



**Minutes of the 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
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 4:30 p.m.**

Welcome

Central Rivers AEA Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans opened the annual joint board meeting between the AEA and community colleges via Zoom at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. He welcomed the attendees and thanked them for the opportunity to share updates of each entity's organizational goals.

Central Rivers Area Education Agency Minutes

Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans introduced the following attendees from Central Rivers AEA: Board President Dr. Debra Rich, and Board Members David Hill, Jenn Peter, Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Dr. Theron Schutte, Dr. Mary Stevens, Dennis Craun, Jr., and Dr. Tony Reid. Also in attendance was Director of Creative Services & Communications/Acting Board Secretary Beth Strike

Chief Rheingans gave an update on the AEA strategic plan summary, agency goals, the accreditation process, the new organizational chart, and what to expect going forward.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Strike, Director of Creative Services & Communications/Acting Board Secretary.

Hawkeye Community College Minutes

Hawkeye Community College President Todd Holcomb introduced Board members in attendance: JoDee Knox and Dave Westley.

Dr. Holcomb highlighted Hawkeye Community College's facility updates, including completed construction on Butler Hall, TechWorks renovation, Sustainable Construction building, and the Challenger Center.

He shared that Hawkeye Community College has been working to migrate data to the cloud to transition to the Software as Service (SaaS) platform, the completion of this project will be this summer. Also, the college recently rolled out a new strategic plan for 2026-2031. Lastly, Dr. Holcomb shared that the college is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year.

Respectfully submitted by Dee Paulsen, Hawkeye Community College Assistant to the President/Board Secretary

Iowa Valley Community College District

IVCCD President Anne Howsare Boyens introduced Board members in attendance: Board President Joanna Hofer, Board Vice President Amber Danielson, and Directors Chris Brodin and Larry Johnson. Board Secretary Abigail Casey was also introduced.

Dr. Anne Howsare Boyens highlighted district governance, enrollment trends, and strategic progress. She shared overall growth in student headcount and credit hours, improvements in retention and fall-to-fall persistence, and key demographic indicators.

She also outlined organizational realignment, implementation of the strategic plan, expanded academic and extracurricular offerings, facility improvements, and cost-saving initiatives. The presentation emphasized the District's continued progress and commitment to advancing institutional priorities, along with updates on upcoming academic programs and construction projects.

Respectfully submitted by Abigail Casey, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Marketing/Board Secretary - Iowa Valley Community College District

North Iowa Area Community College

NIACC President Joel Pedersen introduced the Board members in attendance: Board President Andy Julseth, and Directors Debra Hill, Kurt Herbrechtsmeyer, Dave Steffens Jr., and Willie Weis. Also in attendance was Abby Donald, Assistant to the President.

President Pedersen shared enrollment updates, graduation, transfer, and success rates, construction updates, anticipated new programs, highlights from the past year, and challenges for the upcoming year.

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

Adjournment

Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans thanked the college presidents and board members for their continued partnership. The annual joint board meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.