

## Meeting Minutes of the Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee

**Members Present:** Beckett, Phillips, Thornton, Maxey (Zoom), Gilbert (Zoom), Mentzer (Zoom)

**Members Absent:** Pease, McGuire-Welch, Van Sickle

**Iowa Department of Education:** Varner, Rathje, Gieseke, Meissen, Vargason

**Community Colleges for Iowa:** Wolf, Callahan

The Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PSCAC) convened on April 17, 2023. The meeting began at 9:00am. RATHJE and VARNER welcomed members to the meeting. VARNER provided a review of the committee's charge and discussed the history of the committee; including the role of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).

RATHJE provided the committee with an update on reaccreditation efforts for the state's 15 community colleges. RATHJE shared the accreditation status of each institution and discussed when each institution would reapply for NACEP accreditation. RATHJE also noted that Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) remains accredited through the 2022-23 academic year and has been working through the reaccreditation process for the past year.

RATHJE shared that Iowa has representatives serving on NACEP Boards and Commissions. Administrators from Iowa's community colleges joined the meeting virtually via Zoom to discuss each Board and/or Commission.

- Thomas Gilmore, Dean of High School Partnerships at Iowa Western Community College is serving on the NACEP Board of Directors as a two-year postsecondary institutional representative. Gilmore noted the Board of Directors ensures NACEP has equitable and inclusive policies and provides strategic direction for the organization.
- Nikki Guillion, Interim Dean of Curriculum & Accreditation, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges is serving on the Engagement Commission. Guillion noted part of the Engagement Commission's charge is to support NACEP by coordinating and organizing professional development opportunities for NACEP members.
- Sarah Topliff, NACEP Coordinator, Hawkeye Community College and Michelle Brown, Title II Grant Manager, Southeastern Community College both serve on the Accreditation Commission. Brown noted the commission oversees and manages NACEP's accreditation process including reviewing peer review team reports and making accreditation decisions for institutions seeking accreditation or reaccreditation. Both Brown and Topliff mentioned they are new to the commission, Brown joining in 2022 and Topliff being elected in March 2023.

Gilmore and Brown left the meeting.

Topliff and Guillion remained in the meeting and was joined by Dianne Barker, NACEP Director of State Engagement, to provide the committee with an update on Iowa's efforts towards establishing a NACEP State chapter. Barker shared many benefits of establishing a chapter including providing opportunities for networking, collaboration, sharing of resources, host convenings and receive assistance with professional development opportunities for the state. Barker also shared the process to establish a NACEP State Chapter. Topliff provided an update on the implementation efforts in Iowa and shared that an implementation team has been meeting to discuss and develop bylaws and move forward with seeking approval of the Iowa Chapter from NACEP in the next few months. Topliff noted they are hoping

to receive approval and designation of the Iowa Chapter by the annual NACEP conference which will be held in October 2023. Guillion and Topliff shared they both serve on the implementation committee along with seven other secondary and postsecondary representatives. Guillion and Topliff left the meeting.

The committee was provided a copy of each community colleges NACEP accreditation annual report (AY22) for review. RATHJE shared that each college is required to submit an annual report to NACEP. NACEP reviews each report to monitor individual programs continued adherence to the NACEP standards. GILBERT shared that the report is easy to annually submit and has been helpful to keep keep the (NACEP) standards at the forefront as they work on accreditation.

Kari Hampe (Director of High School Partnerships) from ILCC joined the meeting virtually via zoom to discuss their institutions progress with NACEP accreditation over the past year. RATHJE noted ILCC remains accredited through the 2022-23 academic year. Hampe shared the colleges accreditation timeline, reviewed the NACEP accreditation process and shared information on their site visit which was conducted virtually by an assigned NACEP peer review team. Hampe indicated they (ILCC) will be hearing from the NACEP Accreditation Commission on their institution's accreditation status no later than May 1, 2023. Hampe left the meeting.

Laurie Wolf (Community Colleges for Iowa) provided a legislative update to the committee noting several educational bills relevant to postsecondary and secondary institutions that have passed and/or being considered this legislative session.

A working lunch was held between 11:30am and Noon.

RATHJE presented the audit report which summarizes the prior work of the PSCAC and the efforts of the community colleges to obtain NACEP accreditation and reaccreditation. The audit plan was introduced that each community college will continue to demonstrate compliance with state statutory requirements by maintaining NACEP accreditation. Floor was opened for discussion.

GILBERT noted that we have a great process with NACEP but we should continue to monitor the organization due to their rapid growth which can impact their quality and availability of trained volunteers. Previously there had been a lack of consistency with some of the accreditation peer reviewers. GILBERT stated as a committee we should keep an eye on this and continue to advocate with NACEP. THORNTON concurred. RATHJE shared that NACEP has implemented a more formalized peer reviewer training process over the past few years to ensure greater consistency in peer review teams. THORNTON mentioned that the process is only going to be strong as long as the process itself is quality. THORNTON raised the question on the level of documentation that is provided back to institutions from NACEP on the accreditation process. RATHJE stated each community college receives back a commission letter with commendations and areas for improvement, but noted that feedback has been provided to NACEP that in an effort to support continuous improvement that a full report out of the standards with feedback would be beneficial for our college partners to receive. GILBERT noted that community colleges have three different organizations reviewing concurrent enrollment in Iowa; HLC, NACEP and State Accreditation. WOLF mentioned that questions have been asked in the past if the state is duplicating efforts. VARNER stated that the process was strategically redesigned so they are each looking at different things and are nonduplicative processes. MEISSEN shared with HLC's accreditation process, they look at the entire institution and there are not many places where they focus specifically

on dual credit. MEISSEN noted they want to make sure the assessment of student learning and outcomes are the same but the level at which HLC reviews a dual credit program is dependent on the HLC peer review team who visits each campus. MEISSEN further noted that HLC is looking at a broad picture of an institutions dual credit program, where NACEP is more focused and in line with the state's requirements.

RATHJE indicated as a reminder the committee's requirement to take formal action on adopting the prior year audit report and audit plan for the upcoming year.

RATHJE asked for a motion to approve the prior year (FY23) audit report.

Motion: Mentzer;        Second: Beckett

In favor: All;    Opposed: None;

Motion passed unanimously.

RATHJE asked for a motion to approve the 2023-24 audit plan.

Motion: Thornton;        Second: Phillips

In favor: All;        Opposed: None;

RATHJE then provided the committee with enrollment and participation data on Advanced Placement, Postsecondary Enrollment Options and Concurrent Enrollment. RATHJE further reviewed the Iowa Community Colleges [Joint Enrollment Report](#) and provided an update on the Regional Center Site Location Study that has been commissioned with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Institute for Decision Making (IDM) and GeoTREE, providing a brief overview of the study and web-mapping tool, noting the study will be released in the coming weeks.

Final comments discussed future PSCAC meetings will be arranged as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.