

IACCT REPORT TO THE IHCC BOARD

APRIL 8, 2021

The IACCT Board met on April 8, 2021, partly in-person and partly virtually. I attended in-person. Iowa Central CC named Jesse Ulrich, former superintendent of Ft Dodge Schools as its new president.

IHCC by President Thompson, Ashleigh Richmond, and Center Director of Ottumwa Job Corps, Taran Ferguson, made the presentation of Job Corps Scholars. It was very well done and should be presented to our board as, although this program is a demonstration project with the Dept. of Labor, it has great potential for a state-wide program and it shows a very successful, dynamic program being administered at our own college.

The Department of Education reported that they have awarded school counselor funds to six (6) community colleges in Iowa. Counselors will be hired to serve two school districts each and to discuss career planning with students. The current counselors are unable to devote the time necessary to career planning so this will help students to start thinking about college/career choices. As a follow-up, the board agreed to retain a lobbyist in DC to assist in seeking an earmark (not the term currently used to identify earmarks) to get \$20 million for counselors in all community college district. Dr. Thompson can tell you more about the efforts. Dr. Thompson is on the committee working with the congressional delegation to get the earmark.

There is a Senior-Year Plus/concurrent education change in focus by DE to have all school districts in a community college district identify the criterion that will be used to qualify students for eligibility for concurrent classes. Many schools use standardized tests to qualify and that was felt to be discriminatory against students who are poor test takers or there seems to be a racial bias in the use of standardized tests. There is a hoped for uniformity to be achieved in each CC district.

The Presidents received information about the loosening of the restrictions of the COVID-19 funds so that the colleges should be able to access the funds more readily. Mike Lee may have more information about the effect that will have on our college. There was also discussion of the infrastructure grants being proposed and the method/restrictions that might be used to access these funds. It was felt that technology and faster internet access would be a focus of the legislation for colleges. The proposal is for \$12 billion to be distributed to community colleges. More to come on that

Our Executive Director, Emily Shields will be attending our meeting and will describe the Summer Conference format that is being planned. It will be good for all of us to meet her. Dr. Thompson and I will escort Emily on a campus tour before our meeting.

The Lobbyist reported that they are hopeful that community colleges may see an increase in state general aid of \$6 million and maybe more. The policy bills are still in the mix and notably there is a “free speech” bill that would prohibit expenditure of public funds to a public forum-type company (Facebook/Twitter) who bans a speaker/poster for purely political reasons. It is felt that community colleges may get exempted from this. There is a planned expansion of Future Ready Iowa Scholarships by \$10 million. There is a worrisome election bill that would require any public entity to mail to all households in its jurisdiction notice of an upcoming bond election and to be paid for by the entity seeking the bonding authority. Stay tuned for that one. There is a property tax bill, SF 587, that would eliminate the property tax backfill for the commercial property relief that was enacted several years ago earlier than had been planned. There appears to be bi-partisan support for defeating this bill but strange things happen at the end of the session.

I would encourage you to consider accessing on the IACCT website the recording of two Board Development presentations. One is on the summer melt where the discussion is about students who indicate college interest in the spring and then don't enroll in the fall. The other is about the study funded by the Gates Foundation about rural community colleges. Both are available on the website in the member portal.

Our contributions, which do not have to be made yet, for Iowans for a Skilled Workforce will stay the same for 2021. More to follow.

As another note, Southeastern CC is in more detailed discussions about a relationship with Iowa Wesleyan University on sharing programs and activities. I am also attaching Emily Shields' summary of our meeting. Plenty to read this time.

Richard Gaumer

From: Emily Shields <ejshields@iacct.com>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 9:15 AM
Subject: April 8, 2021 IACCT Board Meeting Summary
Attachments: IACCT JCS 4.8.21.pptx

To: IACCT Trustees
CC: Presidents, Liaisons, Assistants and IACCT Staff

See below for a summary of yesterday's board meeting.

Special Presentation: Indian Hills Community College Job Corps Scholars Program (slides attached).

Reports

1. DE Report – Community College Bureau Chief Amy Gieseke shared that six colleges were awarded funds last week for College and Career Transition Counselors. She also shared that alternative measures for Senior Year Plus participation are now allowed and DE encourages each college to work with the schools in their district on policies that are standard across the district.
2. Presidents Report – Murrell shared that the presidents met yesterday and covered several items including: a presentation on the ongoing Guided Pathways grant, ACCT updates on federal priorities (see attached slides), efforts for common numbering of work-based learning courses, the launch of the Manufacturing 4.0 Consortium, vaccines, and federal Community Project Funding.
3. Executive Committee Report – Jensen reported that the executive committee reviewed the federal lobbying contract that will be discussed later in the agenda and also discussed using next month's meeting to discuss legislative priorities and processes.
4. Executive Director's Report – Shields shared progress on building relationships with the Governor and her staff. She also continue to visit Trustees meetings statewide and has started making plans for the next legislative session. The process continues for hiring a Director of Equity and Inclusion, still on track for a July 1 start date. Work is also underway for the summer virtual conference, which will be held July 21 and 22.

Advocacy Report

Contract lobbyist Jeff Smith shared an update on the legislative session. Last week was the second "funnel" deadline for bills to advance, although this year it seems that many bills that seem not to advance have ways of coming back. . On Wednesday, the House released its education budget bill. This bill includes a \$6 million increase for Community College State General Aid – very close to our ask of \$6.4 million. There is also a \$10 million increase for Last Dollar Scholarship funds. Questions remain on declining enrollment that we will need to continue to address into the future. Policy issues that we are still monitoring address issues related to free speech on campus, free speech on social media, racism training, mailings on bond elections, and property tax backfill payments.

Action/Discussion Items

1. Financial Oversight Committee – the committee did not meet this month, but financials were reviewed. We are continuing the transition to the new online system and expect to have new, streamlined reports next month.
2. FY2022 Meeting Schedule – the attached schedule was approved.
3. FutureTracc Investment Committee appointment – Suteesh Tanden from EICC was appointed to replace Mark Brown, who is set to retire next month.
4. Federal Lobbying Contract – the board approved a contract with Downs Government Affairs through December of this year for the purpose of securing federal funding for a statewide College and Career Transition Counselor program expansion.

IACCT Committee Reports

1. ACCT (Nabulsi) – The organization is hosting a conversation in April about future goals and is also in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and reviewing dues structures.
2. Awards (Clark) – Nominations are now being accepted and are due April 23, 2021.
3. BDL (Hoekstra) – Webinars are all available online for viewing after the live event. Two more are planning for April and May and then the group will meet to plan the next year.
4. Community College Council (Nabulsi) – NWCC was reaccredited, and the department is working on plans to be able to map health licensing statewide.
5. IASB (Jensen) – The organization is experiencing personnel changes right now due to retirements and new jobs.
6. ICCPSHE (Clark) – Changes were made to board members and a presentation was shared that we will seek to get and share with others.
7. ISW (Hornbeck) – The Annual Meeting was on Wednesday. The group set the fundraising goal at \$35,000 for this year (not two years) and will revisit next year along with a review of policies and impact.
8. MHEC (Franck) – Planning a virtual meeting with Iowa leaders.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- April 23 – Awards Deadline
- April 21, 4 pm – What to Do Before You Cut the Ribbon Webinar
- April 5 – FOC Meeting
- April 6 – Executive Committee and Board Meeting
- May 19, 4 pm: Legislative Session Review & Summer Advocacy Goals Webinar
- May 19-21 – Presidents’ Retreat
- May 27 – Liaisons’ Retreat

All my best,
Emily

Emily J. Shields
Executive Director



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