



Jan. 23, 2023

# College and Career Transition Counselors Initiative

## Need



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 2022-2023 school year, over 30 CCTCs will be housed in 10 of Iowa's community colleges and will support students in nearly 60 Iowa high schools.

College and Career Transition Counselors (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.

CCTCs 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 the Iowa Intermediary Network 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.

## Funding

The Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, awarded small start-up grants through the Perkins Reserve Fund that help to fund college and career transition counselor positions throughout the state. Three rounds of grants in total have been awarded beginning with the 2021-2022 school year with a three-year grant cycle. The final grant round was completed in January 2023 and will begin funding for the 2023-2024 school year.



## Grant Cycle Timeline:

- **Year 1 initial Iowa Department of Education grant funding:** Perkins incentive support (up to \$40,000 per position\*). Estimated cost of a shared counselor is \$65,000-75,000. \*Funding amounts are subject to change.
- **Year 2 Iowa Department of Education grant funding:** Perkins support (\$7,500).
- **Year 3 Iowa Department of Education grant funding:** Perkins support (\$2,500).

## Partnerships

Community College	Partnership Participants
Des Moines Area – 10 CCTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ankeny</li> <li>• ADM &amp; Perry</li> <li>• Ames &amp; Collins Maxwell</li> <li>• Boone &amp; Ogden</li> <li>• Colo Nesco &amp; Ballard</li> <li>• Des Moines Public</li> <li>• Interstate 35 &amp; Van Meter</li> <li>• Johnston &amp; Valley</li> <li>• Knoxville and PCM</li> <li>• Southeast Polk</li> </ul>
Eastern Iowa – 6 CCTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellevue &amp; Maquoketa</li> <li>• Calamus-Wheatland Secondary Attendance Center &amp; Central DeWitt</li> <li>• Camanche &amp; Northeast Middle/High School</li> <li>• Columbus &amp; Louisa-Muscatine Jr/Sr</li> <li>• Muscatine</li> <li>• North Scott</li> </ul>
Kirkwood – 6 CCTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Rapids Washington</li> <li>• Cedar Rapids Jefferson</li> <li>• City High School</li> <li>• Linn-Mar</li> <li>• Prairie</li> <li>• Solon</li> </ul>
Iowa Valley – 1 CCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Marshall &amp; Grinnell</li> </ul>
Iowa Lakes – 1 CCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estherville Lincoln &amp; Okoboji High &amp; Spencer</li> </ul>
Hawkeye – 1 CCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterloo Community School District: Expo Career Center</li> </ul>
Iowa Central – 1 CCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Dodge &amp; St. Edmonds</li> </ul>
Indian Hills – 2 CCTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davis County &amp; Moulton-Udell &amp; Ottumwa Alternative High School</li> <li>• Ottumwa High School</li> </ul>
North Iowa Area – 2 CCTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Fork &amp; Belmond-Klemme &amp; West Hancock</li> <li>• Clear Lake &amp; Osage &amp; Lake Mills</li> </ul>
Western Iowa Tech – 1 CCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sioux City East &amp; Sioux City North</li> </ul>

## Questions

Contact Erica Woods-Schmitz at [erica.woods-schmitz@iowa.gov](mailto:erica.woods-schmitz@iowa.gov) or Dennis Hardin at [dennis.hardin@iowa.gov](mailto:dennis.hardin@iowa.gov) with questions.