



IOWA WESTERN

The world is waiting

Iowa Western Strategic Planning Assumptions 2019-2020

1. The population of the metropolitan Council Bluffs/Omaha area will increase while the overall population in Area XIII will decline.
2. The number of high school graduates in Area XIII from 2019-2024 will decrease in total graduates, while Omaha graduates are projected to increase.
3. Because traditional sources of state and federal funding have not kept up with the cost of education and will be insufficient to meet the financial needs of the college, new sources of grant funds, and direct appropriations need to be pursued.
4. Due to the stagnant growth of federal grant aid and increased tuition and fees, students will continue to rely more heavily on student and parental loans.
5. The public and government will expect that Iowa Western improves retention and completion rates.
6. Demands and expectations will continue to exceed the physical and academic resources of Iowa Western.
7. As alternative sources of information, training, and certification become increasingly viable options to future students, the accreditation of Iowa Western will be central to its survival.
8. It is fundamental for Iowa Western to embrace diversity, innovation, collaboration, and sustainability.
9. To achieve enrollment growth, Iowa Western will need to recruit a larger proportion of recent high school graduates as well as non-traditional, minority students and international students.
10. Programs, amenities, cost, and reputation are highly significant factors in deciding to enroll in a community college.
11. Both non-traditional and distance learners will require different recruitment, scheduling, advising, career services, and learning techniques than traditional students.
12. The pursuit of new economic development and grant funding opportunities will require Iowa Western Community College to partner with other educational institutions, government, industry, and philanthropic organizations.
13. Regional labor market demands will make it necessary for Iowa Western to be coordinated, and responsive to current and projected workforce needs.
14. Quality instruction, facilities, technology, and educational value along with consistent, caring faculty and staff are essential to remain competitive in the marketplace.

15. Instructional programs, course delivery, and services must address changing student expectations.
16. The number of students needing academic, financial, social and psychological assistance will increase.
17. Classroom and employer expectations will require students to retrieve, analyze, and evaluate information for content and accuracy.
18. A significant number of students will not be college ready and/or able to do standard college level work upon entry into college.
19. On-campus residents will require additional non-academic services.
20. To compete in a global society, the educated person must demonstrate competence in reading, writing, mathematics, technology, and in emotional intelligence such as communication, self-motivation, collaboration, inclusiveness, and adaptability.
21. Increasing accountability from the government and accrediting bodies will necessitate that Iowa Western collect, analyze, assess, and disseminate data to develop performance based evidence.
22. Improving student's financial literacy skills will increase retention rates and decrease default rates.
23. Iowa Western's enrollment, both credit hour per student and the number of students, decreases in times of a strong economy, and increases during a weak economy.
24. The College Early Start Program will continue to make up a large proportion of Iowa Western's student enrollment, which will necessitate an increased collaboration with school districts, unique recruitment strategies to increase matriculation, and intentional course & program offerings.