
Northwest Iowa Community College has been involved in a comprehensive planning process since 1992. The last formal process began in 2004; the Defining Success Strategic Plan was operationalized through 2013. In 2013 the College began developing the **Vision 2020 Strategic Plan**. The planning process began with a comprehensive review of NCC's mission, vision, and guiding principles. An extensive environmental scanning process identified future trends which were vetted through an implications workshop involving internal and external stakeholders.

From this information the College was able to identify four key strategic initiatives with goals, objectives, actions plans, timelines, and measurements. The strategic planning process has been inclusive of students, employees, administration, alumni, and community members. The plan will guide the College through 2020 and align with the annual budgeting process. The Northwest Iowa Community College Board of Trustees unanimously approved the **Vision 2020 Strategic Plan** on July 14, 2014. College administration realizes that the future cannot be predicted; there may be occasions that the goals, objectives, action plans, and measurements may need to be modified.



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Northwest Iowa
Community College
VISION
20/20
Strategic Plan

VISION

We are driven to be the community college of choice for lifelong learning, personal development, and retraining.

MISSION

Northwest Iowa Community College is a progressive learning college rapidly responding to the global needs of our changing community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We believe that as a comprehensive community college we will respond to our communities' needs.
- We believe that all people can learn.
- We believe that education is an investment in our communities.
- We believe that accessible, lifelong educational opportunities enable people the opportunity to maximize their potential and improve quality of life.
- We believe in embracing diversity by supporting the dignity and worth of all individuals.
- We believe in maintaining high standards through innovation and continuous improvement.
- We believe that effective leadership, education, training and partnerships from all sectors enhance community and economic development.
- We believe that responsible stewardship ensures fiscal stability.
- We believe in embracing a growth-oriented philosophy.
- We believe in maintaining high ethical standards.

FUTURE TRENDS

1. The Completion Agenda will have a significant impact on all aspects of higher education.
2. A college education is increasingly pursued in a nonlinear way frequently combined with work and periods of non-attendance, requiring extended time to complete degrees.
3. Internet based instruction will continue to grow and will be integrated with traditional instruction and distance education at the College.
4. Competition for public funds, economic variability, fluctuating state/federal budgets, and changing regulations will impact funding for Iowa's community colleges.
5. As the cost of higher education increases students will be forced to rely more heavily on loans, personal/family contributions, scholarships, and working while in college to fund their education.
6. Colleges continue to expand utilization of internet/intranet infrastructure, computerized data collection, data analysis, mobile access, and documentation.
7. Competition for students enrolling in higher education will continue to intensify.
8. Age and population demographic trends of the past decade will continue in the decade of 2014–24.
9. The most significant job growth in northwest Iowa in the next three to five years will be in Advanced Manufacturing, Renewable Fuels and Renewable Energy, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Healthcare Technology, and Nursing Care Technology.
10. Federal/state legislative bodies and other agencies will continue to impact college operations through accreditation, greater accountability, and compliance.
11. There is an increasing need for developmental education for students seeking post-secondary degrees.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & GOALS

I. Enhancing Student Success

Northwest Iowa Community College is dedicated to enhancing student success by facilitating processes where every individual can realize his or her full potential through learning.

- A. Develop a data informed retention plan
- B. Enhance the developmental education program
- C. Participate in the Iowa Community College Completion Agenda
- D. Increase minority student success

II. Expanding Opportunities

Northwest Iowa Community College will pursue, strengthen, and expand learning opportunities for our communities through partnerships and new initiatives.

- A. Develop a data informed recruitment plan
- B. Review and enhance the current marketing plan
- C. Expand partnerships
- D. Strengthen teaching and learning
- E. Engage in new program development
- F. Enhance co-curricular opportunities

III. Developing, Allocating, and Conserving Resources

Northwest Iowa Community College will aggressively pursue alternative resources that will sustain and augment programs and facilities.

- A. Develop resources that augment college programs and operations
- B. Allocate appropriate physical space and IT infrastructure to support effective teaching and learning
- C. Conserve resources through dashboards and sustainability initiatives

IV. Embracing a Collaborative Culture

Northwest Iowa Community College faculty, staff, and administration are devoted to enhancing collaboration and communication that will support the College's belief system.

- A. Adopt and disseminate core values
- B. Enhance employee learning and growth

