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**COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**DE - ICN Room**

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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, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges
- Rosie Hussey, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conference call)
- Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- Mary Ellen Miller, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conference call)
- Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, Southeastern Community College, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- Paula Nissen, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges
- Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to Jeremy Varner, Division of Community Colleges

**I. Welcome and Introductions—Mike Knedler, Chair**

Chair Knedler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Mike Knedler, Chair**

Chair Knedler asked for approval of the notes of the August 7, 2014, meeting of the CCC. It was noted by Barbara Crittenden that the following (in italics) was omitted from the August 7 meeting notes under “VI. Community College Interim Accreditation Reports.” Stephanie Weeks will make the following correction and post to the DE web.

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey moved and Barb Crittenden seconded to approve the August 7, 2014, CCC notes as presented.

**Action:** The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

**Southwestern Community College (SWCC) Interim Accreditation Report**

*Kent Farver presented a report of the evaluation of SWCC for continued state accreditation as an associate degree-granting institution. The department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on March 12-13, 2014. The purpose of the review was a scheduled interim accreditation evaluation of SWCC as mandated by Iowa Code, Section 260C.47.*

*The findings reflect the work of the accreditation team’s interim review of SWCC. SWCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. The state accreditation process reviews state requirements but does not duplicate the HLC process. HLC documentation is reviewed during the visit to identify any follow up that may be required. State standards are reviewed through a structured process by department staff and community college peer reviewers. The state accreditation team recommends continued accreditation for SWCC. A state comprehensive accreditation evaluation will be conducted in fiscal year 2019.*

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey moved and Brooke Axiotis seconded to move that the State Board of Education approve continued accreditation for SWCC.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner

- A. Iowa to Participate in National Governor’s Association (NGA) Policy Academy: Iowa was one of eight states (out of 26 applicants) to receive a \$170,000 NGA policy academy grant to advance innovative education and workforce development initiatives. The project will involve establishing priorities and developing policy recommendations. Last fall, the NGA released a report describing an initiative titled, America Works: Education and Training for Tomorrow’s Jobs. The governor’s office sent teams to two meetings beginning last November focused on the topic, both of which included Chancellor Duree.

The primary objectives of the “NGA Policy Academy on Aligning the Education and Training Pipeline to the Needs of the Economy” grant are to: 1) Articulate and implement a strong vision connecting education and training systems with the needs of the economy including a “new minimum” of some postsecondary education or training; 2) Use education and employment data to track progress, measure success, and otherwise inform policymaking; 3) Build and enhance industry-education partnerships (including work-based learning); and 4) Modify resources to support attainment of the aforementioned vision.

Iowa’s efforts will build off of many existing initiatives including the Governor’s STEM initiative, Skilled Iowa, apprenticeship efforts, education outcomes reporting, and more. The policy academy will run through fiscal year 2015 and will involve technical assistance from the NGA.

The project team includes: Gail Kotval, Innovation Council Liaison, Iowa Economic Development Authority (Overall Grant Lead and Fiduciary Agent); Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor’s STEM Advisory Council (Co-Lead for Stakeholder Facilitation); Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, Iowa Department of Education (Co-Lead for Strategic Planning and Analysis); Doug Hoelscher, Director, State-Federal Relations, Office of the Governor (Co-Lead for Policy Integration); Bob Donley, Executive Director, Iowa Board of Regents (Team Member); Chris Duree, Chancellor, Iowa Valley Community College District (Team Member); Ed Wallace, Deputy Director, Iowa Workforce Development (Team Member); and Linda Fandel, Special Assistant for Education, Office of the Governor (Team Member). The full proposal is available upon request.

- B. Community College Leadership Bulletin: The winter edition of the *Community College Leadership Bulletin, Volume 4, Issue 4*, will be emailed to the CCC by the end of November. The division produces these quarterly bulletins to keep college administrators, faculty, and staff informed of Iowa Department of Education initiatives, policy changes, and related matters.
- C. State Accreditation: The department has completed fiscal years 2013 and 2014 accreditation evaluations and the following institutions were reaccredited by the State Board of Education: Southwestern, Western Iowa Tech, Indian Hills (comprehensive), Northeast Iowa, Iowa Valley, and Iowa Lakes. Hawkeye, Eastern Iowa, and Kirkwood will receive interim evaluations this fiscal year. Through the reviews this year, several common issues were identified. The department has prepared guidance documents to assist colleges with some of these issues. Three guidance documents have been prepared thus far and are attached. They address issues related to nondiscrimination statements, facility plans, and background check requirements for instructors of courses delivered through Senior Year Plus.

#### **IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan, Executive Director**

MJ distributed copies of the “Community Colleges of Iowa 2015 Legislative Priorities.” Some of the highlights include the following:

- State General Aid (SGA): Supports funding of SGA at \$218.95M.
- Workforce Training: Supports continuing the state’s commitment for the Iowa Jobs Training Program and for the workforce development, job training, adult literacy, and student financial aid programs in the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.
- Infrastructure: Supports continuing the state’s commitment for worker training infrastructure and equipment maintenance.
- Career Technical Training: Supports the expansion of K-12 career technical training.
- Local Governance: Supports reducing the costs of renewing long time voter-supported levies and increasing the flexibility of community college boards to access tax support for worker training.

MJ also reported that the IACCT Office is working on a workforce flyer with the community college economic developers to showcase adult literacy, PACE, Gap, and 260E and F. The colleges will be sharing the flyer, and the IACCT Office plans to distribute the flyers to the legislatures. She noted that the numbers for Kibbie, Gap, and PACE look good.

MJ also noted there is a real need to meet with the various rotary clubs across the state as they would like to learn more about the community college statewide picture.

#### **V. Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 23—Adult Education and Literacy Programs (Notice)—Kent Farver and Alex Harris**

New 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 23 aligns Iowa’s adult education and literacy programs with the purposes of providing a high-quality educational program to address the needs of adults in acquiring the knowledge and technical skills necessary for economic self-sufficiency. These rules further clarify policies with respect to program eligibility, allowable use of funds, qualification of staff, and performance measures.

To reflect the needs of Iowa, and to support the guidance provided in Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund, statewide meetings have been conducted for the past nine months with key stakeholders in the drafting of new Chapter 23.

**Motion:** Moudy Nabulsi moved and Mary Ellen Miller seconded to move that the State Board give public notice of its intent to adopt Chapter 23 rules.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 27—Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds (Adopt)—Jeremy Varner**

Jeremy Varner reported that in fiscal year 2014, the responsibility for administration and oversight of the workforce training and economic development funds was transferred from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to the Department of Education. These new rules were created to provide guidance and clarity on the requirements of the workforce training and economic development funds. A public hearing on this rule was held on July 29, 2014. No one attended the public hearing, and no written comments on this rule were received.

**Motion:** Mary Ellen Miller moved and Rosie Hussey seconded to move that the State Board adopt Chapter 27 rules.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Iowa Community College Tuition and Fees Report 2015—Kent Farver**

The Division of Community Colleges has prepared the fiscal year 2015 *Tuition and Fees Report*. The report describes the tuition and fees of Iowa community colleges as well as comparisons with Iowa's public universities and institutions, regionally and nationally. Over the past decade, average tuition rose from \$97.00 per semester hour to just over \$145.00 per semester hour - an average annualized rate of approximately 4.6 percent. The average mandatory fee among the 10 colleges which charge such fees was \$12.42 per semester hour in fiscal year 2015, up from \$11.56 per semester hour in fiscal year 2014. The average total cost of enrollment (TCE) - i.e., the sum of tuition and mandatory fees - in fiscal year 2015, it was \$157.78.

Accordingly, a full-time student enrolled at one of Iowa's 15 community colleges could expect to pay between \$4,110 and \$5,370 in an academic year in fiscal year 2015. In comparison, students enrolled in a community college could expect to pay on average 41.1 percent less in TCE compared to students enrolled at one of Iowa's public universities, which have an average TCE of \$267.87 in fiscal year 2015. Between fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2013, TCE increased in Iowa by approximately 19.4 percent, lower than the national rate increase of 23.1 percent. Tuition and fees currently account for 55.5 percent of total community college revenues, compared to 46.31 percent of total revenues in 2004. Over the same time period, state support decreased from 36.58 percent of total revenues in 2004, to 32.08 percent in 2014, though it should be noted that state support has increased considerably from the low of 28.62 percent in 2010.

Additionally, local support accounts for 4.86 percent of total revenue and federal support accounts for 1.86 percent - down from 5.50 percent and 3.43 percent in 2004, respectively. Comparisons are based on cost per semester hour, where one semester hour equals 16 contact hours. Accordingly, 15 semester hours equals one semester; 30 semester hours equals one academic year. The report examines separately both trends in tuition and mandatory fees (i.e., fees which do not apply to a specific program), excluding such expenses as books, room and board, transportation, and other additional fees, as well as intra- and interstate comparisons of TCE.

### **VIII. Iowa Community College Outcomes Report—Paula Nissen**

The *Education Outcomes Report*, produced in partnership between the Division of Community Colleges and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), follows students as they progress through education and training pathways into the workforce in order to depict the effectiveness of community college training programs, industry employment prospects, wages by occupation, and more.

Between the years of 2010 and 2012, more than 43,000 degrees, certificates, and diplomas of 22 credits or more were awarded by Iowa's 15 community colleges. The 22-credit hour threshold represents the cutoff between part- and full-time programs within the Management Information System (MIS). Though restricting degree programs to those above 22-credits excludes a number of educational programs and individuals from the report, doing so ensures a certain level of comparability across degree programs. The majority of students in a diploma or certificate program completed their degrees within two years for first enrolling (56.7 percent and 61.7 percent, respectively), while 47.9 percent of students pursuing an associate degree completed within the same time frame.

Upon graduating, each student is either tracked into continued education or the workforce. Of the 43,398 students who graduated between 2010 and 2012, just over 55 percent continued onto further education, of which 2,477 continued their education with an out-of-state institution. Of those who did not continue their education, approximately 80 percent gained employment in the state of Iowa, with just over 8 percent gained out-of-state employment (remainder could not be tracked). Regardless of whether for education or employment, the vast majority of those who leave the state migrate to states which border Iowa.

A large majority of each cohort who entered the workforce after completing a degree program was employed within one year. For the 2010 cohort, 82.8 percent were employed within one year of degree completion with an average wage of \$24,723; 2011 - 91.9 percent, \$24,946; 2012—92 percent, \$25,343 (wages adjusted to 2013 dollars). The report further breaks down employment and median wage information for out-of-state employment and by degree type.

The annual report tracks a graduating cohort of students over a three-year period, though subsequent reports will track a cohort of students over a five-year period. Student records are compiled from the Community College (MIS) and matched with National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and unemployment insurance records from IWD. All agencies and individuals involved in the research adhered to a common data sharing agreement and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Unemployment Insurance regulations.

The data and analysis contained in this report represent an important planning tool for community college administrators, as well as students and parents. Administrators will have a new resource to reference when evaluating the effectiveness of various degree programs, while parents and students will be able to ascertain the benefits and opportunities associated with a given career pathway.

**IX. For the Good of the Order**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next face-to-face meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Education’s ICN Room.