

## **Making the Case for Participation**

Why is it in the best interest for all Iowa community colleges to participate in the FY12 Reserve Fund (POS) grant?

Iowa's approved Perkins IV – Five Year State Plan places the community colleges in a unique position to assist in meeting Perkins IV requirements, particularly those related to Programs of Study (POS). A copy of the plan can be accessed on the Iowa Department of Education web site at

[http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=1428#PerkinsStatePlan](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=1428#PerkinsStatePlan). The FY12 grant is the first of a multi-year focus to continue strengthening CTE Programs of Study by moving toward statewide models.

1. The grant is based upon a continuum approach that allows school districts and community colleges to continue building from what they have developed thus far as they work toward adopting statewide models.
2. The grant includes a focus on establishing/enhancing statewide cluster (program) management committees, strengthening partnerships among community colleges, business and industry, and school districts that can assist in meeting requirements in Iowa Code.
3. The grant will result in development of high quality POS models and resources that will be made available to all school districts and community colleges.
4. Establishing/adopting statewide (or national) industry-based standards (through the cluster (program) management committees) will help ensure secondary and postsecondary instructional targets are set at the highest levels.
5. A statewide approach will enable programs to leverage subject matter experts from across the state and possibly the national level.
6. Providing statewide, cluster (program) committee-approved standards could assist school districts in preparing college- and career-ready students, leading to increased student success in postsecondary programs.
7. Statewide POS models may result in greater alignment of programs statewide by increasing the likelihood that students participating/concentrating in a given program receive instruction in, and assessment of, a minimum set of knowledge and skills, regardless of where the program is delivered.
8. Adopting statewide, industry-based program standards could increase the ability of school districts (and community colleges) to share course delivery and resources.
9. Development and adoption of statewide POS models may result in greater validity and reliability of statewide CTE program data.
10. Establishing a strong partnership structure among school districts, community colleges, and business and industry assists in building the capacity of Iowa's CTE community to positively respond to ongoing industry and education system changes.