



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Annual Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Rivers AEA, Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Valley Community College District, and North Iowa Area Community College

Monday, April 8, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. - Hosted by Hawkeye Community College

Hawkeye Community College President Dr. Todd Holcomb opened the meeting at 4:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted this is an opportunity to get together to reacquaint the three community colleges and Central Rivers AEA and share updates from the past year.

Central Rivers AEA Minutes

Central Rivers AEA Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen introduced the Board of Directors in attendance: Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Debra Rich, and Dr. Tony Reid. Also in attendance was Board Secretary Lori Thomas and Asst. Chief Administrator/Director of HR Karl Kurt. Karl Kurt.

Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen shared an update on the AEA legislation, explaining that we will no longer have full funding for our services. The agency is attempting to figure out what all of the changes mean for the districts we serve and for our staff. This is a challenging and uncertain time for K-12 education in Iowa.

As Submitted by Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Executive Assistant/Board Secretary.

Iowa Valley Community College District Minutes

IVCCD President Dr. Anne Howsare-Boyens introduced the IVCCD Board of Directors in attendance: Directors Chris Brodin, Amber Danielson, Joanna Hofer, Larry Johnson, Deb Jones and Paul Pohlson. Also in attendance was Board Secretary Abigail Pelzer.

Dr. Howsare-Boyens shared an overview of IVCCD and the district's progress on bond projects. Howsare-Boyens also shared that she joined IVCCD in November 2023 and introduced Dr. Matt Schmit as the new Provost of Marshalltown Community College effective June 3. She also discussed the success of the district's E-Sports and Construction Trades programs and noted PTK Honors Chapters.

As Submitted by Abigail Pelzer, Iowa Valley Community College District Board Secretary.

North Iowa Area Community College Minutes

NIACC President Dr. Steve Schulz introduced the Board members in attendance: Board President Cathy Rottinghaus, Directors David Steffens, Jr., Dave Moore, John Rowe, Doug Krabbe, Debra Hill, and Nicki Prantner. Also in attendance was Assistant to the President Abby Donald.

Dr. Schulz thanked the NIACC Board for their recent efforts in hiring a new President. In addition, Dr. Schulz shared that NIACC recently completed the Higher Learning Commission 10-year re-accreditation and was selected for the Aspen Institute Top 50 Community Colleges. Dr. Schulz also shared academic highlights, construction project updates, upcoming personnel changes, planned upgrades, anticipated new programs, and potential challenges for the year ahead.

As submitted by Abby Donald, North Iowa Area Community College Assistant to the President

Hawkeye Community College Minutes

Hawkeye President Dr. Todd Holcomb introduced board members in attendance including Board Chair Jay Nardini, Directors Louis Beck, Barbara McGregor, and Dave Westley. Also in attendance was Board Secretary/Assistant to the President Dee Paulsen.

Dr. Todd Holcomb shared that the Automation and Robotics Center's open house was last fall. Dr. Holcomb gave a review on facility construction projects. Students were back in class on January 8th in Grundy Hall and the Open House will be on April 18th. Grundy Hall now has the capacity to serve 3,300 students, has an expanded state of the art dental clinic and expanded simulation center.

He also shared that the Regional Transportation and Training Center will be remodeled and receive three additions. The estimated cost for the project is \$5,388,000 and will be finished by December 31, 2024. Dr. Holcomb also gave an update on achievements, awards and recognitions Hawkeye Community College received over the last year including national accolades for student Danny Dillon, 2023 Best Place for Working Parents, Exemplary Program Award for WE Build Waterloo, 2024 Educator of the Year: Gerrot Jacobson, finalist for Golden Owl Award: Amber Greiman and successful RISC survey completion. Hawkeye Community College also received grants for PEER and SMART Iowa initiatives, was the recipient of Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant and others, hosted the 2023 Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference and 2023 Manufacturing Conference.

Dr. Holcomb reported the college hired a men's and women wrestling coach, won the ACUI National Championship in Sports Shooting and the introduction of the new softball program last year is off to a great start with 22 student athletes.

As Submitted by Dee Paulsen, Hawkeye Community College Board Secretary/Assistant to the President

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m. Next year's joint Board meeting will be hosted by Central Rivers AEA on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Central Rivers AEA is committed to ensuring equitable, efficient, and effective educational services that prepare all Iowa children for a life well-lived.