
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2023

Meeting. The Community College Council met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, and materials related to the meeting can be found [here](#).

Updates. The Council received updates from Jeremy Varner, Chief of the Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness, and Katrina Callahan, a Policy & Government Relations Specialist with Community Colleges for Iowa. Highlights of the updates include the following:

- The Iowa Department of Education is currently accepting the first round of FY 2024 applications for the Career Academy Incentive Fund. The Department has \$5.0 million to award this cycle, and the Department will be considering both Tier One proposals for new regional centers and Tier Two proposals to upgrade existing regional centers. Additional information about this program is available on the Department's [website](#).
- Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) is opening its new Templeton Regional Center as part of the DMACC Carroll Campus on Monday, September 18, 2023.

Rule Changes. The Governor signed [Executive Order No. 10](#) on January 11, 2023, ordering State Executive Branch agencies to perform a comprehensive review of existing administrative rules. Agencies must review rules or chapters to rescind or rescind and readopt them.

The Council heard proposed changes to 281 IAC [95](#). These changes were recommended by the Council to the State Board of Education. The changes included rescinding 281 IAC [95.1](#), which was identified as redundant, and rescinding 281 IAC [95.5\(9\)"h"](#), which provides, in part, that race or ethnic origin, gender, or disability may be considered when "selecting, applicants for interview, employment, and promotion." Other changes remove restrictive terms from the chapter.

Student Outcome Reports. The Council received two reports on student outcomes at Iowa's community colleges. The Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) compares community colleges nationally. Data from this report showed that Iowa's colleges have outcomes that are comparable to or better than peer community colleges nationwide within the VFA. The second report from the Iowa Department of Education covered outcomes in Iowa more specifically.

Tuition and Fees Report. The Council received a report on tuition and fee rates at Iowa community colleges. In FY 2024, per-credit-hour costs are increasing by 3.5% for in-state students and 3.1% for out-of-state students. Per-credit-hour costs at Iowa's community colleges are at least 39.7% less than at Iowa's public universities. Average annual cost of enrollment at Iowa community colleges was approximately \$6,000 in FY 2022.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Community College Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

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