

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Legislative Accomplishments

This legislative session was transformative for Iowa's community colleges with the accomplishment of a **major change to the State General Aid distribution formula**. The formula will now be decided each year by the presidents' group. This will allow for much greater flexibility and will help us move toward greater equity. Other legislative outcomes:

- ✓ **\$7 million increase in State General Aid**
- ✓ **More funding for College and Career Transition positions**
- ✓ **Guaranteed two-year funding for Last Dollar Scholarship recipients**

See full details in our Legislative Summary Report.



More Events and Partnerships

Last year's inaugural **Community Colleges for Iowa Convention and Tradeshow** was a huge success with nearly 400 attendees and 60 vendors. We were able to make new connections and get new ideas. We are already moving forward with plans for this year's event which will be December 3-5 at the Des Moines Marriott.

In addition to this event, we also stepped up our legislative session advocacy events, combining them into one **Leadership in Action Week**. Students attended the Legislative Seminar and PTK scholars were recognized. We also had a very successful day on the hill and a week of other online advocacy opportunities.

To make all of this and more possible, we are offering **new opportunities to partners** to engage with community college audiences through sponsorships. This year we welcomed our first year-round partner in the University of Northern Iowa and look forward to their engagement in all of our events.

Thanks to our Board Members

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Community Colleges for Iowa Board Members! We appreciate your service not only to your college, but to the state. Special thanks to Bob Jennings for serving as our chair.

Sue Runyon

Northeast Iowa Community College

Debra Hill

North Iowa Area Community College

Bob Jennings

Iowa Lakes Community College

Steve Simons

Northwest Iowa Community College

Bennett O'Connor

Iowa Central Community College

Joanna Hofer

Iowa Valley Community College District

JoDee Knox

Hawkeye Community College

Deborah Tappendorf

Eastern Iowa Community College District

Alan Jensen

Kirkwood Community College

Cheryl Langston

Des Moines Area Community College

Tricia Sutherland

Western Iowa Tech Community College

Connie Hornbeck

Iowa Western Community College

Susan Stearns,

Southwestern Community College

Richard Gaumer

Indian Hills Community College

Moudy Nabulsi

Southeastern Community College

New Faces



With retirements and other staff transitions, this year we reorganized and brought some **great new additions to the team.**

Kat Callahan (*pictured right*) interned with us last year and joined full-time after completing her law degree and passing the bar. Kat serves as our Policy and Government Relations Specialist and works on research, policy, and legislation. She works closely with our leadership and work groups and serve as the person in the office responsible for FUN!

Monique Ellefson (*pictured center-right*) joined us in the Fall as Director of Strategic Initiatives. She dove right in and helped to make our inaugural convention a success. She is managing events, sponsorships, and more. (And, as a book lover, has helped us all consider new reading material!)

Annette Heffron (*pictured left*) also joined us last Fall after 20 years with Hawkeye Community College. She serves as our Operations and Administration Specialist and has kept us on track for organizing the building and our schedules.

Emily Shields (*pictured center-left*) has served as our Executive Director since 2021.

Where We've Been



With a new team and new faces across the state, **we have been making the rounds this year!** Here are just a few highlights:

- Emily was honored to give the commencement speech at Western Iowa Tech in May.
- Kat participated all year in the Leadership Institute for a New Century (LINC) program through Iowa State University with other up and coming community college leaders. Together they visited five colleges.
- Monique attended conferences at Western Iowa Tech and Indian Hills.
- Kat and Monique travelled to several other campuses for tours and meetings to learn more about them.
- Emily participated in board meetings for six colleges.
- The whole team visited and toured Hawkeye as a part of the presidents' retreat.

Building Assessment



Built in 2008, the Community Colleges for Iowa building has **served as a hub not only for association staff but for many meetings and events over the years.** As with any building, it will need additional maintenance in the years to come. To prepare for this, we have contracted with ISG to provide a facility assessment. The assessment will allow us to plan and budget for future repairs and improvements.