

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:

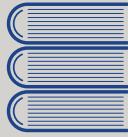
Information Technology, Healthcare, Utilities, and Manufacturing (IHUM) TAACCCT Grant

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

Iowa Department of Education

Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

400 E. 14th Street, Grimes Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Jeremy Varner, Administrator

E: jeremy.varner@iowa.gov

P: 515-281-8260

Paula Nissen, Education Consultant

Zoë Thornton, Education Consultant



**COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**

PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Community College Work-Based Learning (WBL) System Supports Future Ready Iowa

Work-Based Learning initiatives are essential for moving the Future Ready Iowa agenda forward.

"Working together for the Future of Iowa"

Partners: Community Colleges, IowaWorks, Department of Education, Iowa Economic Development Authority, AEA's, K-12 education institutions, four-year public and private colleges, non-profits, STEM Hub/Iowa Best, Department of Labor, Elevate Iowa and Businesses

*260E (Iowa New Jobs Training); 260F (Iowa Jobs Training); PACE (Pathways for Academic Career and Employment); WTED (Workforce Training & Economic Development); ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Classroom Speakers
Business Engagements
Business Career Fairs
Informational Interviews

Work Site Tours
Job Shadows
Career Coaching
Field Trips
Informational Interviews

Internships – paid/unpaid
Mentoring
Earn & Learn Model:
-Pre-apprenticeships,
-Apprenticeships
Multi-Occupations
Endorsements or
Work Experiences –
paid/unpaid
Externships
Informational Interviews
Mock Interviews

Career Pathway Certificate
Apprenticeship
Earn & Learn/Academies
Work Experience/Internships –
paid/unpaid
On-the-Job Training

Credit Training
Customized Training
Contract Training
Apprenticeship Training
Sponsorship of:
-Earn & Learn,
-Career Pathway Certificates,
-Scholarships, and
-Tuition Reimbursement
Sector Boards
Provide WBL Opportunities

Awareness
K-12 students are provided with opportunities to help them understand how education/ training relates to career/work
WBL Intermediary Funding

Exploration
K-12 & community college students are provided with opportunities for experience-based learning, where students engage with professionals in a specialized career path
WBL Intermediary, Adult Literacy/*ESOL Funding

Preparation
K-12 & community college students attend events and individual or group discussions designed to integrate academic and work-based skills
WBL Intermediary, *WTED, GAP, PACE, *260E, Adult Literacy/*ESOL Funding

Education Training
K-12, post-secondary, public/private four year college students
Certificate 1,2 or 4 years, *260E, *260F, *WTED, GAP, PACE, Business Contract Training, Iowa Skilled Worker Shortage Tuition Grant, Career & Technical Education Funding

Business Partnership
Business, *260E, *260F, GAP, *WTED, Iowa Skilled Worker Shortage Tuition Grant, Career & Technical Education Funding

Foundation for Career Continuum for WBL



Connecting Classroom Learning with Workplace Expectations

The 15 regional intermediary networks serve as one-stop contact points for each of their regions, providing information on work-based learning opportunities. This valuable information helps K-12 students make informed postsecondary education and career decisions by connecting students, educators, businesses and communities through relevant work-based learning activities. The Work-Based Learning Intermediary Network is funded through the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.



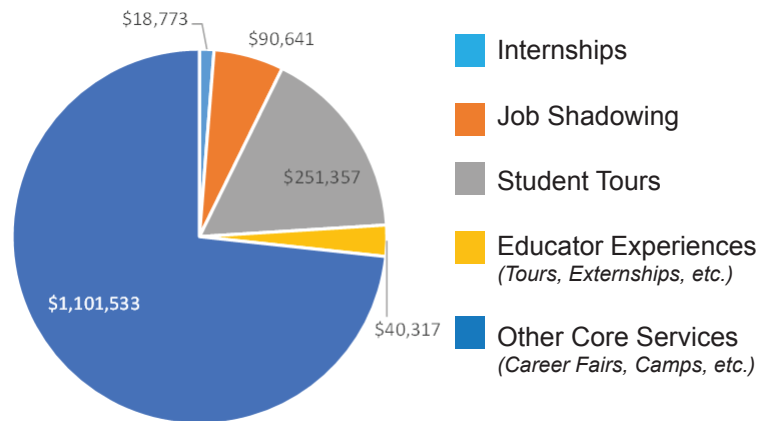
Work-Based Learning Experiences

Top Seven Career Clusters And Number of Students in Each



2,992 Business Partners

Work-Based Learning Support \$26.76 per Participant



Total Funding Fiscal Year 2017: \$1,552,621



State and Shared Resources

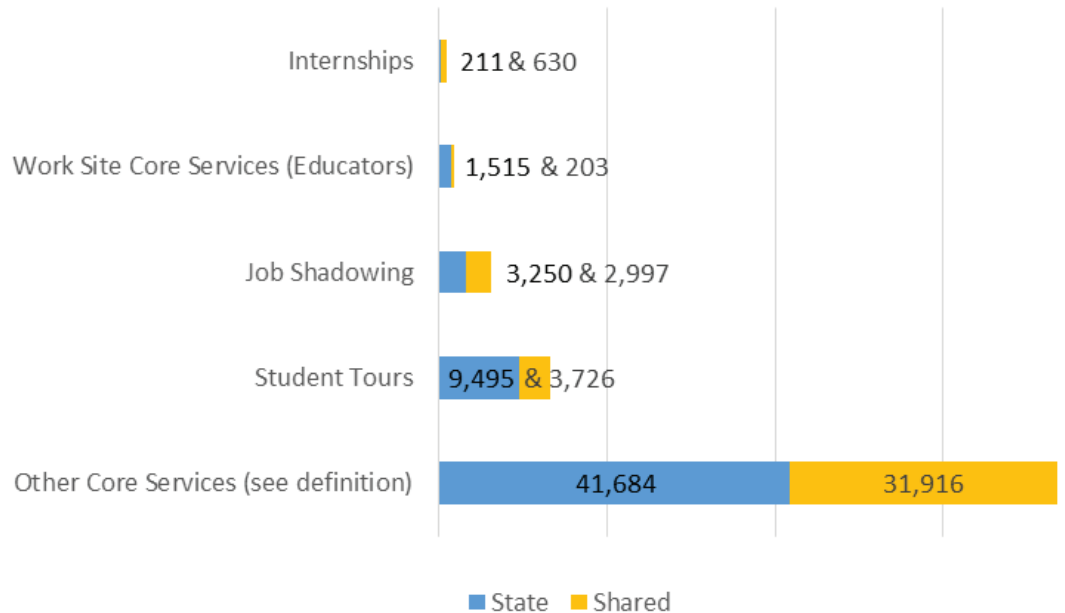
In addition to Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation intermediary state funding, support through shared partner resources are utilized for the program.

Number of Students by Services

- Internships: **841 students**
- Work Site Core Services: **1,718 educators**
- Job Shadowing: **6,247 students**
- Student Tours: **13,221**
- Other Core Services: **73,600**

(classroom speakers, mock interviews, career fairs, and summer camps)

Number of Worksite and Core Services: State and Shared Resources





Work Site Core Services by Region

Region	Internships	Educator Activities	Job Shadowing	Student Tours	Other Core Services	Total Participants*
Northeast Iowa Career Learning Link/Northeast Iowa CC	30	124	308	716	7,016	8,194
NIACC Career Connections/North Iowa Area CC	10	138	174	728	1,283	2,333
Connect@Iowa Lakes/Iowa Lakes CC	-	187	573	1,255	4,209	6,224
NCC Workplace Learning Connections/Northwest Iowa CC	-	16	13	248	3,341	3,618
IC Career Connections/Iowa Central CC	-	21	105	303	3,568	3,997
Iowa Valley Intermediary Program/Iowa Valley CC	-	105	184	773	4,039	5,101
Cedar Valley Career Connections & Cedar Valley West/Hawkeye CC	88	167	495	806	5,065	6,621
Quad Cities Career Connections/Eastern Iowa CCD	27	18	401	587	7,340	8,373
Workplace Learning Connections/Kirkwood CC	359	211	3,017	3,138	22,614	29,339
Career Discovery Network/Des Moines Area CC	322	188	426	2,619	3,099	6,654
WIN/Western Iowa Tech CC	-	9	32	574	2,820	3,435
Southwest Iowa Workplace Connection/Iowa Western CC	-	47	86	268	2,076	2,477
Southwestern's Workplace Learning Network/Southwestern CC	-	111	114	385	1,313	1,923
Get Connected/Indian Hills CC	5	356	249	780	3,533	4,923
The Link/Southeastern CC	-	20	70	41	2,284	2,415
Total	841	1,718	6,247	13,221	73,600	95,627

*Includes participants (duplicate counts) funded by both the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund and Partner Resources.



Testimonials

“Opportunities through the Intermediary Network Program can really shape how a high school student looks at their choice of careers. These kids will soon be training to become part of our workforce. If we can encourage local talent to pursue further education, then it improves the job pool available to employers.” *Chad Stoos, IT Support - CSI, L.L.C. Sioux City*

“Our work and partnership with the Cedar Valley Connections program has been instrumental in our ability to be able to showcase what our industry and skilled trades can offer to high school students as they make important decisions on making those first steps into the work world. We would not have had the opportunity to get that industry information to that many students at so many schools in any other way.” *Doug Clark, Structures and Geopier Division Manager - PCI, Inc.*

“Our experience with the Intermediary Network has been nothing short of fantastic! It gives us a chance to connect with our future workforce and assist them in seeing the big picture for careers in the automotive industry. The cooperative environment allows the students access to techs and management that are on the front lines every day. This situation encourages open communication and questions/answers to be discussed in a non-threatening environment. Programs like this are integral to the future health of our industry and society.” *Kirk Lilly, Woodhouse Auto Family*

“Jones Regional Medical Center has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in the Workplace Learning Connection for the past several years. During this time we have had some exceptional students who came in for job shadows, later for internships and some continued as volunteers. We feel blessed to be able to show off our facility, our staff and the role we play in the development of our youth.” *Jolene Kramer, Director of Human Resources – Jones Regional Medical Center*