



COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES

Monday, September 24, 2013 – ICN Meeting

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

- Barbara Crittenden, President, Southwestern Community College; and CCC Member
- Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges
- Rosie Hussey, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- Beth Kulow, Dean of Student Services, Southwestern Community College
- Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, Southeastern Community College, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- Kari Webb, Northwest Iowa STEM Manager, Iowa Lakes Community Colleges
- Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to Jeremy Varner, Division of Community Colleges
- Jeffrey Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council, University of Northern Iowa
- LaMetta Wynn, CCC and State Board of Education Member

I. Welcome and Introductions—Rosie Hussey

Acting Chair Rosie Hussey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Rosie

Acting Chair Hussey asked for approval of the notes of the July 22, 2013, meeting of the CCC.

Motion: Moudy Nabulsi moved and LaMetta Wynn seconded to approve the CCC notes as presented.

Action: The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner

Division Reorganization

The reorganization of the division of community colleges is ongoing, aimed at making the division more effective, efficient, and better aligned with core functions and priorities. The bureau of adult, career, and community college education has been split back into two bureaus

– the bureau of community colleges and the bureau of career and technical education. The expectation is that this change will allow each unit to be more focused and effective. The division is an amalgamation of a plethora of diverse state and federal programs. The breadth of these services created diseconomies of scope hampering responsiveness and effective decision-making. While each bureau will be more focused, each will retain spans of control exceeding state targets. The division of community colleges will remain highly integrated with cross bureau work units responsible for several key functions. Additional changes can be expected in coming months, but should not significantly disrupt service delivery.

Kent Farver was named bureau chief and will direct the bureau of community colleges. Kent previously served as acting bureau chief for nearly a year. He has a master’s degree in public administration and extensive experience in the public sector.

The division has several open positions and anticipates more openings in coming months. The bureau chief position for the division’s other bureau – the bureau of career and technical education – remains posted. The program quality and career academy consultant positions are closed and interviewing has been completed. The workforce preparation program evaluation consultant position remains posted, but will close soon and the screening process will begin. The adult education career pathways position was recently posted and we continue to seek qualified candidates. We anticipate an additional two positions to be posted in coming months due to staff reassignment and a retirement.

Mary Ann Adams, consultant for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), retired from the Iowa Department of Education (DE) in September. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and extensive knowledge of FCS, and vision for the future direction of career and technical education, are greatly missed. At this time, Del Hoover will be the DE contact for FCS, culinary arts, early childhood education, and related disciplines. Del joined the Bureau of Career and Technical Education a little over a year ago after serving the Division of PK-12 for nearly a decade. In addition to this duty, he is the Perkins consultant for Regions 13 and 14 in Southwest Iowa and is part of the Equity Civil Rights team.

Workforce Preparation Program Outcome Reporting System

The department has continued to work on the workforce preparation program outcome reporting system proposal. As requested by the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents, the department convened a work team consisting of Jeremy Varner (DE), Paula Nissen (IWD-Regional Research and Analysis Bureau), Joe Dehart (DMACC), Tom Lesan (SWCC), and Steve Ovel (IACCT) to hammer out details. The goal of the project is to demonstrate the results of state investments in workforce preparation activities including the \$40.3 million Iowa Skilled Worker Fund initiatives. For this effort, the department is partnering with Iowa Workforce Development’s Regional Research and Analysis Bureau. Reports will be developed based on consistent statewide data collections and analysis by credible state agencies. They will include a state level report with narrative and individual college reports (data summaries without substantial narrative).

Programs covered will include: credit career and technical education programs (at the college program level), PACE program, GAP tuition assistance program, adult education and literacy

programs, and Trade Adjustment Act grants (state level). The reports will include education (e.g., awards, transfers) and workforce outcomes (e.g., employed, wages, industry employed) and utilize data sets not previously available including out-of-state and federal wage records. The project will also indirectly support federal program accountability by enhancing reported successes for Perkins and AEFLA. The cost will be \$152,000 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. For colleges already purchasing certain services from IWD, this proposal may result in a cost savings. Custom services will continue to be available from IWD on a fee-for-service basis. With the presidents' approval, this project will proceed expeditiously.

High School Equivalency Assessment - HiSET Transition

The department continues to work with Education Testing Service (ETS) on the transition from the GED to the HiSET for high school equivalency assessment. ETS and the department have met with the teams from the Department of Corrections and Iowa Workforce Development to discuss implementation. Training will begin training community college staff (e.g., instructors, chief examiners/test site administrators, technical leads) this month with training continuing into December. Pilots will begin in late November. The new assessment will be implemented statewide in January 2014.

IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan

MJ shared copies of a flyer produced by the IACCT office entitled "Community Colleges of Iowa 2014 Legislative Priorities" with the CCC and the State Board of Education. Listed below are some of the highlights of the handout:

State General Aid: Supports funding state general aid at \$210.75M to sustain demands of community college students and Iowa businesses.

Workforce Training: Supports maintaining and building capacity for skilled worker training through the state's continued commitment to the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund, work-based learning intermediaries, adult literacy, PACE career pathways, and Gap tuition assistance programs in the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

Infrastructure: Supports continuing the state's commitment for worker training program related infrastructure and other major and equipment maintenance needs of Iowa's community colleges.

Career and Technical Education Training: Supports expanding K-12 career and technical education training.

Local Governance: Supports the flexibility of Iowa community college boards to access local tax support for community and worker training needs and to utilize reverse referendums to minimize costs of renewing long-time levies.

MJ also asked the CCC to save the date for the 2014 IACCT Conference scheduled on March 31 – April 1, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is "Community Colleges of Iowa – Delivering on the Promise."

V. Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report—Academic Year 2013-14—Kent Farver

Kent Farver presented the Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report for academic year 2013-14. Farver presented the following highlights of the report:

- The average tuition for a full-time student enrolled in Iowa's community colleges will rise \$113 to \$4,210 in fiscal year 2014. The average tuition increase this year will be 2.75 percent. Since fiscal year 2005, tuition has grown an average of 4.82 percent per year.
- The average mandatory fee charged by the community colleges increased to \$346.83. Five (5) community colleges do not charge students general fees. As a result of the attached mandatory fees, the average tuition and fees per credit hour will rise to \$151.89, a 2.69 percent increase from fiscal year 2013.
- In comparing regional tuition rates across the surrounding states in the Midwest, Iowa remained in third position as having the third highest average tuition rate among the eight states surveyed for 2010-2011 (the most recent data available). Minnesota continues to have the highest average tuition rates in this region with South Dakota second.
- In fiscal year 2012, 57.79 percent of the community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue (Fund 1) came from tuition and fees. This has gradually increased from the 1999 level (adjusted for inflation) of just over 39 percent. During that same time period and using the same inflation-adjusted numbers, state general aid has decreased from just over 45 percent in 1999, to 30 percent in 2012.
- By law, community college tuition is not allowed to exceed the lowest resident tuition charged by Iowa's public universities. In fiscal year 2014, the average community college tuition will be 37 percent lower than the average public university tuition rate.

VI. Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund—Fiscal Year 2014-15 Plans—Kent Farver

Kent Farver presented the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund Plan for fiscal years 2014-15. With the passage of House File 604, administration of the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund was transferred to the Iowa Department of Education from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, and this is the first time this has come before the CCC and the State Board. Each college is required to annually prepare and submit two-year plans outlining planned activities to be supported by the fund for board approval. These plans outline the community colleges' proposed use of funds appropriated through the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund. In fiscal year 2014, this appropriation totaled \$15.3M (an increase of \$7.3M over fiscal year 2013). In future years, these plans will be accompanied by an annual progress report.

Acting Chair Hussey asked what the role of the CCC is regard to this report? Farver indicated that it is good for the CCC to see the results as the results impact funding sources (i.e., block grants, part of Grow Iowa Values fund, etc.). He also indicated that a division staff person will be assigned to oversee the fund and to review the data reporting process. In accordance with

Iowa Code, Chapter 260C.18A and administrative rules not yet adopted, the 15 community colleges have presented their fiscal year 2014-2015 Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund plans.

Motion: Barb Crittenden moved and Moudy Nabulsi seconded to move that the State Board approve the community colleges' two-year plans.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Hub Activities—Beth Kulow, Kari Webb, and Jeff Weld

Jeff Weld, Executive Director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, gave an overview of the Advisory Council, which is a collaboration of bi-partisan Iowa legislators, educators, businesses, nonprofits, students and families focused on improving STEM opportunities and awareness in Iowa. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

- Science – Study of the nature of the universe.
- Technology – Applying information to the design of goods and services.
- Engineering – Application of knowledge for the benefit of humanity.
- Mathematics – Universal language of nature.

When STEM is embraced, the learning focus is a game-changer for the way Iowa youth explore, learn and grow both in and out of the classroom. The goal of increasing STEM interest and achievement is critical to regaining Iowa's historic legacy as a leader in education and workforce development. In fact, STEM will be a vital economic development advantage for quality job growth in our state, as STEM graduates are in great demand to meet current and future workforce needs.

The Advisory Council is made up of leaders in higher education, business, pre-K through 12 educators, as well as state and local governments. The group is led by Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds and Vermeer Corp. President and CEO Mary Andringa. Programs of the Advisory Council are delivered to Iowans through a statewide network anchored to regional hubs at universities and community colleges.

Beth Kulow is the STEM Hub Manager at Southwestern Community College. The state of Iowa has appropriated funding to establish regional STEM hubs across the state. In May 2012, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, and University of Northern Iowa President Ben Allen announced the selection of six regional network hubs to promote STEM education and economic development across Iowa. According to the Governor's web site, each STEM hub will work with business, education institutions, nonprofit groups and others in their region in a way that best fits local needs, interests, and resources.

The six Iowa STEM hubs are as follows:

- Northwest – Iowa Lakes Community College
- Northeast – University of Northern Iowa

- North Central – Iowa State University
- Southwest – Southwestern Community College
- Southeast – University of Iowa & Kirkwood Community College
- South Central – Drake University

Beth also discussed the STEM Scale-Up program which reached 38,000 students. The programs span elementary, middle and high school levels; many can be implemented during the school day while several of the others are best suited for before or after-school programs; some programs provide either stipends for teachers/coaches or curriculum materials or both; and many of the programs also provide a level of training related to the provided materials. Community colleges are partnering with the K-12. Students are coming in with a wealth of technology.

Kari Webb, Northwest Iowa STEM Manager, Iowa Lakes Community Colleges, also presented to the CCC regarding the STEM activities taking place in the northwest region. Through a competitive application process, Iowa Lakes Community College was designated as the HUB of the Northwest Regional STEM Network. Each region is charged with promoting and implementing quality STEM programming throughout the state. She indicated the community colleges have been hosting the Scale-Up programs and they have been quite generous.

The Advisory Council also announced a launch of “Redesigned STEM Learning Environments.” Iowa STEM released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide support for innovative, redesigned STEM Learning Environments at schools and classrooms with an outside-of-school twist. With an aggressive timeline, proposals will be due on August 30, 2013, with the design and implementation phase to occur during spring 2014. Strong proposals will demonstrate a commitment to three key characteristics that have been endorsed by the Iowa STEM council.

It was suggested by the CCC that the State Board have the opportunity to hear the STEM presentation.

VIII. GAP Tuition Assistance Program—Fiscal Year 2013—Kent Farver

Kent Farver reported that the division has prepared this report per the requirements in Iowa Code section 260I for the statewide GAP tuition program. This report was coordinated by the department with the assistance of Iowa’s 15 community colleges. The GAP tuition program was established to provide funding to community colleges for need-based tuition assistance to applicants for completion of continuing education certificate training programs for in-demand occupations. Eligibility for tuition assistance under this program shall be based on financial need. Criteria to be assessed in determining financial need shall include but is not limited to the: 1) applicant's family income for the 12 months prior to the date of application; 2) applicant's family size; and applicant's county of residence.

An applicant must also have a demonstrated capacity to achieve the following outcomes: 1) the ability to complete an eligible certificate program; 2) the ability to enter a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree program for credit; 3) the ability to gain full-time employment; and 4) the ability to maintain full-time employment over time.

Applicants for the program can be found eligible for partial or total tuition assistance. Only an applicant eligible to work in the United States shall be approved for tuition assistance under this program. A person will not be approved for tuition assistance under this program for more than one eligible certificate program. During fiscal year 2013, eligibility was limited to persons earning incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. In fiscal year 2014, the income eligibility requirements will be raised to 250% of the federal poverty level. Acting Chair Hussey asked what the completion numbers are. Kent indicated that 411 completed certificate programs.