parkersburg and Dike New Hartford • Independence
Iowa Central Community College	• Alta-Aurelia, St. Mary's (Storm Lake) and Storm Lake • Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, South Hamilton and Webster City • Eagle Grove, Manson NW Webster, South Central Calhoun and Southeast Valley • East Sac, Greene County, Paton Churdan and Humboldt • Fort Dodge and St. Edmonds • Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas and Sioux Central
Indian Hills Community College	• Davis County, Moulton-Udell and Ottumwa Gateway High School • Oskaloosa and North Mahaska • Ottumwa High School • Cardinal and Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont • Van Buren and Pekin
Iowa Lakes Community College	• Algona and Emmetsburg • Estherville Lincoln and Okoboji High and Spencer
Iowa Valley Community College	• East Marshall and Grinnell
Iowa Western Community College	• Avoca, Riverside, Treynor and Underwood • Logan Magnolia, Missouri Valley, Harlan and Woodbine • Lewis Central and Tri-Center
Kirkwood Community College	• Cedar Rapids Washington • Cedar Rapids Jefferson • Iowa City Liberty and Iowa City West • Linn-Mar • Prairie High School • Solon
Northeast Iowa Community College	• Oelwein, Starmont and West Central • MFL MarMac and Postville
North Iowa Area Community College	• Charles City and North Butler • Newman Catholic and Central Springs

	● Rockford and Northwood-Kensett ● Garner-Hayfield-Ventura and West Hancock ● Lake Mills and West Fork ● Belmond-Klemme and Clear Lake ● Osage and Saint Ansgar ● To Be Determined
Southwestern Community College	● Mormon Trail and Clarke