

Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
2022 Legislative Platform
APPROVED

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

IACCT's Guiding Principles reflect the needs of students and communities and are derived from the history, values, and beliefs of the organization and its members. They are used as the foundation on which legislative priorities are built and decisions are made. They are reviewed each year at our Annual Membership Meeting.

One Voice

Above all, IACCT works to ensure that Iowa's Community Colleges are united in any advocacy efforts we undertake. As such, we will focus on issues that have the potential to significantly impact all or most Community Colleges in the state.

Local Governance

Iowa's 124 Community College Trustees are locally elected to represent their local districts in decision-making on local funding, tuition, curriculum, and operations. We support policies that recognize this vital role and its impact on Iowa communities.

Bipartisan Collaboration

IACCT works with elected officials and leaders from both parties to move priorities forward and improve Iowa's communities. We prioritize ensuring that bipartisan voices are heard in our discussions and that we are working across party lines to achieve shared outcomes.

Quality Workforce Training

Iowa's Community Colleges play a critical role in education, training, and re-training for Iowa's workforce. We support policies and funding that ensure high-quality credentials that result in better jobs for graduates.

Equitable Education

Iowa's Community College offer education for all students. We support policies and funding that ensure access, affordability, equity, and completion for all students. In tandem with efforts taking place on individual campuses to promote equitable participation and foster a welcoming learning environment, we support policies aimed at closing educational and economic gaps of underrepresented populations and eliminating historic barriers to higher education.

Strong Education Partnerships

Iowa's Community Colleges provide important advanced education opportunities for high school students through concurrent enrollment programs and work closely with districts to promote access to post-high school training and education. Additionally, we work closely with the rest of the higher education sector to ensure successful transfer for students moving on. We support policies and funding that strengthen these partnerships statewide.

Local Elections

Iowa's Community Colleges rely on voter participation to elect Trustees and make important decisions on bonds. We support policies that ensure secure, accessible, and cost-effective election processes.

Safe and Secure Campus Environments

Iowa's Community Colleges are responsible for the health and wellbeing of students, staff, faculty, and community members on their campuses. We support policies and funding and allow us to maintain safe environments.

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Invest in Community Colleges

Iowa's Community Colleges rely on State General Aid and local property tax funding for core operations and staffing needed to sustain strong programs. We support increasing this critical funding to keep up with rising costs.

Programs and Policies to Boost Enrollment

College enrollment has declined in recent years. While Iowa Community College enrollment continues to be ahead of national averages, it is still a long-term challenge that needs to be addressed. We support funding and policies to boost enrollment into the future. This includes strategies for supporting high school students in exploring post-secondary education and training options, providing adequate funding to make education accessible to all, and other policies that help make education available to people at all stages of life.

Collaboration to Meet Workforce Training Needs

Iowa's Community Colleges play a critical role in education, training, and re-training for Iowa's workforce. We support policies that maintain local decision-making in these programs so that Community Colleges can continue to support local communities and business partners in meeting their needs. We also support the adequate, ongoing funding of the Iowa Skilled Workforce and Job Creation Fund and New Jobs Training programs.

2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Invest in Strong Community Colleges and Support Students

We support efforts to build on the demonstrated success of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program, tightly linking training programs to jobs as the economy recovers. Additionally, the following programs are essential to community college students and continued funding of them is critical: Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), TRIO, and GEAR UP. Finally, we support increasing funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Adult Education State Grants, state grants under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE).

Reauthorize the Higher Education Act

We support modernizing higher education funding by updating this law for the first time since 2008 and creating aligned national programs to enhance community college student access and success. This includes increasing the maximum award for Pell grants and extending Pell eligibility to short-term training programs.