

Iowa's Community Colleges

Working Together for the Future of Iowa



Success through Collaboration and Coordination

Iowa's 15 locally governed community colleges play vital roles in the economic development of their communities and the state. By working together and forming connections with local business and industry, community organizations, state agencies, and other key stakeholders, Iowa's community colleges are tightly linked to regional economic development and labor force needs and well-positioned to collaboratively address statewide challenges.

This document highlights a few of the ways Iowa's 15 community colleges and the Department of Education collaborate to ensure efficient and effective delivery of programs and services through a team approach.



Statewide Coordination

Iowa's community colleges take a systemic approach to addressing common interests. This includes the Department of Education's role in providing system support, evaluation, data, and coordination that allows for statewide planning, collective activity, and sharing of resources. Task forces, workgroups and standing advisory committees help facilitate communication and address local and statewide initiatives. Economies of scale are achieved through shared initiatives, including:

- Adoption of a single program management and course numbering system.
- Addressing academic issues such as faculty standards and developmental education.
- Implementation of common performance metrics and data reporting systems.
- Implementation of concurrent enrollment program accreditation.



Common Interests

Iowa's community colleges have created a system of work groups consisting of individuals with similar responsibilities from each of the colleges, as well as an assigned Department liaison, to address issues of common interest, coordinate collaborative efforts, and share promising programs. The primary work-alike group is the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents (IACCP).

Iowa's Community Colleges



- Des Moines Area Community College
- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
- Hawkeye Community College
- Iowa Central Community College
- Indian Hills Community College
- Iowa Lakes Community College
- Iowa Valley Community College District
- Iowa Western Community College
- Kirkwood Community College
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Northwest Iowa Community College
- Southeastern Community College
- Southwestern Community College
- Western Iowa Tech Community College



Partnership Engagement

As key partners in statewide industry, workforce, and education initiatives, Iowa's community colleges provide individuals with access to high-quality education and training to ensure employers have a pipeline of skilled workers that meet their specific needs. Some of these initiatives include:

- **Sector Partnerships** – These industry-driven, community-supported partnerships bring together regional employers, education, training, workforce, and community-based organizations to address the local skill needs of a particular industry. Community colleges convene more than two-thirds of the 60 total sector partnerships currently operating in the state.
- **Career Pathways** – To address regional workforce skill gaps, community colleges and industry leaders participate in cross-regional meetings on program development of career pathways. Each pathway consists of structured course sequences that organize education, training, and other services related to a targeted industry cluster to meet both individual and employer needs.
- **High School Partnerships** – Regional partnerships support school districts in developing the best approaches for delivering high-quality career and technical education (CTE) and expanding college credit opportunities for high school students. Community colleges, school districts, area education agencies, representatives of economic and workforce development organizations, and business and industry work together to ensure students graduate from high school ready for college and career training.



Leadership

Established in 1990, the Community College Council assists the Iowa State Board of Education with substantial issues directly related to the community college system. The council consists of four members of the State Board of Education, a community college president appointed by the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents, and a community college trustee appointed by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Partnership Spotlight:

Elevate Iowa Campaign



The Iowa Advanced Manufacturing (I-AM) Consortium, a partnership with all 15 Iowa community colleges, created the ELEVATE Iowa campaign to promote career pathways in advanced manufacturing throughout the state. The Iowa Association of Business and Industry is maintaining this campaign now that the grant has ended, a collaboration that is helping member colleges extend their impact into K-12 classrooms. Each of Iowa's community colleges contribute \$10,000 annually (\$150,000 total) which is matched by ABI businesses to sustain continued outreach to students through curriculum distribution, regional programming and presentations.





Data, Accountability, and Research

The Department of Education supports Iowa's community colleges in areas such as data collection, program management, and outcome reporting.

- **Management Information System (MIS)** – The MIS ensures accuracy, uniformity, and consistency of data submitted by the community colleges, which is used in the development of comprehensive annual reports, research on student and program success, and accountability materials and reports.
- **Program Management System** – This web-based system facilitates course and program development and internal college approval and expedites the state approval process. The Common Course Numbering system, which eases the transfer process for students to four-year institutions and between community colleges, is also managed within this system.
- **Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA)** – The VFA is a national framework for reporting on two-year college institutional effectiveness for both credit-bearing and non-credit course completion. The Department funds the VFA membership costs for the community colleges and supports the statewide initiative as a data clearinghouse to ensure consistency in data reporting.
- **Program Outcomes Research** – The Department, in partnership with all 15 community colleges and Iowa Workforce Development, publishes an annual report on the outcomes (further education, employment, wages) of students who have completed programs at Iowa's community colleges.



Innovation

The U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program was a major investment to increase the ability of community colleges to address the challenges of today's workforce. By working together, Iowa's community colleges were awarded three different TAACCCT grants to develop programs of study aligned with local and regional business needs. This collaborative work helps more Iowans acquire the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for high-wage, high-skill employment.

Statewide Project Spotlight 1:

Advanced Manufacturing (I-AM) TAACCCT Grant

Lead College: Des Moines Area Community College



The U.S. Department of Labor's TAACCCT grant program is a major investment in building the capacity of community colleges to create or enhance programs of study that lead to industry-recognized credentials, upgrade equipment, support student success toward completion, and more.

15 Community Colleges



83 Programs Launched



11,778 Participants



5,450 Credentials Earned

Statewide Project Spotlight 2:

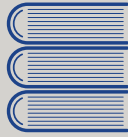
Information Technology, Healthcare, Utilities, and Manufacturing (IHUM) TAACCCT Grant

Lead College: Hawkeye Community College
(preliminary data)



6,283

Participants



3,067

Completed Programs



3,547

Credentials Earned

Each college chose their sector of concentration and working collaboratively with others to develop programs, retain students and work with students toward completion. Sector by college identified below:

- Information Technology
Eastern, Kirkwood, & Northeast
- Healthcare
Indian Hills, Iowa Central, Iowa Western, Northwest, North Iowa Area, Southeastern, Southwestern, & Western Iowa Tech
- Utilities
Iowa Valley District & Iowa Lakes
- Manufacturing
Hawkeye & Des Moines Area

Statewide Project Spotlight 3:

Bridges2Healthcare TAACCCT Grant

Lead College: Northeast Iowa
Community College



16 Programs
Launched



7,000
Participants



3 States/
7 Colleges



Populations served:

- TAA impacted workers
- Unskilled workers
- Unemployed and dislocated workers
- Underserved adults in need of occupational and basic skills training
- Other low-wage workers



Contact Information

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**

PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION