

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. -- DE – ICN Room

Those in attendance included:

- ❑ Brooke Axiotis, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Barbara Crittenden, President, Southwestern Community College; and CCC Member
- ❑ MJ Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
- ❑ Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ❑ Alex Harris, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ❑ Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Jennifer McAbee, Secretary I, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- ❑ Mary Ellen Miller, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, and CCC Member
- ❑ Paula Nissen, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ❑ Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- ❑ Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- ❑ Michael Williams, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges

I. Welcome and Introductions—Mike Knedler, Chair

Chair Knedler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Mike Knedler, Chair

Chair Knedler asked for approval of the notes from the November 18, 2014, meeting of the CCC.

Motion: Rosie Hussey moved and Barbara Crittenden seconded to approve the CCC notes as presented.

Action: The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner

A. Division Staffing Announcement—Pat Thieben has been selected as the new administrative consultant for the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (CTE), effective February 13, 2105. Pat previously served as the health science consultant within the bureau. As the CTE administrative consultant, Pat will oversee the management of secondary and postsecondary CTE programming, budgeting and finance, and accountability. She will be the primary contact for the CTE bureau and the division for school districts, consortia, and community colleges for the implementation of the Carl D. Perkins federal legislation. Pat comes with considerable experience in working with CTE both at the local and state levels. Beyond her experience with the bureau, Pat worked at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and Austin Community College in Texas. Pat has a Master's in Education Administration from Iowa State University.

- B. Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) Update**—Collaborative work between the community colleges and the Department of Education continues in the pilot credit data submission for the VFA. The department has obtained VFA membership for each of the 13 pilot colleges. All 13 colleges have submitted their data to the department, and the department is currently compiling the information and calculating the metrics for each college. Metrics will be uploaded to the VFA site and reviewed by the college prior to publication in June. The department will work with the colleges to confirm data metrics and coordinate any changes. The Career Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) subcommittees of the VFA continued their discussion regarding collection of data for future reporting. The CTE subcommittee will continue meeting this spring to identify issues that will impact implementation of VFA reporting in 2016. VFA announced they will look at reforming ABE data elements and definitions. No timetable has been set for the ABE reform.
- C. Secondary CTE Task Force Update**—Defining high-quality CTE was just one of several topics discussed by the Secondary CTE Task Force at the January 16 meeting in Des Moines. The proposed definition would emphasize the importance of a career pathway system which prepares students for college and careers. The task force moved closer to final recommendations on what a career guidance system should look like in Iowa and defining career academies. The task force will meet again on March 6 at the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union headquarters.
- D. Review of Community College Equity Evaluation Process Planned**—The division is conducting a comprehensive review of the community college equity evaluation process. The review will be informed by the Community College Accreditation Advisory Committee and conducted in consultation with the federal Office of Civil Rights (OCR) which approves state targeting plans. The committee met November 14 and approved of the effort.

The goal is to identify opportunities for process improvement and transparency – to make the process more focused, efficient, and effective. By clearly delineating expectations regarding the process and requirements, the division hopes to reduce uncertainty while increasing colleges’ responsiveness to equity issues. Division staff and the committee will consider opportunities to streamline the process, reduce the invasiveness of evaluations, increase review frequency by coupling the process with the state accreditation process, and develop a guide to the process.

The process review is expected to be analogous to the community college state accreditation overhaul conducted in 2010. Currently, selection of colleges for an equity review is based on several factors, such as time elapsed since last review, review of various metrics, referrals, and more. The new process will still include a review of similar metrics, but at more regular intervals. The process review is expected to be analogous to the community college state accreditation overhaul conducted in 2010. Currently, selection of colleges for an equity review is based on several factors, such as time elapsed since last review, review of various metrics, referrals, and more. The new process will still include a review of similar metrics, but at more regular intervals.

E. Legislative Session Begins—The Iowa Department of Education has proposed two bills directly impacting community colleges and has begun promulgating changes to administrative rules. House Study Bill (HSB) 12, proposes three changes to the Gap tuition assistance program to improve alignment with federal programs and enhance administrative efficiency. The bill shortens the timeframe for which individuals must provide proof of family income from 12 months to six months and provides and removes an administrative burden for Gap eligible individuals who are eligible for the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program.

It also improves alignment with the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by prioritizing people earning between 150 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level and making individuals eligible for training assistance through WIOA/WIA ineligible unless Gap funds are fully expended by the workforce region. HSB 5 proposes changes to the definition of veteran for purposes of reporting of the college credits earned by veterans for their military education and experience. This bill expands the definition of veteran to include members of the reserve forces or National Guard who have served at least one year and are eligible for federal education benefits for veterans.

IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan, Executive Director

MJ informed the council of the upcoming Student Legislative Seminar which is scheduled for January 28-29, 2015. The theme of the seminar is “Tell Me Your Story.” The seminar will begin on the 28th with a tour of the Capitol beginning at 1:30 p.m.

She also reported the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society event is scheduled for March 4, 2015. PTK Honor Society Executive Director and CEO, Rod Risley, will present to Iowa members and community college leaders and policymakers at the State Capitol to demonstrate and garner support for the Community College Completion Corps initiative “C4.”

Lastly, MJ announced that the State Board and Community College Council will be receiving invitations to the 2015 IACCT Conference, “Iowa Community Colleges—Bridges to Success,” scheduled on July 22-24, 2015, at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.

V. Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 25—Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program (Notice)—Kent Farver

The revised 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 25 incorporates changes to Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program and Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 604, passed by the 2013 General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Changes associated with House File 604 include the addition of pathway navigators and regional industry sector partnerships; increasing the federal poverty level benchmark from 200 percent to 250 percent under target populations and applicants for tuition assistance; and the addition of staff support services under eligible costs. A public hearing on the revisions to Chapter 25 was held on December 30, 2014. No one attended. One written comment was received, but the rule was not modified based upon that comment. It is identical to when it was published.

Motion: Moudy Nabulsi moved and Brooke Axiotis seconded to move that the State Board adopt the amendments to Chapter 25.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 21—Community Colleges (Notice)—Jeremy Varner

The proposed amendment to 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC), Chapter 21, would clarify protocol for community college residency determinations for students, including veterans, and clarify permissible tuition rates. The amendment would move the State Board of Education’s Uniform Policy on Student Residency Status into IAC. The amendment would also clarify the technical specialty components of diploma and certificate programs.

Motion: Mary Ellen Miller moved and Moudy Nabulsi seconded to move that the State Board give public notice to amend Chapter 21.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund—Kent Farver

Over 75,000 individuals participated in one of the programs which comprise the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund, according to reports released by the Division of Community Colleges. This fund represents an almost \$30 million investment in the state’s workforce. Staff from the Bureau of Community Colleges provided the following reports to the council:

Adult Education and Literacy—Alex Harris, Administrative Consultant

Adult education programs include, but are not limited to, adult basic education, English language learner programs, and adult secondary education. Adult education programs received a \$5.1 million appropriation from the state of Iowa in fiscal year (FY) 2014. In total, 19,548 individuals enrolled in an adult education program, while 3,976 completed a program and 3,408 High School Equivalency Diplomas were awarded.

Gap Tuition Assistance—Kent Farver, Chief

The Gap Tuition Assistance program provides funding for community colleges to extend need-based financial assistance to qualified individuals for completion of certain continuing education certificate training programs. Colleges had a total of \$3,021,256 available for the Gap program in FY 2014, which includes a \$2,000,000 state appropriation and \$1,021,256 in carry forward funds from the previous year. Close to 3,330 individuals applied for financial assistance, of which 1,631 were approved. A total of 998 individuals completed a training program in FY 2014.

PACE—Mike Williams, Consultant

The Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program provides funding to community colleges for the development of projects which lead to gainful, quality, in-state employment. Projects are geared toward individuals who are deemed low-skilled, earn incomes below 250 percent of the poverty level, are un- or under-employed, or are a dislocated worker. The state appropriated \$5 million in FY 2015 for the PACE program. Over 2,300 individuals were approved to participate in a PACE program. Over 1,989 individuals were participating in a PACE program at time of reporting, while another 729 had completed a program.

Intermediary Networks—Kent Farver, Chief

The Statewide Work-Based Learning Intermediary Networks are tasked with providing and expanding access to work-based learning opportunities for high school students. The state appropriated \$1.45 million for this effort, which was distributed to 15 Intermediary networks through a competitive bidding process. In FY 2015, 15,447 students participated in a work-based learning opportunity, which includes internships, job shadowing, student tours, and more.

WTED—Paula Nissen, Consultant

The Workforce Training and Economic Development (WTED) fund is the primary funding source for career academies, career and technical education, and general training/retraining expenses. In addition, several programs with separate funding sources use WTED as a supplement funding source. The state appropriated over \$15 million dollars for WTED programs in FY 2015. Over the past year, 36,703 individuals participated in a WTED program, while 31,831 completed a program. All reports are available on the department’s website.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next face-to-face meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., at the Department of Education’s ICN Room.