

# IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



2020  
**OUTSTANDING  
ALUMNI**  
Edd and Donna Leach

in this issue

Fall 2020

2020 Outstanding Alumni : Dr. Dan Kinney: A Shining Star

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Dr. Dan Kinney, President

As I write my final message for the alumni magazine, I am reflecting on my nearly twenty-seven years serving as president of the college. When I came to Iowa Western I had no idea that I would stay here this long. For me, it has been a great journey working with very talented and dedicated staff, faculty, alumni, administrators, and board members. It is easy to love your job when you are working with people who share your values and enjoy helping students achieve their goals. I have joked over the years that I don't have to go to work every day; I get to go to college!

I have really enjoyed my interaction with students. The enthusiasm, energy and new ideas they bring to the college every year have challenged me to continue learning

and changing my thinking. I believe the students have helped me to stay young intellectually and provide me with energy. Because of the students, Iowa Western is not the same college I joined in 1994. We have continually changed and improved over the years. Our strategic plan has continued to evolve as we have addressed challenges and added curriculum and services that each group of new students needed.

I am also appreciative of the supporters of the college, the donors, volunteers and voters who have provided us the resources needed to shape the college. The financial strength of any organization is critical to its success. For Iowa Western to serve students and provide relevant current education and training, these supporters have been wonderful. They are as much a part of the success of the college as those of us who work here every day.

Being part of Iowa Western has been the best years of my life. The challenges along the way were opportunities to adapt and improve. I have totally enjoyed being a part of the growth and development of the college. As I retire, I feel confident that Iowa Western will continue to thrive. Sails up!

Dr. Dan Kinney  
President



2018



4



10



14



16



18

# CONTENTS

- 2 Letter from Iowa Western President, Dr. Dan Kinney
- 4 Dr. Dan Kinney: A Shining Star
- 9 Living Our Mission: 2020 Iowa Western Employee Awards
- 10 Iowa Western Outstanding Alumni: Edd and Donna Leach, '89
- 14 Aquaponics: A Harvest of Collaboration
- 16 Iowa Western in a COVID World
- 18 Snapshot: Reiver Athletics
- 19 Alumni Association and Class Notes
- 20 2020 Annual Giving Campaign

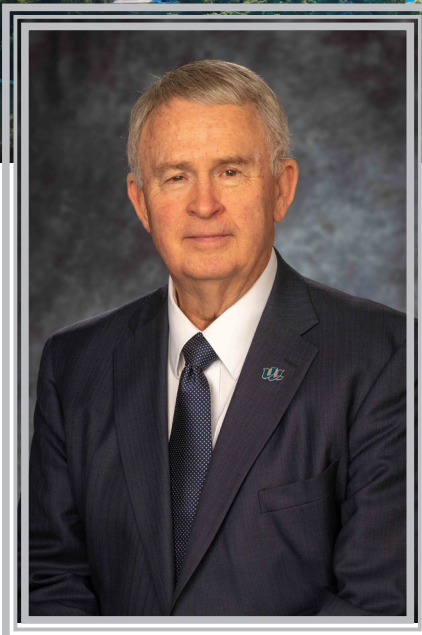
## Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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Fall 2020



# Dr. Dan Kinney A Shining Star

*Iowa Western Community College:  
A quarter of a century under a visionary leader*

By Jon Leu

After more than 25 years as president of Iowa Western Community College, years that have seen a myriad of changes in

the physical appearance of the Council Bluffs campus as well as the college's satellite centers in Atlantic, Clarinda, Harlan and Shenandoah, Dr. Dan Kinney, the primary architect of those changes, is retiring. While the physical changes – the new or renovated facilities – are many, the changes that have occurred under his leadership go far beyond the physical facilities.

Dr. Kinney's tenure at IWCC has covered nearly half the history of the college. His influence is felt in every facet of the institution. Two dozen facilities have been built or purchased, enrollment has increased, and new athletic teams have been created. But, as former Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan noted, Dr. Kinney never wanted to "undo" what former IWCC Presidents Dr. Bob Looft and Dr. Carl Heinrich had done. He wanted to continue those efforts.

"Dan really appreciated what Looft and Heinrich had done, and he always tried to build on that base," Hanafan said.

Under Dr. Kinney's guidance, the college has invested more than \$178 million in new construction and renovation projects on the main campus in Council Bluffs as well as at the satellite centers. Construction of the Robotics and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Center

– named by the college's Board of Trustees in Dr. Kinney's honor – and the Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education generated widespread and well-deserved attention for the college, along with providing new opportunities for the educational advancement of area residents.

A native of Hastings, Nebraska, Dr. Kinney earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and his doctorate from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He started his career as an instructor at the Hastings campus of Central Community College where he also served as director of purchasing and operations, department chairman and assistant dean of students before being named dean of instruction at Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas. Dr. Kinney was named president of Coffeyville Community College in 1985, a position he held for nine years before applying for the presidency of Iowa Western in 1994.

With a field of 96 candidates to review for the IWCC position, Council Bluffs banker Tom Whitson served on a diverse committee tasked with recommending the individual to whom the Board of Trustees should offer the position.

"We were invited to meet and visit with all of the candidates for the president's job in 1994. I asked the same questions of all the candidates so that I could evaluate them on some sort of a standard basis,"

Whitson said. "Clearly Dan Kinney stood out, and although our group had no official capacity to vote for the hiring of a new president, we were given the opportunity to make comments and our recommendation.

"It was apparent to all of us that Dan Kinney was the one with strong leadership characteristics and a vision for the future. I think that the facts bear this out," Whitson added.

Now, having watched and worked with Dr. Kinney in the community for nearly a quarter of a century, Whitson pointed to Kinney's accomplishments.

"Dr. Kinney has changed the physical appearance of the campus so it looks like a campus rather than a bunch of metal buildings," Whitson said. "Iowa Western has moved from being a transit campus to a residential campus."

Dr. Kinney's emphasis on the foundation was a continuation of his work in Coffeyville where he started a foundation in 1987 that boasted an endowment of \$1.8 million by the time he left to come to Council Bluffs.

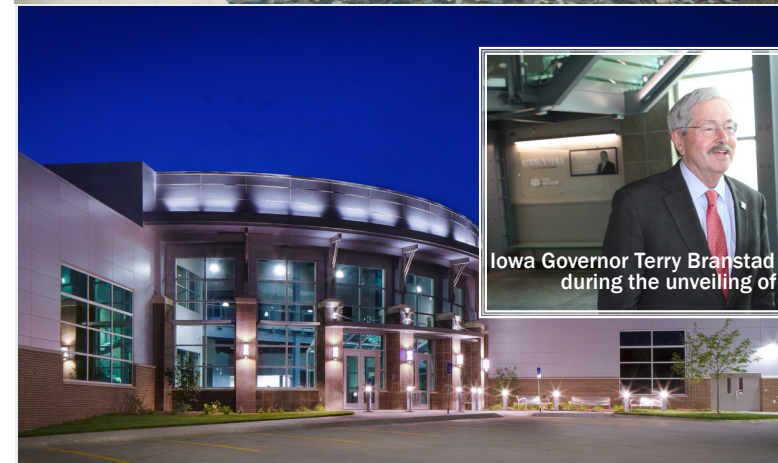
Asked about the growth of the Iowa Western Foundation's assets, Whitson noted that Dr. Kinney's efforts included initiating the Black Tie event that currently generates about \$160,000 annually. More importantly, "the growing reputation of the school has certainly allowed us to do



Dr. Kinney and wife, Pam, at the 2017 Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships.



Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education, 2011.



Iowa Governor Terry Branstad talks with Dr. Kinney during the unveiling of Kinney Hall in 2015.

## Dr. Kinney's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ The enrollment from the fall of 1994 to the fall of 2019 increased 67 percent.
- ▶ The programs offered in terms of degrees, diplomas, and certificates between 1994 and 2020 have increased 43 percent.
- ▶ A Facilities Master Plan was developed in 1999 that called for new and expanded facilities in the four satellite centers and at the Council Bluffs campus.
- ▶ The original expansions and facilities were financed by state funding and private contributions. Bond issues were tried and failed until 1996, when the first bond issue passed. Subsequently, six more bond issues have passed to fund expansion, updating and replacement.
- ▶ The cost of expansion and new facilities was in excess of \$178 million. This created, remodeled, or updated 1.125 million square feet of space.
- ▶ Although the Iowa Western Foundation was in place when Dr. Kinney was named president, it had minimal assets. Today the foundation has almost \$33 million. The earnings from these assets go primarily for scholarships to help make education possible for more people.
- ▶ The athletic programs and the Arts Center provide culture and entertainment not only to the students but also to the citizens of southwest Iowa.

better with donors.

"Community colleges need to provide an education that is more than a steppingstone to a four-year institution. One of the goals is to provide area residents with the education needed to obtain a job that pays well enough for them to invest back in the community and provide a decent standard of living for their families," Whitson said. "Potential donors can see that is happening as a result of the training offered at Iowa Western. Too, there has been a concentrated effort to reach out to potential donors."

Connie Hornbeck, who has served on the Iowa Western Community College Board of Trustees since 1995 and has also served on and headed state and national organizations advocating for community colleges, said IWCC has evolved to become a "shining star" under the leadership of Dr. Kinney.

"When we brought the national ACCT board members here, they could not believe it," Hornbeck said. "There is no question that a lot of that had to do with the IWCC Board's confidence that Dr. Kinney, as the college president, proposed changes that were in the best interests of the students and the communities we

serve and support.”

Reflecting on the many years they have served together, Hornbeck said, “When Dr. Kinney was appointed, I was struck then, and continue to be today, by his professional demeanor, his articulate, conversational style, and –of course – his hearty handshake. Dr. Kinney has served our southwest Iowa communities and students with progressive services, programs and facilities – while maintaining a financially sound, sustainable institution.”

Hornbeck said she is particularly proud of Dr. Kinney’s leadership in prioritizing student access and student success, student mental health, facility upgrades/maintenance, and career and technical education programs including aviation mechanics, nursing, welding, and diesel mechanics.

Underscoring the problems created by a funding mechanism for Iowa’s community colleges that has gone unchanged since the 1960s, Hornbeck noted, “IWCC’s local support, as demonstrated through the passage of bond issues and local fundraising, has provided the financial support for facility upgrades and maintenance at all IWCC Centers as well as new facilities which service our students and communities such as the IWCC Arts Center, Kinney Hall, the Dr. John and Jean Marshall Wellness Center, the student center, athletic building and Reiver Suites.”

While the accolades of Dr. Kinney’s efforts during his tenure were many, Hornbeck pointed to his success with bond issues – area wide – as his strongest



Harlan Center grand opening.



Whitson echoed Hornbeck’s comments. “The Iowa Legislature set up the community college system in such a way that it might be difficult for people in one of the counties served by the college to vote to approve a bond. For example, residents of Cass County might be reluctant to vote for a bond issue that would fund a project on the Council Bluffs campus. Dan brought people in the seven-county area served by Iowa Western together by focusing on the needs of the satellite campuses as well as the needs of the main campus in Council Bluffs.”

Like Hornbeck and Whitson, Randy Pash of Harlan – who has represented Shelby County, the northeast segment of Pottawattamie County, and the western portion of Cass County on the college’s Board of Trustees for the past 26 years – noted Dr. Kinney’s leadership in the effort to correct the funding inequity that has grown increasingly problematic.

“As it was initially set up in the 1960s, state support provided one-third of the funding, tuition provided one-third and local taxes provided one-third,” Pash said. “The state still provides about one-third of the funding, but tuition now provides about 60 percent. Unlike Iowa, Nebraska college boards can set levies. When we are forced to raise tuition because we are not allowed to raise our tax levy, we cut off access to those we hope to help.”

Council Bluffs insurance executive John P. Nelson has known and worked with Dr. Kinney from the beginning of his tenure as the president of Iowa Western Community College.

“I got to know Dan almost from the day he became president of the college,” Nelson said. “He is a take-charge leader and moved quickly to exert his leadership over the college. Over the years of his tenure, he has worked to dramatically increase the facilities and enrollment.

“Dan was able to marshal a series of bond issues using exceptional communications with the voting public,” Nelson added. “In addition, he has raised millions of dollars through private sources. He started a Black Tie event to increase scholarship opportunities. That annual event has raised millions of dollars to give opportunity to students who needed financial assistance.”

Nelson also praised Kinney for his leadership in building a state-of-the-art

campus, citing the construction of the Arts Center, the Reiver Suites, aviation maintenance program facility, and the Nursing Center of Excellence, among others.

“Dan has been involved in multiple local, state, and national associations developing community colleges. Community colleges have provided the college experience to so many students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity,” Nelson said.

“Prior to the coming of IWCC, the community did not have a lot of access to advanced educational opportunities. We had a lot of kids who simply could not afford enrolling in one of the Regents institutions or private colleges,” Nelson said. “The coming of community colleges opened new opportunities for those students. They could attend the local college for two years more affordably then move on to a Regents institution or a private college to finish their educational experience and obtain their degree.

“IWCC also offered a lot of courses in technical areas including those for dental hygienists, nursing students, welders and food preparation,” he said. “Those types of classes opened up a lot of jobs to those who would otherwise not have had those opportunities. Dan has been a terrific head of the college. In a few decades we’ve gone from a small community college offering courses in some leased buildings to a very established community college – maybe the best one in the state.”

Nelson was quick to note that Dr. Kinney has been active in the community in addition to his work at the college.

“Dan has been chairman of the board of directors at Jennie Edmundson Hospital since 2011,” Nelson noted. “He’s helped build Jennie Edmundson into a high-tech hospital with resources that were not there years ago. The hospital has become one of the best in the region in the areas of cancer and women’s health.”

Hanafan, who served as Council Bluffs’ mayor for 25 years and most recently served as interim president of the Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce, also applauded Dr. Kinney’s contributions to the Council Bluffs community

and southwest Iowa.

“When he talks about ‘community colleges,’ he feels the college should be part of the community,” Hanafan said. “He was highly involved in economic development. He understood what the community wanted and what he could do to help. Dan was very involved in Leadership Council Bluffs. He understood and supported the effort to develop leaders in the community for the future.

“Because of his efforts in the community, I saw there was more to Dan Kinney than just serving as a college president. Dan always supported the community, not just the Council Bluffs community but the communities – Atlantic, Clarinda, Harlan, and Shenandoah – where satellite facilities were located. Dan is very highly thought of throughout the metro area. His views on education and what we needed were highly regarded. If there was something to be done in the community, Dan was at the table.”

## Dr. Kinney's CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ President, Board of Directors Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital, 2011-present
- ▶ Member, Board of Directors of the Methodist Health System of Omaha, 2007-present
- ▶ Member, Methodist Hospital College of Nursing Board of Directors, 2008-2011
- ▶ Member, Board of Directors of the Council Bluffs Growth Alliance
- ▶ Director, Mid-America Council of the Boys Scouts of America
- ▶ Member, Council Bluffs Noon Rotary
- ▶ Member, Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 1997-2005
- ▶ President, Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2003-2004
- ▶ District Chairman, Trailblazer District Mid-America Boy Scouts Council
- ▶ Chair, 1996 Friends of Scouting Fund Drive
- ▶ Member, Leadership Council Bluffs Class VII
- ▶ Vice president, Mid America, Inc. (economic development)

Dr. Kinney’s civic involvement has been substantial:

“Dr. Kinney has vastly changed the landscape and culture of our campus,” said Nicole Juranek, a professor in the Speech Department who joined the IWCC staff in 2007. “From new buildings to academic programs to athletic teams, Dr. Kinney has altered Iowa Western in positive ways. Without him, the campus might feel like a handful of academic buildings. With him, we have state-of-the-art residences and student life and athletic and fine arts programs that are unheard of at a two-year institution.

“He wanted to make Iowa Western unique. Just ask any student who has toured multiple community colleges. They’ll express how Iowa Western’s facilities and residence life are top notch,” Juranek said. “Dr. Kinney’s a visionary and saw a future campus that he made a reality.”

In many respects, Dr. Kinney’s own

Continued Page 8

view of the past 25 years mirrors that of the community leaders who have come to know and respect him.

“I am most proud of the transformation in services to students, programs of study and first-rate facilities in Council Bluffs and the four centers. Passing six bond referenda was a lot of work and necessary,” he said. “The expansion of the college foundation is near the top of what



The Arts Center at Iowa Western.

attribute.

“With this public support we have been able to improve in all areas,” she said. “The community college system was initially set up to be funded one-third, one-third, one-third, with one-third of the funding provided by the state, one-third provided locally through property taxes and one-third coming from tuition. The problem has been with the local contribution, specifically the local property tax contribution. Instead, our local contribution has come through public support of bond issues, which has been wonderful. We are precluded from even asking for a few more cents in terms of property taxes.”



Dr. Kinney and the 2015-16 football team (NJCAA Region XI Football Champions),

I am proud of. We created a base of support for student scholarships that will live in perpetuity and will continue to help young people afford a college education.

“My biggest disappointment was the failure of the second bond issue effort. At the time we needed the funding it would

## Dr. Kinney's PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ Director and Executive Committee member, Iowa Campus Compact
- ▶ President, Iowa Community College Athletic Conference
- ▶ Member, National Community College Advisory Council, Testing Service
- ▶ Consultant/Evaluator, North Central Association of Colleges and Universities
- ▶ Member, Accreditation Review Council of the Higher Learning Commission
- ▶ President, Iowa Campus Compact Board of Directors
- ▶ President, Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education
- ▶ Member, Board of Directors of the Nation Junior College Athletic Association
- ▶ President of the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents
- ▶ Graduate, Army War College, 1995

have provided to expand the automotive and diesel programs and to provide a larger building for the aviation maintenance program. I learned how difficult earning a super majority really was. The defeat was especially stinging as I imagine any election loss is for people. There was a lot of second guessing on my part and the strategic plan had to be shelved for a time. But two years later we regrouped and passed the first of what would be a string of five straight successes. You just can't execute a strategic plan and grow a college without voter support.”

Dr. Kinney pointed with pride to the college's centers in Harlan, Atlantic, Clarinda and Shenandoah that have been moved from rental facilities that were not designed for educational purposes to buildings constructed or renovated to meet student needs.

“This has allowed us to create programs like the Center for Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing in Clarinda,” he said. In these situations, and others, we are now able to educate students for the technical jobs needed in the surrounding communities.”

Asked what he feels has had the most significant impact on Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa, Dr. Kinney pointed to the expansion and creation of new programs of study and the enrollment increase that has boosted the local economy.

“We have had great voter support to pass bond referenda that enable us to build facilities and expand the automotive, diesel, aviation maintenance, and nursing programs,” he said. “We have been able to initiate new programs in dental hygiene, veterinary technician, surgical technician, robotics, welding, construction trades, theater, music, and more.

“Another area of growth has been the creation and expansion of athletic opportunities for students. These programs have helped solidify the financial strength of the college because of the nearly 600 students they bring to the college community. All of these improvements have led to hiring more faculty and building student housing that all bring dollars to the local economy. I'm not sure most people in the community realize this impact.”

As others have noted, Dr. Kinney's professional contributions outside the confines of the Council Bluffs campus and IWCC's four centers have been significant.

Looking forward to his retirement, Dr. Kinney said he has an offer to go into a consulting business and hopes to have time for more family activities and volunteer efforts in the community. He retired from the Kansas National Guard as a colonel and hopes to travel throughout the United States to every military base where he served.

While a listing of career accomplishments says much about an individual, there are intangibles that often say much more. Hanafan pointed to one such intangible when he said of Dr. Kinney, “Dan saw a glimmer of hope in everyone.”

Long-time IWCC Board member Hornbeck underscored Hanafan's assessment with the following:

“After the Board of Trustees approved the addition of football to IWCC athletic offerings, I had a small football statue painted in IWCC colors and asked Dr. Kinney to come to my business location in Missouri Valley for a



‘surprise.’ My brother, Jimmy, who was dealing with homelessness, addiction, joblessness, and health issues, agreed to come to our business to get everything ‘spit shined’ in preparation for Dr. Kinney's visit.

“After receiving his statue surprise, Dr. Kinney thanked everyone and held his hand out to shake Jimmy's dirty, rough hand for the work he had done in preparation for his visit. Dr. Kinney then asked for a picture to be taken of Jimmy, the statue and him. After Dr. Kinney left, with tears running down his cheek, Jimmy was the proudest I had ever seen him to be acknowledged and thanked by a man of Dr. Kinney's stature. Jimmy keeps this picture with him as a remembrance of the beginning of his path forward to the clean, sober, and healthy man he is today. And I remember that day as my introduction to the moral center of Dan Kinney, the man.”

u



Dr. Kinney and Jimmy in Missouri Valley

# Living Our Mission

## The 2020 Iowa Western Employee Awards

The “Living Our Mission” awards are given to employees who best exemplify the mission of Iowa Western Community College. The purpose of these awards is to recognize employees who have been nominated by their peers for exemplary performance that best represents the Iowa Western Core Values. Awards are given for each of the following categories: *Caring*, *Commitment*, and *Challenge*. Additional employee awards include *Distinguished Teaching*, *President's Outstanding Service*, and *Difference Maker*.

### Let's get to know the award winners.

#### CARING

##### Amy Partch

Catering Supervisor/  
Front of the House Manager



*What's your fondest memory while at Iowa Western?*

My fondest memory every year is Black Tie. I love the event and I love all the planning that leads up to the BIG day.

*Tell us what your favorite food item is that Iowa Western serves?*

All the food is fabulous, so I can't just pick one thing!

*What's your favorite thing about Iowa Western?*

My favorite part is to walk around in the café and talk to all the students.

#### COMMITMENT

##### Steve Chain

Instructor of Business



*When did you know teaching business and accounting was your calling?*

I spent 25-years working in the corporate world (United Airlines, General Electric....) but never really enjoyed it. After years of prodding from my neighbor who taught at a community college in the Chicago area, I finally taught a night class and I was hooked. I loved the interaction with the students. I'm fortunate now that I can teach full-time at Iowa Western. It's a great place to be.

*How did you feel when you found out you were receiving this award?*

Surprised, very grateful.

#### CHALLENGE

##### Shelli Inness

Instructor of Communications



*What's your fondest memory while at Iowa Western?*

My fondest memory is walking into the classroom for the

first time. I remember the anxiety and excitement I felt being in the classroom with that 9 am Public Speaking class. But, most of all, I remember wanting to do my best for my students. I try to remind myself of that feeling every time I walk into a classroom.

*What's your favorite thing about Iowa Western?*

I have a soft spot for our student population, so I really enjoy the time I get to spend with students in my classrooms.

#### DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

##### Dylan Driscoll

Instructor of Aviation Maintenance



*What's your favorite thing about instructing at Iowa Western?*

My favorite thing about instructing at IWCC is seeing our students

graduate and go on to exciting careers, knowing that I played a part in that. I also love being able to help students gain confidence in their mechanical abilities in general.

*What's your fondest memory while at Iowa Western?*

Playing around on an old Beechcraft 18 aircraft that used to sit outside back when the program was still based on campus. I was around 8 years old and I'd play around inside the plane while my brother played basketball in the old gym.

#### PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

##### Sophia John

General Mgr./Program Director, 89.7 the River



*What's your favorite thing about Iowa Western?*

That we can make a difference in our community. Every single day I go into work at Iowa

Western, I believe we can make a difference in other people's lives and our community as a whole. We are family at IW!

*Do you have a favorite song or band?*

I have 4 all-time favorites -sorry it's hard to pick just one!

- ▶ Nine Inch Nails
- ▶ Elvis Costello
- ▶ Stevie Wonder
- ▶ Citizen Cope!

#### DIFFERENCE MAKER

##### Information Technology Dept.

Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney honored the Information Technology Department staff with the first-ever “Difference Maker Award” for 2020. In a special luncheon honoring the staff, Dr. Kinney highlighted the hard work and dedication of everyone in the IT Department for “going above and beyond” during the Covid 19 pandemic. “The IT Department provided valuable support and services to faculty, staff and students during this difficult year in education,” he said.





# 2020 Outstanding Alumni

## Edd and Donna Leach

By Mike Watkins



Even though they started their educational pursuits at Iowa Western Community College in different decades, Edd and Donna Leach timed it perfectly to graduate together in May 1989.

"I couldn't let her (Donna) beat me to it (graduation), so I made sure I was able to graduate with her," said Edd, owner of Leach Camper Sales, a family business he took over in 1970.

Edd started at IWCC in 1969 after moving back from California. He took classes here and there as his business would allow.

Donna, who married Edd in 1984, began at IWCC in 1987 as a business and management major and completed her program in two years before transferring to Bellevue University to work on her bachelor's degree in human resources and business management.

And while they started at IWCC at different stages of the college's development – Edd attended classes in the basement of the old Mercy Hospital and Abraham Lincoln High School before the first building was completed on the IWCC campus and Donna began her studies on the established campus – both continue to be impressed with how far the college has come and want to continue to be part of where it is headed.

"I've always been proud of Iowa Western," Donna said. "We both enjoy being involved with athletics and the annual Black Tie Harvest fundraiser, but we know we can always do more. Still, it's nice to feel like you're part of the organization."

Helping IWCC grow is certainly something of which Edd and Donna Leach are proud.

For decades – even before and while they were students at IWCC – they made it a point to give back in a variety of different and compelling ways.

Not only have they helped raise money to fund scholarships

through the Black Tie gala over the years as sponsors, event hosts, donors, attendees and committee members but Edd spent a semester teaching a service-oriented class detailing the use of RVs, trailers and fifth wheels.

Their daughter, Gina, continued her parents' legacy and graduated from IWCC with her associate's degree in business management.

They've hired IWCC students at Leach Camper Sales as mechanics, in sales, and even in the office – where a former student has been an employee for more than 30 years. She started as a part-time receptionist and never left.

Likewise, when she was at Ameritrade and Nexterna, Donna was eager to welcome IWCC students and graduates to apply and potentially work for these companies.

"There were only 20 people in class, so I went around the room and asked them to tell me what they knew about RVs and what they wanted to know, and I built the class around that," Edd said.

But Edd and Donna didn't stop their giving in the academic realm; they also have supported IWCC's athletic programs.

Most notably, they made sizeable contributions to help start the IWCC wrestling program and fund wrestling scholarships, and the couple donated Leach motorhomes to TV and radio crews during away games for the Reiver football program.

This wasn't the first time Edd helped a college wrestling program – he provided transportation for the



Photos by Vivian Kvam, Morrisey Photo

University of Nebraska at Omaha wrestlers for more than 20 years.

But when UNO discontinued the program several years ago, he switched his support to IWCC's burgeoning athletic program.

"I wasn't a wrestler myself, but I had a chance to try-out for the team in high school," Edd said. "College athletics have always been important to me, so I'm glad to be able to help grow Iowa Western's."

Edd and Donna's commitment to help also includes the greater Council Bluffs and Omaha communities.

Edd is a former member of the board of directors for Children's Square U.S.A., the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and Pottawattamie County Development Corporation.

He also served on the boards for both local and national chapters of the Recreational Dealers of America. Edd was also honored with a Spirit of Courage award from the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Foundation in 2011.

Donna is actively involved with the Loess Hills chapter of the American Red Cross, where she served on the board for five years. Her commitment to the organization was recognized in 2016 when both she and Edd were selected as Honorary Chairs for the annual Night of Heroes and Jazz event.

When the CB community experienced near-catastrophic flooding due to the swelled Missouri River and rainy summer in 2011, Edd needed to move his inventory off the property in fear of flood waters.



Edd and I visit the *campus* quite often, and even we are always *amazed* at how different it is since we were *students*.

- Donna Leach

"I contacted Dan (Dr. Kinney) and went out to the college to meet with him," Edd said. "We figured we could get 300 or more units in an open area of the campus, but thank God we didn't need to."

Speaking of Dr. Kinney, who is retiring this December after more than 20 years at the helm of the college, the Leachs both agree that he has done a tremendous amount to help IWCC evolve and grow over the past few decades and he will be greatly missed when he leaves.

"It's going to take some big feet to fill his shoes," Edd said. "Dr. Kinney has done a tremendous amount of good for the college."

Donna agrees.

"Dan is an absolute asset to the college, and he will be missed," she said. "He's been a good friend to the Council Bluffs community."

While they have remained active as alumni and supporters for the past 30-plus years since they graduated on a beautiful spring day in 1989, Edd and Donna both enjoy taking visitors as well as former residents back for a visit on a campus tour to show them how much it's changed and developed.

Suffice it to say, they are quite proud of their alma mater that has become much more of a college campus than it was when they were students.

"When former high school classmates come back to Council Bluffs after being away for a while, one of the first places I take them to see is Iowa Western," Edd said. "They always ask, 'What's changed?' since they were here last, and that campus has changed more than most of the rest of the city."



Donna agrees, saying that she credits the educational foundation she received at IWCC as helping propel her toward her bachelor's degree and her career in human resources.

"Edd and I visit the campus quite often, and even we are always amazed at how different it is since we were students," said Donna, who sat on the Arts Center board and Leach Camper Sales is a frequent sponsor of the Center.

"We definitely take a large amount of ownership in the college and are proud of where it is and where it's headed." 

Edd and Donna on site at Leach Camper Sales.





Aquaponics greenhouse. Photo by Carrie Parkhurst.

# Aquaponics

*A harvest of collaboration*

By Kara Schweiss

The Dodge Hall Greenhouse on IWCC’s Council Bluffs campus is getting a new life this year as part of a collaborative initiative that involves an aquaponics (plants and fish in an aquatic environment) project and research study on public attitudes about environmental sustainability.

“We look for projects where we can do hands-on applications,” Renewable Energy Instructor Carol Young said. “The aquaponics project was one of the first we looked at in the new biomass class... our program was responsible for doing the design, the startup work, installation, and maintenance of the aquaponics project.

“Students learn not only about the mechanics of the greenhouse systems, but also gain soft skills valuable to employers, like teamwork and problem-solving,” Young said.

## Community Collaboration

IWCC’s Culinary department harvests some of the produce. There are several community collaborators who are using the greenhouse space, too, with traditional soil methods.

Lance Brisbois, a project coordinator for Golden Hills

RC&D, said his organization propagated native grasses and plants in the greenhouse starting last year. It’s been a valuable learning experience, he said. “Some of the species grew really easily; we just planted them and they thrived. Others had really low germination rates.”

Golden Hills then hosted continuing education classes in January and May on growing native plants and integrating them into landscaping.

“A sad fact is that only one-tenth of one percent of Iowa’s native prairies remain. So I think it’s important to help preserve and protect what is left,” Brisbois said, adding that some of the plants grown for the project were sold to the public, some were donated to IWCC and some were taken back to Golden Hills. The common goal was to use more native plants, which thrive in the area and are also good for native insects and pollinators. “They’re what should be here.”

Cait Caughey, a former IWCC “Dream to Farm” student and owner of Mullein Hill Farm in the Loess Hills, was an instructor for the classes hosted by Golden Hills. She also fostered a collaboration with Lutheran

“Everything we’re doing at the college is applicable to virtually everything else. The value of my students seeing that is critical – more than anything I could ever say to them.”

- Carrie Parkhurst

Family Services of Nebraska as part of her work at the organization; the new project, Global Roots, helps new Americans with farming backgrounds adapt their skills to Midwestern conditions.

“There was (greenhouse) space available and we were able to grow 15,000 plants from seeds from our farmers that they were able to plant out at the farm this year,” Caughey said.

She praised both the IWCC greenhouse facilities and the community spirit of its projects.

“There are so many opportunities to learn. There’s aquaponics, there’s native prairie plants being grown, there’s these really interesting diverse crops being grown from seeds by people who come from all over the world,” she said. “It’s so amazing to be able to experience all of those different things in that greenhouse space.”

The research project associated with the greenhouse stemmed from a conversation between Young and Psychology Instructor Sam Delagarza.

“Carol and I went to a conference in February 2019,” Delagarza said. “We started talking about the possibility of looking at human attitudes, thoughts and behavior about the environment...how we fall short sometimes and what are the attitudes that help us be more productive and careful with the environment.”

## Environmental Awareness

Anthropology and Sociology Assistant Professor Carrie Parkhurst joined Young and Delagarza in putting together a plan that received approval last November from IWCC’s institutional review board. The research, conducted by sociology and psychology faculty and students earlier this year, looked at the attitudes of students regarding locally-sourced foods and environmental sustainability, comparing their impressions before and after observing the greenhouse projects in operation.

“I found it surprising that people in general did not have the gardening skills that I grew up with,” Matt Mancuso, Dean of Industrial Technology and Centers, said. “And students when they first come in maybe don’t have the environmental and sustainability knowledge I thought they would be getting in high school; it’s not as in-depth as I thought.”

Parkhurst agreed that the ‘before’ data was revealing.

“I have taught for a long time in the anthropology curriculum that there’s a disconnect between the farm and the table. You go to the grocery store and purchase your

food; you didn’t have to kill that chicken or grow those grains,” she said. “I didn’t expect the disconnect was actually that big.”

Delagarza said her students gained a broader view of psychology beyond its clinical aspects.

“Psychology is the study of human behavior and mental processes, so my students could see that psychologists often look at real-world problems in order to help make positive impact on society and the human environment,” she said. “How does education have the power to help the environment in a positive way? As your awareness and education increase, your attitudes and behaviors hopefully shift over time.”

Parkhurst said the research project appealed to her experience in ecological anthropology.

“So often we talk about all of these theories and ideas in the social sciences, but what are we actually doing with them?” she said. “I wanted my students to walk away from my classes having at least one hands-on experience.”

Some students took real-life action after increasing their environmental awareness during the greenhouse visit—from giving up disposable coffee cups to volunteering to help with aquaponics maintenance. They also enjoyed the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at other courses of study.

“The world isn’t disconnected, even though our different disciplines can sometimes make it seem that way,” Parkhurst said. “Everything we’re doing at the college is applicable to virtually everything else. The value of my students seeing that is critical – more than anything I could ever say to them.”

The comprehensive Greenhouse Initiative has received some outside attention, too: Iowa Campus Compact awarded it with a 2020 Emerging Innovation Award.

“Other projects set up around campus have not had the depth of departments or community members...it’s very unique,” Mancuso said. “There are so many different facets: it’s growing food for the culinary department for their gourmet dinners, it’s the growing of grasses to get people to understand why native plants are so much better for your yard. These projects have an effect on Iowa Western but also have a community effect as well...I think the greenhouse will keep being used for a long time.”



Photo by Lance Brisbois, Golden Hills RC&D.




# Iowa Western IN A COVID WORLD



In classrooms, seating has been limited to 10 students, with abundant sanitizing supplies for each room. Faculty worked diligently in the spring to accommodate all forms of teaching platforms, including face-to-face, a hybrid model, and fully online delivery. Those efforts led to a seamless opening of campus for the busy Fall 2020 session.

With more than 1,200 students living on campus, the Student Services and Housing Divisions have worked tirelessly to institute a plan to keep our residential population safe by monitoring potential COVID cases, overseeing quarantine rooms and encouraging a strict face mask policy.

“All in all, I would say the campus has done a great job of carrying out our plans to make this as safe of an environment as possible,” said Dr. Dan Kinney, president. “The entire staff at Iowa Western can take credit for stepping in during this difficult period in our history to make a difference.” 

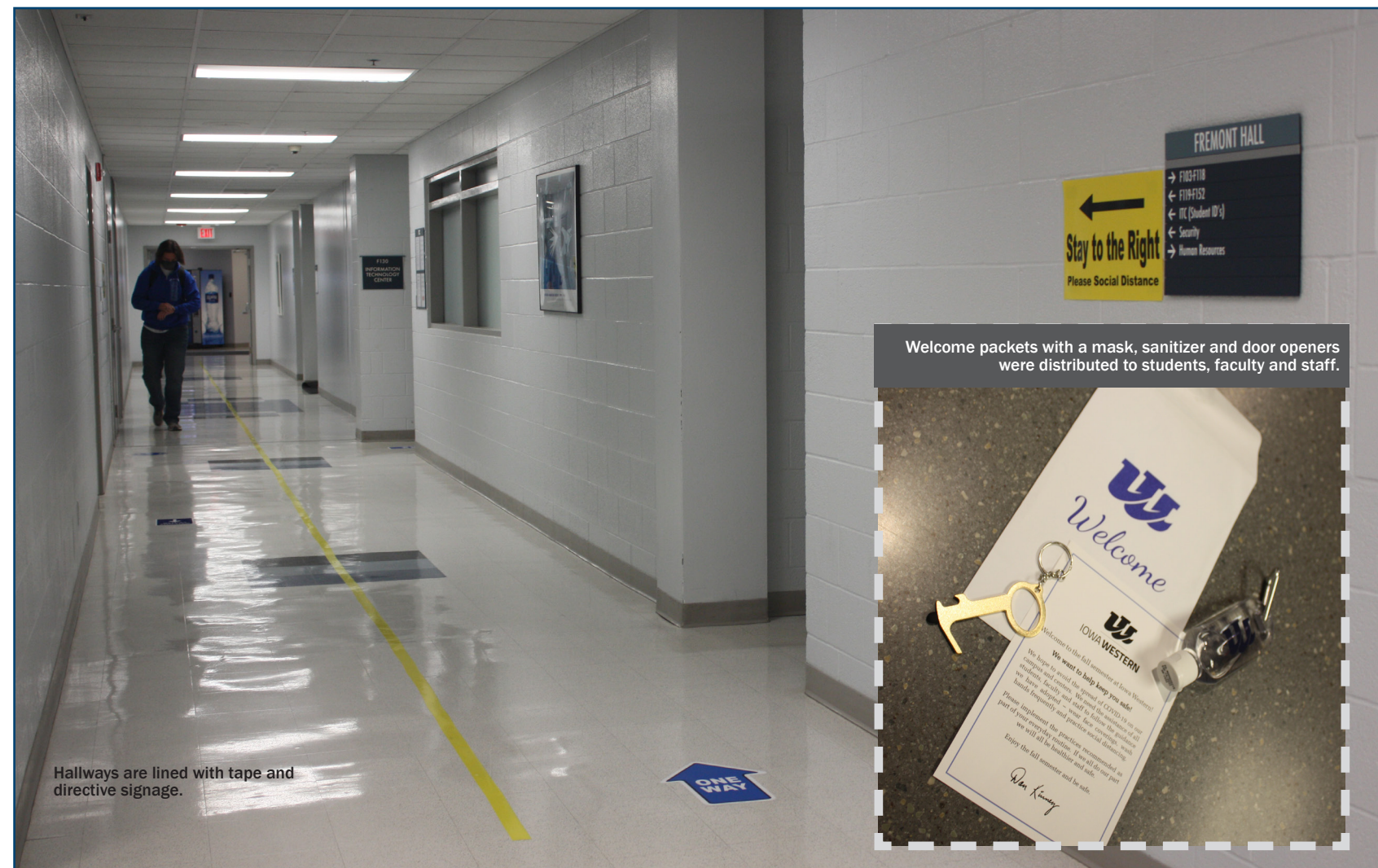


It is clear that the year 2020 will go down as one of the most difficult time periods in our nation's history due to the novel corona virus - COVID 19. Contact tracing, mandatory mask coverings, quarantine rooms, COVID testing and health screenings have become common vernacular in the Iowa Western community since the virus began to take hold of the country early this year.

Throughout the last several months, Iowa Western's administration, faculty and staff have dedicated its time and resources to continuing the college's mission of providing quality education services to its students in a safe and healthy environment.

From the onset of the pandemic, Iowa Western's COVID 19 Taskforce set in motion policies and procedures to keep the college safe. Because of actions taken by the taskforce, the campus in Council Bluffs and our area centers may look a little different than the pre-COVID days.

From a facilities standpoint, large posters detailing mask requirements and sanitizing tips adorn the entrances to most buildings, and hand sanitizing stations have been erected inside those doors to accommodate staff and students. In an effort to maintain proper social distancing standards, large arrows and hallway signage keep traffic flowing efficiently.



Hallways are lined with tape and directive signage.


Welcome packets with a mask, sanitizer and door openers were distributed to students, faculty and staff.



A bizarre finish. A year that began with fall sports making National Tournament appearances, a Bowl Game win and the first ever National Championship for Reivers Cross Country ended. That's it, it just stopped (at least on the field, on the court, on the track and on the course). Reivers Baseball and Softball got started and then said "goodbye". Reivers Track & Field, with promising results during the Indoor Season, never got a chance to take their skills outside. Reivers Golf and Sport Shooting didn't get a chance to participate in the second

# Reiver Athletics

by David Miller and Jake Ryan

half of their seasons. Men's and Women's Hoops watched their postseasons grind to a halt, while Reivers Wrestling slipped in another perfect hosting of the NJCAA National Tournament at the Mid-America Center, with the program's second individual National Champion, before the shutdown. Without a doubt, it's been a challenging year for many. What steps to take, how to navigate studying and working remotely and more importantly how to get back to doing what the Reivers do best ... compete. In Reiver Country, competing nationally isn't an exception, it's an expectation. How did the Reivers handle finishing out the spring 2020 semester in an uncertain time? By dominating, where they were able, in the virtual classroom. When the semester was all said and done, Iowa Western Student-Athletes had blown away their previous NJCAA high-water mark of 87, with 120 Reivers named to the Association's All-Academic list. 356 Reivers were selected as All-Conference Academic All-Region by the ICCAC. The overall Athletic Department GPA stood at 3.16 with Reiver Softball leading their peers at Iowa Western (and nationally) with a 3.72 team GPA. Reivers Baseball and Men's Soccer led the way on the Men's side with both recording a 3.49 team mark. Over the summer, the Reivers Coaching Staff worked diligently with the Athletic Training Department and campus officials to develop a return to play plan, only to find out on July 13th that a majority of sports were being moved to the spring season by the NJCAA. Now? For the majority of Reivers' teams, the adjustments continue. Men's and Women's Soccer and Football will wait until the Spring. Men's and Women's Basketball, Volleyball and Wrestling will also wait until January to begin. That leaves Men's and Women's Cross Country, Golf and Shotgun Sports to fill the void for competitions this fall. It's an adjustment for sure, but just like you, our Reivers will learn and grow from their time at IWCC and we're thankful for the coaches, faculty and staff that are here to help them navigate these untested waters. Sails up; go Reivers! 



### Greetings Reiver Nation:

By way of introduction, I am David Miller, the newly appointed Director of Athletics at Iowa Western Community College. First and foremost, I consider it an honor and privilege to serve Iowa Western Community College. As a native of Manning, Iowa, I have followed the growth and ascension of the College throughout its history. Furthermore, I have continually been impressed with the championship and academic achievement of Reiver Athletics. I believe very strongly in the role and value that intercollegiate athletics brings to Iowa Western, the community, and student-athletes. You will hear me advocate for the need to have a positive student-athlete experience. This positive student-athlete experience includes academic achievement that culminates in graduation; winning and championship results on the field of play, done with sportsmanship and class; and the social, and civic character development of each individual. I have no doubt that the Reiver athletic program is a source of pride and recognition with students, faculty and staff, alumni, and community. I am looking forward to meeting all of our stakeholders who are invested in the success of Reiver Athletics and our student-athletes. Sails Up!



David Miller

## ALUMNI BOARD

- Pam Beall-Hill (President), '88**  
*Community Volunteer*
- Diane Osbahr (Vice President), '90**  
*Iowa Western Community College*
- Brandon Green (Secretary/Treasurer), '07**  
*Collins Consulting*
- Stacy Shockey (Alumni Director), '98**  
*Iowa Western Community College*
- Jeannie Aldredge, '88**  
*SilverStone Group*
- Joyce Bartels, '86**  
*First National Bank of Omaha*
- Rhea Eitmann, '00**  
*Doll Distributing*
- Brandon Juon, '00**  
*Owner, Glory Days*
- Bailey McQueen-Jones, '10**  
*Career EdVantage SWI*
- Carol Robertson, '84**  
*Mills County Auditor's Office*
- Michael Watkins, '89**  
*Watkins Marketing & Media*

# IOWA WESTERN *Alumni* Association

## CLASS NOTES

1998

**Brooke Doner**

Begins her twentieth year of teaching for the Council Bluffs Community School district this fall. She has taught English in four different district schools throughout her career and served as an Instructional Coach for five years. After her time at IWCC, she went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in English Education at the University of Northern Iowa and her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Peru State University.

2005

**Rodney Tatar-Stanton**

Is a Director at Help Now Group, a human services application that allows outreach programs to run via one single platform as well as built in video conferencing and is a PROUD Reiver Alum!

2011

**Valyn Bodensteiner**

Has a new position as Communications Strategist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Iowa 4-H Youth Development. Valyn also received two industry certifications: American Marketing Association's (PCM) Professional Certified Marketer and Digital Marketing Institute's (CDMP) Certified Digital Marketing Professional.

2012

**Sarah Shackelford**

Recently took a new job as the Materials Manager/Surgical Technologist at Beacon Surgery Center in Lee's Summit, MO; This is a brand new surgery center that opened in March 2020.

2013

**Tiffany Benavides**

Working at Salem Lutheran Homes as Staff Development Coordinator, where she educates staff and residents.

2016

**Julie Chapman**

Works for LinkedIn and recently welcomed twin girls to the family. She also received a B.A in criminal justice from Buena Vista in 2019.

**Kelli Manhart**

Is a Program Technician at USDA Farm Service Agency and is getting married.

**LeAnna Mann**

Worked at Lozier Corporation from May 2017 to April 2020 in the IT department. LeAnna said she is fortunate to have a wonderful family and so glad she decided to go back to school to enhance her education when she did.

**Christopher Nightser**

Is a Prefab Operations Manager at Miller Electric Co and chairman of the Osni Ponca LLC board and PEDCO board; both economic development arms of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

2019

**Tia Griffin**

Is a licensed veterinary technician at Heartland Pet Hospital who passed her boards exam, bought a home, and got a second job.

**Jason Kleppinger**

Started a new job in July as a caseworker at the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

**Joe McCormick**

Is a nurse at Azria Health Clarinda who is currently seeking an ADN.

Send us your news or updated information! 

{iwcc.edu/foundation/alumni-relations}

## ALUMNI INFORMATION

The Iowa Western alumni office aims to reconnect alumni with the college. Watch the Iowa Western Alumni Association Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages for the latest information.

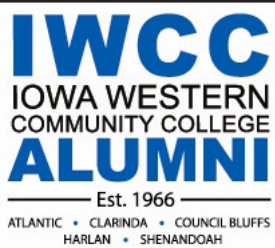
Questions: Contact the alumni office at 712-325-3269.

To be included in future alumni mailings, send your updated information to [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu) or visit us at [iwcc.edu](http://iwcc.edu) under FRIENDS & ALUMNI tab!

Follow us on social media!  
Facebook: Iowa Western Alumni Association



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*Iowa Western Community College*

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# 2020

“Receiving this scholarship has significantly reduced my tuition, allowing me to start my career path off right by focusing more on my education and getting excellent grades. I am extremely grateful for receiving a scholarship, and I know without it I would struggle financially and not have the opportunities I have with it.”

- Ella, Freshman



Follow [Iowa Western Foundation](#) and [Iowa Western Alumni Association](#) on Facebook and Instagram for details!

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