Iowa Western Community College   Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024

Mission: Iowa Western Community College is a learning community committed to excellence in meeting educational needs and improving the quality of life through programs, partnerships, and community involvement.

Vision: Iowa Western Community College will be recognized as a premier educational leader and partner, with student learning and success being our highest priority.

Core Values

Caring: We believe creating an environment where people treat each other with a sense of dignity and self-worth and where people convey genuine concern for helping others to achieve their goals will add value to the student learning experience.

Commitment: We believe acting with a sense of purpose, vigor, and passion and merging of our personal and work values will enable us to fulfill our pledge to provide opportunities which encourage students to reach their full potential.

Challenge: We believe articulating and promoting academic and personal standards focused on raising self-expectations in striving for excellence will provide an environment which leads to success.

Strategic Priorities

Priority One – Community and Partnership

As reflected in the mission, vision, and core values, strengthen and expand opportunities and partnerships in order to improve the quality of life within the community.

Initiative 1.1: Identify and monitor the current and projected priorities of the institution and its region. *(1.A.2)**

Initiative 1.2: Collaborate and expand offerings to regional partners and employers. *(1.B.3)*

Initiative 1.3: Increase student engagement through cocurricular and service learning opportunities. (*1.C.1*)

Initiative 1.4: Increase enrollment of and provide services to our diverse student populations. *(1.C.2)*

Priority Two – Integrity and Responsibility

Maintain policies and practices in which the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff are committed toward ethical and responsible conduct in the best interests of students and their learning experiences.

Initiative 2.1: Strengthen policies and procedures to guide effective use of public resources. *(2.A.2, 2.C.5)*

Initiative 2.2: Ensure evidence of decisions and continuous improvement outcomes are transparently shared. *(2.B.2)*

Initiative 2.3: Encourage academic freedom while adhering to scholarly and ethical best practices. *(2.D, 2.E.2)*

Priority Three – Education and Support

Provide quality educational contributions in the form of academic programs, student support services, and cocurricular opportunities by appropriately-qualified faculty and staff.

Initiative 3.1: Support innovative, high-quality teaching practices across all programs, modalities, and locations. *(3.A.3, 3.B.3)*

Initiative 3.2: Ensure faculty and staff meet minimum qualifications and are supported in professional development. *(3.C.3, 3.C.7)*

Initiative 3.3: Improve effectiveness of the student advising process. *(3.C.7, 3.D.3)*

Priority Four – Evaluation and Improvement

Engage in continuous review of programs, processes, and relevant student data to inform and promote improvement.

Initiative 4.1: Develop new academic programs and alternate scheduling, adapting to changing student needs. *(4.A.1, 4.A.6)*

Initiative 4.2: Demonstrate effective processes for the assessment of student learning. *(4.B.1., 4.B.2, 4.B.3)*

Initiative 4.3: Increase student retention. *(4.C.1, 4.C.2, 4.C.3, 4.C.4)*

Priority Five – Planning and Resources

Ensure the College has appropriate strategies in place to effectively plan for responsible resource allocation.

Initiative 5.1: Involve cross-sectional collaboration in institutional planning to align resources with strategic priorities. *(5.A.3)*

Initiative 5.2: Maximize financial resources to support program and student needs. *(5.B.1, 5.B.3, 5.B.4)*

Initiative 5.3: Plan for technology, structures, and services that anticipate evolving needs and budget allowances. *(5.C.4, 5.C.5)*

**Refers to the Higher Learning Commission Criteria for Accreditation with which each Initiative is in alignment.*