

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## NEW FACES & FOND FAREWELLS

On June 30, long-time policy guru and researcher Laurie Wolf retired after a long career of service to Iowa's community colleges. This December, Operations Manager Donna Knox will also leave for a much-deserved retirement. We are sad to see both Laurie and Donna go and very grateful for their dedication.



This summer, Katrina Callahan starts full-time as our Policy and Government Relations Specialist, taking over many of Laurie's responsibilities and a few other things as well. Additionally, in the Spring, Lissah Beglinger moved from part-time to full-time to take on more of Donna's role.



## EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our team continues to work hard to offer high-quality professional development opportunities to leaders and staff from across Iowa's community colleges. Here's a snapshot of what we did this year:

- Six Trustee Education webinars on topics ranging from state and federal advocacy to K-12 trends and human resources
- New resources and information available in our online member portal
- Even more robust content for the Student Legislative Seminar
- Presentations on equity and inclusion-related topics
- Statewide summits on Data and Aligning Credit and Noncredit
- The first in-person Trustee Conference in three years!

## OUR FIRST-EVER CONVENTION

This Fall, we are planning the first-ever Community Colleges for Iowa Convention and Tradeshow. The event will be the only statewide professional development conference in Iowa focusing exclusively on community college administrators, staff, and faculty. This event will feature engaging and informative sessions, hands-on opportunities to engage with local partners, networking opportunities, and most importantly, tons of fun!



*Writing the Next Chapter of Community Colleges*

# ADVOCATING WITH ONE VOICE

We continue to work hard to advocate for Iowa's Community College students and communities at the state and federal levels. See our Annual Legislative Report for a more complete summary of the session. Here's an overview of how we did on our priorities:

1

## **Invest in student success**

- State General Aid was increased by \$7.2 million. While this was less than we requested or need, it was a higher percentage increase than any other part of Iowa's education system.
- Additionally, we were able to gain more flexibility in how we can leverage the GAP Tuition Assistance program to support students.

2

## **Address the state's workforce needs**

- Worked to ensure that changes made in the government reorganization will positively impact workforce programs and improve outcomes.

3

## **Ensure efficiency and effectiveness**

- Gained flexibility for property tax levies.
- Eliminated restrictive K-12 policies to allow for more partnerships.

## ISW POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Iowans for a Skilled Workforce is a political action committee that creates an opportunity for Iowa Community College Trustees and other leaders to strategically support candidates who champion our colleges and students. New this year, we are accepting online donations to make that process even easier.



Visit [ccforiowa.org](http://ccforiowa.org)  
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use our QR code to  
give online today!



## THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S BOARD AND OFFICERS!

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