

Executive Summary

*“Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for Iowa’s System of Community Colleges”
Progress Report to the Iowa State Board of Education
August 2002*

During the first year of implementation of “Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for Iowa’s System of Community Colleges,” the community colleges individually and collectively (through their leadership, cooperative agreements, and the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents [IACCP]), the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT), and the Department of Education undertook a variety of activities to accomplish its goals and initiatives.

This executive summary provides a listing of some of the collective activities designed specifically to address “Shaping the Future: A Five-Year Plan for Iowa’s System of Community Colleges.” It is not meant to provide a comprehensive or complete list of these activities, but should give the reader a sense of the collective commitment to the agreed-upon statewide agenda.

- ◆ The development of a joint legislative program regarding community college issues for 2002 by the IACCT and IACCP, together with the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) Higher Education Standing Committee. The four priorities for 2002 were:
 1. Provide the community colleges of Iowa authority to raise additional operating funds in their local districts.
 2. Appropriate \$166,377,403 for state general aid.
 3. Continue funding for the purchase of technology programs and institutional support at the \$3M level.
 4. Restore cuts to Iowa Workforce Development programs, i.e., ACE (Accelerated Career Education), student grants, ACE infrastructure, ACE operations, and the 260F programs.
- ◆ The Department of Education’s appointment of a Community College Performance Indicators Task Force; the committee met on a regular basis and developed a draft set of indicators to be presented to the State Board of Education for input in August 2002. This committee is co-chaired by Dr. Janice Friedel, administrator of the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, Iowa Department of Education; and Dr. Robert Dunker, president of Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City.
- ◆ The publication of the first of its kind of “Condition of Iowa Community College Report—January 2002,” by the Iowa Department of Education.

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- ◆ The Department of Education co-sponsorship of the Regents Committee on Educational Relations (RCER) Articulation Conference in May 2002. The purpose of this activity is to engage high school counselors, members of faculties, registrars, and admission officers from community colleges and the regents institutions, regarding the transferability of community college credit, college entrance requirements, and prerequisites. Articulation requires commitment from leadership and the engagement of faculty.
- ◆ Reorganization of the Department of Education's Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation to focus principally on community colleges (with the integration of career and technical education into the K-12 comprehensive school improvement process), and a 2003 emphasis on the enhancement of the academic core, articulation, and a seamless educational system.
- ◆ Completion of the community college licensure study, chaired by the Department of Education, with membership as defined by Senate File 480. The work of the committee involved wide participation of community college personnel. The major recommendations of the task force are:
 1. Elimination of the licensure of community college faculty by the Board of Educational Examiners.
 2. The requirement of a quality faculty development plan.
 3. Minimum quality teacher standards.

In FY02, legislation was passed utilizing the task force recommendations. During FY03, the Department of Education will develop administrative rules consistent with the legislation, and will provide guidance and leadership regarding two major components of the bill:

- A. Quality Faculty Development Plans
- B. Minimum Quality Teacher Standards

- ◆ The identification of four priority areas addressed by the community college presidents related to the strategic plan. Their statewide initiatives included:
 1. Accountability Messages—This included four publications describing community colleges system-wide activities in the areas of:
 - a. Agriculture
 - b. Entrepreneurship
 - c. Community Colleges and the New Economy
 - d. Graphic Arts and Technology Center of Iowa

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These topics are related to the state's economic development priorities in the targeted industries: Advanced Manufacturing; Biotechnology and Life Sciences; and Information Solutions. The titles of these four documents are:

- a. Champions of Iowa: The Community Colleges of Iowa – Iowa Ag Alliance
 - b. Community Colleges of Iowa: Entrepreneurial Development
 - c. Iowa Community Colleges' Impact on New Economy
 - d. Community Colleges of Iowa Graphic Arts Technology Center of Iowa
2. A Proposal to Increase the Marketing and Promotion of the System of Community Colleges—The presidents and IACCT sponsored the development of a variety of materials to promote the system of community colleges. These included place-mats of Iowa marking the locations of the community colleges, appointment booklets, and three articles written describing the system of community colleges.
 3. Agriculture—The community colleges formed the Iowa Ag Alliance, which complements Iowa State University's (ISU) efforts by providing high quality, low-cost educational programs to students (many of whom continue at ISU) across the state. One of the purposes of the Iowa Ag Alliance is to avoid duplication of offerings; an example is the compact between Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) and Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), in that a student at NCC can gain access to the NICC Dairy Center offerings without leaving NCC. This is important due to the growing dairy industry in that part of the state.
 4. Workforce Development and Contracted Training—This statewide initiative of the community colleges was designed to ensure that business and industries have a convenient, hassle-free, and responsive method of obtaining consistent curriculum, pricing, and course delivery throughout Iowa. The Governor recognized this project on January 30, 2002, when he issued a Governor's proclamation that was presented at a press conference. At that time, the partnership was known as the Community College Corporate Training Institute, subsequently, the name was changed

to One-Source Training to better represent the varied audiences to which this partnership will deliver training. Access and information about this initiative can be obtained at www.onesourcetrainingiowa.com. This is a centralized clearinghouse of Iowa's community colleges to be used for the delivery of statewide corporate training projects.

- ◆ Partnerships and collaboration with business and industry is a priority of the strategic plan. In recognition of this critical relationship, for the first time, all community colleges are members of the Association of Business and Industry (ABI); the colleges are making a concerted effort to regularly present at ABI-sponsored workshops regarding the role of community colleges in workforce and economic development.
- ◆ Completion of a community college student retention study jointly by a community college president and the Department of Education.
- ◆ The community college presidents have initiated ongoing communication with the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA). The IHA executive director has presented to the presidents in preparation to the development of a community college response to the nursing shortage.
- ◆ In August 2001, the IACCT-sponsored state trustee annual conference was a trusteeship academy; over 100 trustees completed a two and a half day seminar and discussion program to develop their statewide trustee skills. Each participating trustee received a certification designating him/her as a board-certified trustee. This is a demonstration that community college trustees are receiving common training and education regarding their duties and responsibilities. This training was videotaped and will be made available to those who were unable to attend and new community college trustees.
- ◆ Continued refinement of the community college MIS (Management Information System) by the Department of Education and the 15 community colleges. As implementation continues, data elements and definitions are revised based on input and review by the colleges and the Department of Education and changing federal and state reporting requirements. The Community College Uniform Financial Accounting Manual has been updated by the Department of Education with input from the community college business officers.

- ◆ A significant initiative, which should greatly enhance articulation and the transfer of credit amongst community colleges across the state and with four-year colleges and universities, is the development of a community college common course numbering system. The community college presidents have agreed to support this initiative and a task force comprised of representatives of the community colleges and the Department of Education has been formed.
- ◆ The community colleges, the University of Iowa, and John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial College have formed the Iowa Entrepreneurial Consortium for the purpose of offering entrepreneurialship education across the state. FastTrack Training is offered in each community college district; this program teaches aspiring and current entrepreneurs the skills necessary to start and grow a new business; it may be offered on a credit and/or a non-credit basis.
- ◆ The Iowa Community College On-line Consortium (ICCOC) consists of seven community colleges offering on-line courses making available the associate degree entirely over the Internet. Southeastern Community College (SCC) serves as the administrative site. On July 15, 2002, the North Central Association (NCA), following an accreditation visit to Iowa, granted approval for consortium members to provide all coursework for an associate degree on-line. The web site of ICCOC, www.iowaonline.org, provides information on courses, direct access to one-source curriculum information, and links to each member college. Soon, www.iowaonline.org will integrate course equivalencies between the ICCOC and the Iowa regents universities.
- ◆ During FY02, the State Board of Education approved the following new community college career and technical programs, listed by cluster:
 1. Engineering and Industrial Technologies (10)
 2. Agriscience and Natural Resources (1)
 3. Family, Consumer, and Human Services (1)
 4. Health Services (3)
 5. Business, Information Systems, and Marketing (7)

The Department of Education program consultants assisted the community colleges in the development of these programs.

- ◆ Training on the use of national and state standards models was promoted and provided by the Department of Education's Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation's consultants. These include:

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1. NATEF (National Automotive Technician Education Foundation)
 2. Manufacturing Skill Standards
 3. CISCO Networking
 4. MOUS (Microsoft Office Users Specialists)
 5. Wheels of Training—NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research)
 6. AWS (American Welding Society)
 7. Universal Skill Trades Program—A universal skill trades program is being developed with the main focus of providing apprenticeship programs with access to an Associate in Applied Science degree and beyond. This has been implemented at Indian Hills Community College. Four others (Kirkwood Community College, Hawkeye Community College, Eastern Iowa Community College, and North Iowa Area Community College) are planning to implement the program next year.
- ◆ Community colleges have expanded and enhanced their articulation and transfer strategies with four-year colleges and universities. In addition to the renewal of ongoing articulation agreements, the community colleges have established:
 1. Guaranteed transfer admission contracts.
 2. Joint admissions between the community colleges and four-year colleges.
 3. Compacts between community colleges.
 4. Bachelors degree completion programs.
 - ◆ Each year, the community college IASA (Iowa Arts and Science Administrators) conducts a discipline-specific articulation conference. The most recent discipline was history, earlier years included agriculture, computer science, sociology, and art.
 - ◆ Several community colleges have encouraged their local manufacturers to form a manufacturers consortium so that common training and retraining needs can be provided in a more cost-effective and efficient manner to a group of manufacturers.
 - ◆ Community colleges continue to seek cooperative agreements amongst their institutions and, when appropriate, other higher education institutions, such as the partnership between Kirkwood Community College, Northeast Iowa Community College, Southeastern Community College, Indian Hills Community College, and Allen College in Waterloo. This partnership is designed to offer the surgical tech program via a variety of teaching modalities, including the ICN, beginning in the fall 2002.

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- ◆ Approximately 17 percent of all high school credentials granted in Iowa in FY02 were GED (General Educational Development) diplomas and adult high school diplomas awarded through the community colleges.
- ◆ In FY 02, Iowa's passage rate on the GED exam was the highest in the nation at approximately 95 percent.
- ◆ A one-stop web site for Iowa's community colleges is available through www.iacct.org.
- ◆ The Department of Education served as the fiscal unit and provided coordination for the United States Department of Education-funded Technology Challenge Grant for which the community colleges provided professional development to K-12 teachers (in cooperation with the area education agencies) in the use of technology to enhance critical thinking in reading, math, and science.

Another example of the community colleges providing professional development for K-12 teachers is a NSF (National Science Foundation)-funded initiative at Indian Hills Community College. IHCC is currently developing virtual reality fermentation software to teach secondary school students and science faculty about the bio-processing industry and the fermentation process. Virtual reality equipment to demonstrate the process has been acquired and is portable for easy transport to the high schools.

- ◆ The IACCP and IACCT annually recognize high-academically achieving community college students through the Phi Theta Kappa awards ceremony. The Department of Education has initiated a statewide recognition ceremony for high-achieving vocational students in an annual recognition ceremony with the State Board of Education.
- ◆ The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) and Iowa's community colleges, initiated a three-year English Literacy PILOT project in program year 2001. The project is concluding the second year. The overall goal of the project is to research and identify promising instructional strategies and curriculum offerings designed to meet the learning needs of Iowa's adult immigrant target population. To date, the project objectives are being achieved. Four (4) community colleges served as the initial pilot site. During project year three, an additional four sites will be added to the project. The project will begin implementation on a statewide basis (increasing from eight to 15 community colleges) in September 2003.
- ◆ The Department of Education has successfully implemented the English Literacy/Civics Education program through the existing community college-

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based ABE delivery system. The purpose of this initiative is not to simply expand English literacy services, but to provide an integrated program of services that incorporates English literacy and civics education. To effectively participate in education, work, and civic responsibility of this country, immigrants and limited English proficient persons must not only master English, but be able to understand and navigate governmental, educational, and workplace systems and key institutions such as banking and health care. The Department of Education, had applied for and received English Literacy/Civics Education program funds from the United States Department of Education, and these funds are distributed to the community colleges for these specific purposes.

- ◆ The development of four concept papers by a team of community college presidents led by Dr. Paul Tambrino, retired president of Iowa Valley Community College District, regarding Goals 1 through 4 of the strategic plan.

The community college strategic plan initiatives demonstrate that Iowa's community colleges are responding as a system to statewide needs.