

# IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

## OUTSTANDING ALUM

Jeannie Aldredge, '88



in this issue

Fall 2016

2016 Outstanding Alum | Media Studies

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Welcome Fellow Alumni,

Fall has arrived on our beautiful campus. As a new year begins I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the newly elected president of the Iowa Western Alumni Association. Since graduating from Iowa Western in 1988, I have been so impressed with the transformations that the cam-

puses have undergone and am proud to be part of the Reiver family. I am thrilled to move into this position and represent an ever changing campus and alma mater.

We welcomed students back to campus and are excited for the upcoming year. Homecoming week is always an exciting time, and we kicked it off with a parade and pep rally, a Color 5K Run and Walk, and finished with a tailgate and football game. Each year during half time the Alumni Association honors one of it's own for contributions to both Iowa Western and the surrounding community. This year I'd like to congratulate Jeannie Aldredge as our 2016 Outstanding Alum. You can read more about Jeannie in the first article of this issue.

As an Iowa Western alum, you should be proud of your association with one of the top educational institutions in the country. On behalf of Iowa Western students, faculty and staff, I thank you for your interest in the college and encourage you to become actively involved in alumni activities. I invite you to connect with the Alumni Association; "friend" us on Facebook (Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association), follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/IW-CCAlum), send us an email at alum@iwcc.edu, or call us at 712.325.3282.

Go Reivers!

Pam Beall-Hill '88  
Alumni Board President



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Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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Fall 2016



# OUTSTANDING ALUM

## Jeannie Aldredge: Living the Dream

By Mike Watkins

While she's ecstatic to be selected as this year's Iowa Western Community College Outstanding Alum, Jeannie Aldredge remains a little perplexed as to why she was chosen for the honor.

Is it because of her 27-plus years at SilverStone Group as the Executive Assistant to Chairman John P. Nelson, who's been a longtime supporter and board member of the college? In her role, she plays an integral behind the scenes role in supporting his philanthropic, as well as, business endeavors.

Maybe it's because she's been a longtime, active member of the Council Bluffs Airport Authority, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for most of that time, or because she agreed this summer to sit on the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce board?

More than likely, Aldredge was selected because of all of these things, and despite her insistence that she doesn't deserve the award any more than anyone else, she's extremely honored and humbled.

But, that's just Jeannie being Jeannie — doing as much as she can to make everyone else feel comfortable and be successful, while choosing to do it without much fanfare or accolades for herself.

"I've never been someone who is comfortable with awards or being in the spotlight for something, but I plan to do as much as I can to celebrate this honor," she said from the boardroom at SilverStone Group.

While she said she isn't completely sure what her duties are as IWCC Outstanding Alum, Aldredge was excited to participate in the Homecoming parade (convertible and all) and be honored during halftime of the Oct. 15 Homecoming game. The college will also host a reception in her honor, on a yet to be determined date.

"I want to embrace this honor and experience all the fun and excitement that comes with it," she said. "When I was a student at Iowa Western in the mid-to-late 80s, we didn't have these kinds of activities. It means a lot to me to be thought of so highly by people and an organization that I respect so much."

An active member of the Council Bluffs community, Aldredge has shown time and time again that she is nearly indispensable to Nelson. She has proven this from her first day on the job, and she takes tremendous pride in and dedication to her work.

Right away, she took charge of Nelson's inbox and helped put his professional life into better order.

It's a role she still cherishes and knows is vital for Nelson and the firm to continue to be successful and serve clients in an efficient, effective manner.

"Jeannie is a true asset to me and to our company," says Nelson, a Council Bluffs native and Iowa Western Foundation board member. "She's been a great member of our team for many years and is one of the people I know I can depend upon and trust. She's like family."

Likewise, Aldredge says she has come to depend upon and trust Nelson and his family. Not only does her sister, Jill, work at the firm, but her father, Jim, worked for the organization following retirement from his full-time job, assisting the Founders of the company, Howard H. "Red" and Ruth Nelson, before they passed away in 2007.

"I can't imagine living anywhere else or working anywhere else than here," Aldredge said. "This

“I want to embrace this honor and experience all the fun and excitement that comes with it.”

2016

is my home. It's where I grew up, and it's where my friends and family are.”

A graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Aldredge originally thought that was enough education for her to get a good job. She later realized the need for an education beyond high school and attended Iowa Western in the mid-1980s.

She graduated in 1988 with her Associate of Arts degree, and almost immediately accepted the Executive Assistant position with Nelson and SilverStone Group, which started in 1945 as the Nelson Insurance Agency.

The rest is Aldredge's history — intertwined with that of the company and people whom she says have given her so much over the years.

"I've been involved with a lot and been through a lot of life altering changes during the past 25 years," Aldredge says. "I watched both my mom (Jan) and dad battle cancer and pass away within nine months of one another in 2010, became a step-mother, seen tremendous growth in the company through acquisitions and new office openings, and have truly enjoyed being a part of the continuing success of SilverStone. It's been a great fit for me from the start."

In addition to her professional growth and opportunities at SilverStone over the years, Aldredge says one of the most treasured parts of working for the organization is the relationship she has developed with the Nelson family.

While she says everyone at the firm is treated like family in many ways, Aldredge adds she has enjoyed a personal friendship with John, his wife, Anne, John's parents (now

deceased) and the couple's three children, now grown with careers and families of their own.

Because of the Nelson's personal commitment to philanthropy and giving back to the community, it's something encouraged throughout the company.







Aldredge volunteers as Director, Secretary, and Treasurer for the Mayor and City Council appointed Council Bluffs Airport Authority (serving a second four-year term) and previously served as a member of Executive Women International.


“John sits on several boards, and he and the family are generous supporters of many charities and community organizations. That made me want to get involved with the community in some capacity myself,” says Aldredge, who chaired the Thomas Jefferson 75-Year Reunion Committee in 1999, organizing an all-school reunion that brought more than 3,000 alumni to town to celebrate and reconnect, and has organized her own class reunions over the years.

She said that although she doesn’t visit the Iowa Western campus very often, when she does, she is amazed and proud of how much the Council Bluffs campus has grown and developed, since it was largely a commuter college when she was a student.

Nevertheless, when she reflects on her lengthy, loyal commitment to and history with SilverStone Group and the Nelson family, she knows it was mostly made possible because of the education she received at Iowa Western.

“I received a great education at Iowa Western, and I’m so proud to see how it has changed and evolved over the years from

the small community college to a thriving college and campus with wonderful new facilities and programs,” Aldredge says. “Working for John and SilverStone Group gave me a place in Council Bluffs, and I’m so grateful.”

“When I was a student at Iowa Western, I didn’t get involved. I went to class and came home or went to work. Now, it’s a true college environment for the students, and I’m very happy to say I went there. I am beyond excited and honored to be this year’s Outstanding Alum.” 





# Jason Spicoli

By John Fey

It wouldn't be much of a stretch to say that Jason Spicoli and a radio microphone were made for each other. It's easy to see how he's right at home as host of Spicoli's Morning Fiasco on 89.7 The River. But he was anything but comfortable when he made his debut 16 years ago as a student at Iowa Western.

"The first time before I went on the air – and this is embarrassing – I remember stopping in the bathroom and dry heaving," says the 35-year-old host of the Omaha area's No. 1 morning radio show. "I didn't think I could do it. I was so nervous. It's a 100,000-watt radio station that reaches all the way to Lincoln, Omaha, Council Bluffs and Des Moines. If you let that bang around in your head, it could be a little intimidating."

It didn't take long for Spicoli to get over that intimidation, and today he enjoys a loyal following of mostly men between 18 and 34. His interest in being a radio disc jockey dates to his years at Omaha Central High School.

Central offered students both hands-on experience in television and radio. Spicoli took a stab at TV before switching to radio. He became hooked immediately.

"The career center's station played jazz," he says. "It really wasn't my kind of music, but I was learning. We got to make up mock shows and we'd have fun, say a bunch of weird stuff. I thought radio gave you a little bit more freedom in what you could say, and you could play music. I thought that was really cool."

Iowa Western wasn't part of Spicoli's post-high school plan. He originally enrolled at UNO but after three semesters didn't see that as the vehicle to drive him to his career goal.

"There wasn't a lot of structure (at UNO)," he says. "I didn't feel like I was learning much."

Then came a conversation with a friend who suggested he give Iowa Western a look. The more he investigated, the closer he came to making the switch. His first impression was a smaller school compared to UNO.

"But once I went through and took a tour of the radio station and met people who were in the program, I suddenly got really excited that there was hope," he says. "I thought I could learn how to become a radio DJ there."

Clearly, he has learned the trade quite well and today enjoys entertaining what he calls "the World's Most Dangerous Audience." How so, you ask?

Spicoli created the on-air game called Dare Dice. Listeners submit "I dare you" suggestions to the radio personalities. Those dares are put into a cup, and one is chosen.

"Whoever rolls the lowest dice has 24 hours to get it done," he says. "We've had to chug shots of foot gravy, lick Dorito dust off fingers and other gross things courtesy of our listeners."

And that's why Spicoli calls them "the World's Most Dangerous Audience."

Of course, there's much more to his job on the FM station. He does the writing, announcing and producing of concert commercials. He's interviewed a number of big-name rock stars like Rob Zombie, Corey Taylor of Slipknot/Stone Sour, Avenged Sevenfold, Offspring and Blink 182. He's also host and voice of two of the biggest festivals in the metro, Rockfest and River Riot.

The River's popularity isn't limited to those who listen in their cars or online.

The station's Facebook page went from 12,000 likes to nearly 50,000 in less than two years, thanks mostly to his posts of relatable content for the station's listeners.

One occasional listener is Kent Cisar of Omaha. Though he's at the upper-end of The River's core audience at 39, Cisar enjoys the morning show.

"It's interesting in Omaha how a lot of morning shows have been around for a while," he says. "I am impressed at how Spicoli is not near college age but holds up well for that demographic."

Spicoli isn't just popular with listeners. General manager and program director Sophia John is his boss and a fan.

"Spicoli is a true entertainer with a commitment to our community," John says. "He transferred from UNO to IWCC because he wanted to have more hands-on opportunities. We have watched him grow up right in front of our eyes."

"He has gone from being a kid who stood at the corner of 72nd and Dodge in a diaper for attention, to a graduate of the radio media studies program at IWCC and a true leader. Ten years later, he is a proud Council Bluffs homeowner, newly married, surrounded by family, friends and faith in God."

Spicoli supports the annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk to help support suicide prevention. The most recent event last Sept. 11 drew more than 4,000 participants and raised more than \$90,000. He also backs the Special Olympics and Animal Rescue.

He and wife Emily are approaching their second anniversary. A hairstylist for more than 10 years, Emily was invited to the studio to join her husband as part of a recent concert promotion. The Christian rock band Skillet was preparing to perform at Omaha's Sokol Auditorium, and the station was giving out tickets and back-stage passes to the sold-out concert.

Explains Spicoli: "I said on the air, 'You can see Skillet, but you have to have a skul-



let,' where you're bald on top and have long hair in the back – like Hulk Hogan. I had people submit pictures on my Facebook page to show their hair. I picked two people to come into the radio station for the tickets but they had to have a skullet. It was so funny watching them get a skullet for Skillet."

"My wife was buzzing the top of their heads and leaving their hair long in the back. It was just so funny. We were live streaming on Facebook. It was a great week of radio. This is why I love The River, because it's real, local radio. You get involved with your listeners."

So what does Emily think of her husband's job?

"She thinks it's exhausting," he says, "because I'm always coming up with ideas and topics and conversation starters for people calling. I'm always trying to create something new."

With 10 years on the job, Spicoli couldn't be more happy with where he's at.

"It's a dream come true," he says. "I just couldn't believe that out of all the steps that you take to get there and you're finally on the air. I got a call from my mom saying, 'Hey, you did it. You're on the air.'"

Looking back, Spicoli believes the switch to IWCC was perfect.

"It was a pretty big deal," he says. "I was happy I could stay here, because we have the music I like. You have the freedom to do what you want, within reason."

Sophia John, his supervisor, predicts big things for her DJ.

"I am proud of the man he has become," she says, "and I am honored to work with, as well as listen to him on the radio. I have asked Spicoli what he wants on a regular basis, and his answer has remained the same, 'To make people laugh!' "



# Media Studies Alumnus Andrew Batt

By John Fey

Politics has long piqued the interest of Iowa Western alumnus Andrew Batt. As his resume has grown, so has his access to the front line in current events. As a senior producer of public affairs for Iowa Public Television, Andrew's career has given him an up-close view of American politicians - a perspective apart from the experience of many graduates.

During this historic election campaign, the 32-year-old Council Bluffs native is positioned closer to the candidates than many of us could picture. It all began when he dabbled in television journalism at Abraham Lincoln High School. After graduating in 2002, he took a close look at Iowa Western.

"When I went to Iowa Western, I was kind of curious as to what the opportunities were," Batt says. "I was pleasantly surprised to see the commitment and the infrastructure was already in place there."

There's quite an Iowa Western connection in the Batt family. His father, John Batt, was one of the original IWCC outstanding alumni in the mid-1990s, and an uncle, Robert Batt, was partially credited with suggesting the school's nickname Reivers. Brother Nick and sister Kaitlyn were IWCC students before moving on to Iowa State.

The highlight of Batt's two years at Iowa Western was his work producing a documentary on another Abraham Lincoln graduate, Ron Stander. Boxing fans know well the "Bluffs Butcher," who took on heavyweight Joe Frazier at the Omaha Civic Auditorium on May 25, 1972. Of course, Batt wasn't alive for that event, but he knew it would be an interesting documentary subject.

"Part of the reason I did that," he says, "is I wanted a different type of project while at Iowa Western. I wanted to do something in a documentary format. And I was looking forward to a story that had a Council Bluffs tie. Also it was something that maybe folks of a younger generation didn't know a lot about and maybe of an older generation that had forgotten some of the story. I knew a lot of people my age didn't know that someone from Council Bluffs was a boxer at the peak time in the history of boxing in the U.S."

That documentary served as a springboard of sorts for Batt. After earning his Associate of Arts degree at Iowa Western, he enrolled at Iowa State, where his interest in politics began to grow.

"My dual major was journalism and politics," he says. "During my time at Iowa State I interned at Iowa Public

Television."

It didn't take long for Batt to get his first taste of participating in a political event. He was a production assistant working on the floor of an Iowa debate televised in IPTV's studio. His job was to escort the candidates to the stage.

"It was people like Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton all here for a debate," he says. "That was my first opportunity in politics on IPTV. It really opened my eyes in that we're lucky here in Iowa - for so many reasons - but one of them is it's in our front door. And we have such an opportunity to be active participants, whether it be as journalists or as voters."

While his top interest is politics, Batt extends his work to other areas. He's senior producer of IPTV's outdoor recreation and conservation series "Iowa Outdoors." It covers Iowa's scenic environments and features stories from the Loess Hills just north of Council Bluffs and east to the Mississippi River.

A sports fan, he also produces IPTV's live broadcasts of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's state tournaments for basketball, volleyball, softball and soccer.

"There's a lot of history there," Batt says, "and to be able to cover state championships, it's not just another broadcast. I understand how much it means to the players, the parents, the coaches and the families at home across the state watching."

"It's a great opportunity to be there, not just as a producer but as an Iowan being responsible for bringing up the production value of those broadcasts. I take it a little personal that I'm an Iowan and I know people have a high standard for the broadcast at the high-school level."

But during this historic election season, politics has taken center stage for Batt and his colleagues at IPTV. It's an unprecedented time in everyone's lives and a special one for him.

"We had a year when we had so many candidates, especially on one side of the political aisle," he said. "But when you talk about the length of a campaign, one thing that's important is that a lot of folks pay attention to the general election campaign - which in many people's minds lasts maybe from the spring to the summer to the fall, which is a long time."

"When you think about it for Iowa, these candidates are here for almost an entire year before they go into the



primary. Yes, they're going to other states, but they almost spend more time in and out of the Iowa caucuses than they do in the campaign for the general election. That's fascinating as a journalist."

Over the past two years of the Iowa caucus campaign, Batt spearheaded multiple documentaries, resulting in 500 hours of footage featuring more than 15 presidential candidates. He also traveled the country interviewing ex-candidates like Bob Dole, Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis, as well as well-known campaign advisers James Baker and Joe Trippi for the documentary *Caucus Iowa: Journey to the Presidency*.

Over the past seven years, Batt has traveled the Midwest and elsewhere for programs surrounding agriculture and economic issues related to rural America for the PBS program *Market to Market*. IPTV earned a regional Emmy award for profiling a group of World War II veterans' honor flight to Washington, D.C.

While he has piled up all those miles outside of the state, Batt prefers staying close to home.

"I grew up in Council Bluffs," he says. "I'm not very far away from Des Moines, and we're close to covering the candidates who come to Iowa. It's literally in your own back yard. It's an incredible opportunity for those who want to explore and get into that level of political journalism."

So, what's ahead for Batt?

Batt has made a home for himself in Iowa with his wife and new daughter.

"I think sometimes that's a natural feeling as to what's the next step and where you might want to go," Batt says. "If anything, the last year and a half has shown me that there are incredible opportunities in Iowa, whether it be politics or sports."

"I met my wife at Iowa State. She's from Minnesota. My parents still live in the Council Bluffs area, so we get to see them. We're close to family. That would preclude us in the future from going somewhere. It does mean a lot to be in a place like the Midwest." ■



# Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships 2016



## IOWA WESTERN ANNUAL FUND

On September 24, more than 420 friends and supporters of Iowa Western gathered in the Kaneshville Arena for the 18th annual Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships. Led by chairs Deb and Doug Goodman, and co-chairs Joanie and Ron Tekippe, the 2016 Black Tie Harvest raised well over \$150,000 for student scholarships. This year's event featured a black and white "Masquerade" theme and guests were invited to join in the fun by donning masks along with their traditional black tie attire. The evening featured both a silent and live auction along with appetizers, cocktails and dinner. Over the past 18 years, the Black Tie Harvest has grown to be the college's single largest scholarship fundraising event; raising more than \$1.8 million for scholarships.

During the evening's festivities, guests took pause for a moment to honor the 2016 Investment in Excellence award recipient, Iowa West Foundation. The Investment in Excellence is one of the college's most prestigious awards and each year is presented to a select recipient that has exhibited significant support for the college and its students. Iowa West Foundation has shown continued commitment to Iowa Western and education throughout Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. This dedication to education is illustrated by Iowa West Foundation's lead role in the Pottawattamie Promise initiative.

Proceeds from the 2016 Black Tie Harvest will directly benefit the Iowa Western Pottawattamie Promise scholarship fund. Pottawattamie Promise is a joint initiative of Iowa Western, AKSARBEN Foundation, Iowa West Foundation and Peter Kiewit Foundation to improve post-secondary education preparation, access and completion so that students can obtain good jobs, earn competitive wages



and contribute to their community. In August of 2015, Iowa Western admitted 44 Pottawattamie Promise recipients. These students from the Council Bluffs Community School District and the Riverside Community School District were the first to receive full scholarship and housing support through the program. The second class of 61 students was admitted for the 2016-2017 school year and approximately 100 students are scheduled to enroll in 2017-2018 as the third class of Pottawattamie Promise recipients. The goal of the program is to have 250 Pottawattamie County students per year attend Iowa Western by 2020; providing opportunities for any student without the resources or support to attend college, and to succeed in attaining his or her academic dreams.

The Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships would not be possible without the support of college friends and the tireless efforts of volunteers. A very special thank you to all who helped make the 2016 event a success; raising much needed scholarship funds for worthy Iowa Western students.

### 2016 BLACK TIE COMMITTEE

Deb and Doug Goodman, Event Chairs	
Joanie and Ron Tekippe, Co-Chairs	
Stacy Shockey, Black Tie Director	
Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western President	
Molly Noon, VP of Institutional Advancement	
Shawna Atteberry	Don Kohler
Pam Beall-Hill	Cindi Konsor
Susan and Keith Bentley	Barb and Dr. Barry Kricsfeld
Becky Burgart	Dorothy Laubenthal
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Jason James	Sharon Ryan
Tracy and John Jerkovich	Kathryn and Jay Schuster
Nancy Kinney	Bailie Shada
Terry Knipp	Erin Stopak
Judd Knispel	Natha Tabor
	Verne Welch



From top: Event chairs Deb and Doug Goodman; Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western President, with Rick Crowl and Rick Killion who received the Excellence Award on behalf of Iowa West Foundation; Pottawattamie Promise Scholarship recipient, Abbi Fisher, shares with the audience how the scholarship has assisted her.

Scholarship support is helping me *achieve my goals*. Attending college and being a Reiver makes me feel *proud*!

- Miya, Freshman



Each year, scholarships transform the lives of thousands of Iowa Western students. Join the Iowa Western Foundation annual fund campaign and help worthy students achieve their educational dreams.

The 2016 annual fund campaign is underway to raise much-needed support for Iowa Western student scholarships. The need is real—more than 80 percent of Iowa Western students qualify for financial aid and 66 percent are the first in their family to attend college. For these students, a scholarship can provide the positive influence to keep them on the path to success.

Use the attached envelope to make a contribution or give now at [www.foundation.iwcc.edu](http://www.foundation.iwcc.edu).



Complete the envelope to make a difference !



# Media Studies

## Program

By Kara Schweiss



Nick Grimm is ready for graduation next spring, but he's already working part-time as a producer for the "Morning Fiasco" radio show on IWCC's 89.7 The River, where he also has served as music director, and he recently also landed a part-time position with NRG Media.

Sausha Thomas, a 2012 graduate, produces a sports radio show for the Omaha World-Herald ("The Bottom Line with Mike'l Severe") and secured multiple internships in the field while still a student. Cem Brinklow, another graduate (2013), joined television station KETV while still in school and works there today as a full-time photojournalist.

At other institutions, these students' experiences might be considered exceptional, but IWCC's Media Studies program emphasizes hands-on learning and providing real-world connections, says Kaci Richter, the program chair.

"Four of the five programs are Associate of Applied Science degrees, so those are career and technical and would be intended for students to spend two years with us and go into the workforce. The other is an Associate of Arts, which is intended for students to transfer," she says.

"Students can really take advantage of our facilities. We have a radio station and a television station and amazing athletic programs."

"Because of the resume they helped me build, I have the job with NRG Media," Grimm says.

"The program is amazing and I love it. And it's super-hands-on. I'm so lucky to be blessed with the opportunities I've been given."

Thomas agrees. "There are connections through instructors alone that really benefited my career personally, and then I did the work of shoving my foot in as many doors as I could," she says. "My education at IWCC really benefitted me a great deal."

"It not only helped me with the skills, but the networking," Brinklow says of his time at IWCC. "If you stay proactive and never say no to an opportunity, you never know where it might lead you."

Students in the media program can choose from four two-year courses of study in which they are awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree upon graduation.

"If you've completed the two-year program, we have the kind of reputation where employers know what you can do. Students are ready to get out there and start finding who they were meant to be as an adult and a professional," Richter says.

The Media Production program includes coursework in studio and field production, video editing, and news and script writing for students interested in pursuing careers in

news, documentary production and sports. Students gain practical experience through multiple means like the on-campus cable channel (CBTV-17), Facebook and YouTube sites. Graduates typically find work in such roles as camera operators, editors, control room operators and assistant producers in media production facilities.

Radio Performance and Production classes are centered around Iowa Western's own 89.7 The River, a 100,000-watt FM radio station and the area's top-rated alternative rock station. "They're on a radio station that is competing with commercial radio stations," Richter says. Students learn about on-air performance, promotions, sales, management, writing and producing commercials, news writing and reporting, and programming. Graduates may become announcers, production assistants or directors, creative services specialists or other on-air or production team members.

The Radio Promotions, Sales and Web program offers coursework in event planning, web development, sales and social

“If you stay *proactive* and never say no to an *opportunity*, you never know where it might lead you.”  
- Cem Brinklow





media. Related careers include account executive, promotions director, webmaster, and creative services associate.

Sports Media Technology courses include sports announcing, video and audio production, and sports writing; preparing students for careers as sports media specialists in radio, television, and journalism.

Most Media Studies students are enrolled in the two-year programs, Richter says, but since media fundamentals are covered in every class, the door is open for those who decide they want to complete a bachelor's degree later. Students who enter the program knowing they want to transfer to a four-year institution can enroll in the comprehensive Radio/Television/Video program to explore a variety of career options and earn an Associate of Arts degree.

Classes are “fun but challenging,” Richter says. All five programs provide a mix of applied lab work to augment classroom time, and several of the programs require internships outside of IWCC’s channels. It’s not uncommon for students to secure entry-level positions immediately upon graduation—and sometimes before—she says, at traditional media facilities or in media departments for commercial and nonprofit entities. Other graduates become freelancers.

Program instructors come from many fields (like radio, in her case) to bring a variety of experience to the table along with valuable networking opportunities.

“We draw from newspapers, we draw from local sports teams, we have adjuncts who are working in the field every day so they have that real-world, applicable experience and they have great connections for our students,” she says. “If you go to any media outlets in the area,



(top from left to right) Media studies students at 89.7 The River radio station; Kaci Richter, program chair of the Media Studies program.  
(bottom) Media Studies students capture moments during a football game.

“Spread *awareness* through word-of- mouth, the *program* is second to none.”

- Kaci Richter

you will find our students.”

As the primary objective of professionals in the field has changed from finding information to culling information, the program has evolved, too, Richter says.

“They’re drinking from a fire hose,” she says. “Their challenge is not to find information, but to determine what is good, what is entertaining, what is relatable, and to deliver it in their voice.”

And as new channels have emerged, the program has kept up, Richter says.

“It’s all very interconnected, so instead of creating a new media major, we have integrated new media into every level of what we do in all of our existing majors,” she says. “There’s a big difference between using social media and new media and creating social media and new media. Traditional media outlets—television stations, radio stations, even newspapers—they are not immune from creating content on new media platforms and reaching across other traditional media platforms to really create their message.”

Alumni can support the Media Studies program by contributing to scholarship funds for both incoming and established students, Richter says, by creating applicable work-study opportunities in the field, or simply helping to get the word out.

“Spread awareness through word-of-mouth,” she says. “The program is second to none.” [u](#)



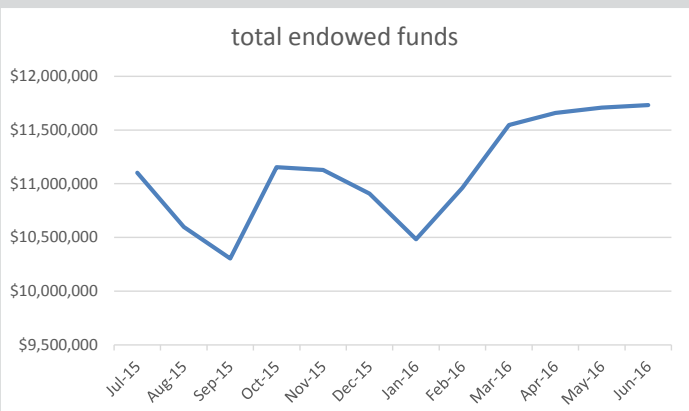
# Iowa Western Foundation annual report

Iowa Western Community College is committed to excellence in meeting the educational needs of students. The Iowa Western Community College Foundation is proud to provide support to both the college and students as they achieve their educational goals.

This Foundation review highlights several activities and efforts of the Iowa Western Community College Foundation over the last year, including scholarship awards and fundraising. Each year, the financial needs of students continue to rise. More than 80% of Iowa Western students are eligible for financial aid and student surveys cite financial need as one of the greatest challenges they face to stay in school.

Thanks to generous donors, the Foundation has facilitated scholarships for thousands of students. As the calendar year draws to a close, please consider a contribution to the Iowa Western Community College Foundation.

total endowed  
funds - **\$11,731,596**

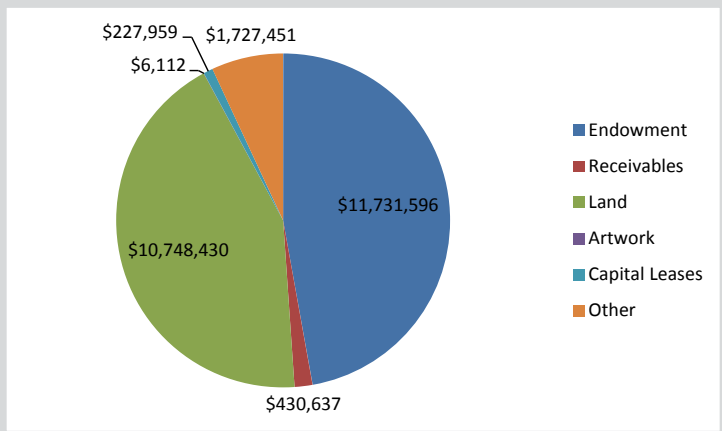


## 2016 highlights

*Students received*  
**1,452 scholarships**  
totaling **\$3,279,010**

*IWCC Foundation hosted*  
events for nearly  
**2,000 alumni & friends**

total foundation  
assests - **\$24,872,185**



## signature events

**BLACK TIE HARVEST FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**  
September 24, 2016  
**\$158,750**

**GOLF SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENTS**  
June 2016 - September 2016  
**\$34,939**

**ANNUAL FUND & EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN**  
2016  
**\$36,626**

# Bonded for Life



Jenna Dunn and Madison Dunning created a close bond while tumbling and shouting for their Iowa Western Reiver sports teams. Recently, the two talented former members of the Iowa Western Spirit Team reunited to show off their skills, albeit on separate sidelines.

Dunn and Dunning faced off for the Iowa versus Iowa State football game on September 10 in Iowa City. It was a memorable day for both, who enjoyed award winning seasons at Iowa Western. The interstate rivalry was a great opportunity for the two Reiver alumni to reconnect and reminisce.



Jenna Dunn is a graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs and a 2014 graduate of Iowa Western. As a member of the Reiver Spirit Squad, Jenna competed with several award winning teams, receiving second place recognition at UCA Nationals three separate times and both third and fourth place awards at the World University Championships. Jenna is currently a senior at Iowa State University.

Madison Dunning is also from Council Bluffs and came to Iowa Western from St. Albert High School. Before her graduation from IWCC in 2016, Madison was part of the Reiver Spirit Teams that boasted a second place finish at the UCA Nationals and a 2016 World University Championship. Madison is currently a junior at the University of Iowa.

Iowa Western cheer has built a solid foundation with graduates like Dunn and Dunning. The Reivers have won countless awards, including being named 2016 World University Champions. **uw**



# Reiver Athletics

By Jeremy Capo



It has been just over 100 days on the job since arriving on campus the last week of June. In that time, we've worked diligently to continue to create a culture of excellence and discipline within our programs and student athletes. We've adopted new goals that will become the core of what we do.

Those goals are simple, yet they require great discipline and attention to detail.

Rings. Diplomas. Leaders.

First, we want every single one of our student athletes to have the opportunity to compete for a championship. That's your goal; that's our goal! Second, when they leave here, our student athletes need to have their diploma, or golden ticket, as I like to refer to it. This will open up so many more opportunities both academically and athletically. Finally, we want them to leave here as leaders, knowing that through our culture of excellence and discipline, they are equipped to head into their next great adventure, ready to take control of it and contribute positively to their team and society.

The fall season has been fast and furious. Each one of our teams has spent time ranked inside the top 10 of their respective sports. Currently, Volleyball (No. 2), Men's Soccer (No. 4), and Women's Soccer (No. 7) remain in the top 10 having played some of the toughest competition in the nation. The Reiver Men's and Women's Cross Country teams check in at No. 21 and 19, respectively. Football began the season ranked No. 6, and had a huge win over then No. 2 Butler, 49-7. With the postseason quickly approaching these programs, I have no doubt that our coaches and student athletes are prepared to continue to keep Iowa Western at the forefront of the NJCAA.

The promise of the winter and spring seasons is already beginning to show as I have personally observed every one of our programs give maximum effort in both the weight room and at practice. I am very blessed to have a front row seat! I cannot begin to explain the excitement and passion I have for the future. I truly believe in the greatness of each one of our coaches and student athletes.

I look forward to meeting and visiting with many, if not all, of you in the coming months. Your encouragement and support of our student athletes is what makes Reiver Athletics great!

Your SUPPORT  
Their EFFORT  
OUR CHAMPIONS!



## ABOUT CAPO

Iowa Western welcomes Jeremy Capo as its new athletic director. Capo comes to IWCC after spending the last two years as athletic director at New Mexico Junior College. During his time at NMJC, Capo was able to increase the department and booster club fundraising efforts by 83 percent. He also led the Thunderbirds through an extensive rebranding campaign that included fresh new logos and fonts for the department's six programs as well as a new department website.

Of his accomplishments at NMJC, what Capo is most proud of is the fact that during his final year there, the cumulative GPA of all the student athletes was above a 3.1, a goal that he hopes to continue at Iowa Western.

Prior to his time at NMJC, Capo spent 10 years in Colorado. He most recently served Colorado State University-Pueblo as the Associate Director of Athletics for Athletics Development where he was responsible for the oversight of engaging with boosters and supporters, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for CSU-Pueblo's scholarship drive and coordinating special events.

Prior to being named the Associate Director of Athletics for Athletic Development in 2012, Capo served as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Facilities, where he managed operations for such events as the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships as well as each home CSU-Pueblo football regular season and NCAA post season games.

Capo is excited to head Reiver Athletics and will be developing a strategic plan to lead the department through the next five-to-seven years.

Capo, a 2002 graduate of Fort Hays State University, Kansas, arrived at CSU-Pueblo after serving as the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Facilities at Adams State College until 2004. The Colorado Springs native received his Master's degree in Health and Human Performance with an emphasis in Administration from Fort Hays State University in 2004.

Capo and his wife, Darcie, have three children: Ashton (17), Makenzie (11) and Riley (6).



1967  
**Mildred Willard** is retired after 17 years in the nursing field.

1969  
**Elizabeth “Ann” Green** is a licensed practical nurse – certified at the Methodist Physicians Clinic in Council Bluffs, IA. Ann has been with the Methodist Jennie system for 42 years.

1970  
**Connie (Christensen) Schulz** is retired licensed practical nurse and loving it!

**Sue (Steenbock) Trede** is a triage nurse at Methodist Physicians Clinic in Omaha, NE.

**Cindy Henderson** retired from fulltime nursing in 2015 and is currently working part-time with Methodist Health Systems in Omaha, NE.

1976  
**Judy Casey** is retired but working part-time.

1982/1993  
**Gail “Renee” St. Pierre-Piper** is the dental hygiene director at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA.

1983  
**Terry Stuhr** is an assistant engineer at ATS Mobile Telephone in Omaha, NE.

1999  
**Jane Murray** is a medical review nurse at HMS Federal in Omaha, NE.

2000  
**Michelle Zoucha** is an adjunct clinical instructor for Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA and Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

2005  
**Tiffany Lehan** is a dental assistant at Bolamperti Family Dentistry in Omaha, NE.

**Amy Peterson** is a certified dental assistant for Dr. Debra Wes, DDS in Omaha, NE.

2006  
**Rashelle Fenner** is a dental hygienist for Shenandoah Family Dentistry in Shenandoah, IA.

**Kristina Dotzler** is a registered dental hygienist for Broadway Dental in Denison, IA.

**Brad Silvey** is the assistant women's soccer coach at

• Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

• **Nathan Mahlberg** is teen librarian at the Council Bluffs Public Library in Council Bluffs, IA.

• 2007  
• **Tara McBride** is a dental assistant for Evan Perry DDS in Provo, UT.

• **Courtnie Dennis** is a customer solutions supervisor at PayPal in Omaha, NE.

• **Amanda Lane** is a registered nurse at Oral Surgery Associates in Omaha, NE.

• **Whitni Staneli** is domestic engineer at Staheli and Co in Utah. Whitni and her husband Jason have two little boys.

• **Becca Schreiber** is an assistant general manager for Rudy's BBQ in Texas.

• 2008  
• **Hannah Silvey** is a recreation coordinator for Lindon Parks & Recreation in Lindon, UT.

• **Karalee Clark** is a stay at home mom to four wonderful kids.

• **Kim White** is a stay at home mom to one beautiful daughter.

• **Katie Tesch** and her husband Jared have two children.

• **Lindy (Stauffer) Mabeus** works in accounts and billing at Rig Dog Oilfield Services in Williston, ND. Lindy and husband Steven have two daughters and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their first son.

• **Melinda Schneider** is a nursing instructor at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA. Melinda received her MSN in 2015.

• **Jessica Pauley** is a nursing instructor at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA. Since graduation, Jessica has received her MSN.

• **Jackie Hoyt** is an adjunct faculty member at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA.

• **Erica Anderson** is the director of marketing at the Brighton Home Health & Hospice in Murray, UT. Erica and husband Curtis have two beautiful children.

• 2009  
• **Bethany Yoch** is a registered dental hygienist at Montclair Dental Associates in Omaha, NE. Bethany and

• husband Michael have two sons.

• **Marene Gomez** is the CEO/Founder at Imperial LLC in South Jordan, UT.

• **Ashley Brown** is an occupational therapy doctor.

• 2010  
• **Autumn Tanner** is a dental assistant at Omni Dental in Council Bluffs, IA. Autumn is married and has two sons.

• **Heidi Beranek** is a registered nurse at CHI Bergan in Omaha, NE. Heidi and her husband Ben have two children – Owen and Emily.

• **Cole T Bell** is a clinical informatics registered nurse at the Memorial Community Hospital and Health Systems in Blair, NE.

• **Kim McKinley** is the patient care coordinator at Nebraska Surgery & Pain Center in Omaha, NE.

• **Opeyemi “Opa” Oloyede** is a clinical nurse for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Omaha, NE.

• **Pascal Mbilain-Jama** is a charge nurse at the Life Care Center of Elkhorn in Elkhorn, NE.

• **Laura (Bomgaars) Krallman** is a kindergarden teacher at Springfield Platteview Schools in Springfield, NE. Laura and husband Kurt will welcome their daughter in October.

• 2011  
• **Joey (Andino) Enright** is a dental hygienist for Summit Dental Health in Omaha, NE.

• 2012  
• **Tanya Wright** is a registered dental hygienist for Midwest Dental in Waverly, IA.

• **Kelly Rehling** is a dental hygienist for Panneton Dental Group in LaVista, NE.

• **Deresa Hugues** is a dental hygienist for Knauss Dental in Omaha, NE.

• **Linzi A Nouel Sosa** is a registered nurse for the CHI & CCHS Systems. Linzi and her family do missionary work in Haiti.

• 2013  
• **Jessica Capizano** is a registered dental hygienist for Tiburon Family Dental in Omaha, NE.

• **Monica LaCasse** is a dental hygienist for Robert Colwell DDS in Bellevue, NE.

## ALUMNI EVENTS

The Iowa Western alumni office hosts a variety of events aimed at reconnecting alumni with the college.

If you are interested in planning an alumni event, contact the alumni office at 712-325-3282. It is always great to have alumni back on campus!

To be included in future reunion mailings, send your updated information to alum@iwcc.edu. Visit us at iwcc.edu or facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends.

## ALUMNI BOARD

**Pam Beall-Hill (President), '88**  
*Community Volunteer*

**Diane Osbahr (Vice President), '90**  
*Iowa Western Community College*

**Joyce Bartels (Secretary/Treasurer), '86**  
*First National Bank of Omaha*

**Sarah Saar (Alumni Director), '02**  
*Iowa Western Community College*

**Scott Belt, '77 & '82**  
*Heartland Properties*

**Kolay Carver, '07**  
*Iowa Western Community College*

• **John Cool, '81**  
• *Iowa School for the Deaf*

• **Dan Feller, '84**  
• *Owner, Varsity Freight*

• **Brandon Green, '07**  
• *Iowa Western Community College*

• **Brandon Juon, '00**  
• *Owner, Glory Days*

• **Shawna Klindt, '01**  
• *Butterbaugh Insurance*

• **Jill Schurman, '03**  
• *Iowa Western Community College*

**Rachel Zeleny** is a registered dental hygienist for Dr. Dennis Martin DDS, Inc. in Lincoln, NE.

**Jenon Shadden** is a registered dental hygienist for Stuntz Family Dentistry in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Hannah (Vecera) Rief** is a dental hygienist for Summit Plaza Dental Care in Bellevue, NE.

**Amanda Laubenthal** is a registered nurse at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Maegan Drummond** is the director of nursing at Good Samaritan Society in Omaha, NE.

2014  
**Ashley Cerny** is a dental assistant for Dr. J. Terry Johnson in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Megan Jack** is a licensed practical nurse at Glen Haven Home in Glenwood, IA.

**Courtney Walker** is a registered nurse at Jennie Edmundson in Council Bluffs, IA.

2015  
**Katelyn Wheeldon** is a dental assistant at Papillion Dental Care in Papillion, NE. Katelyn has one son Gavin who is one.

**Tiffanie Keller** is a dental assistant for Family Dentist – Richard Warner DDS in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Jessica Smith** is a dental assistant for Western Iowa Dental in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Kathryn Anderson** is a dental hygienist for Millard Oaks Dental in Omaha, NE.

**Marjean Schwitters** is a dental hygienist for Millard Oaks Dental in Omaha, NE.

**Madi Baack** is a registered dental hygienist for Papillion Dental Care in Papillion, NE.

**Brittani Haman** is a registered dental hygienist for Heartland Dental in Omaha, NE.

**Stephanie Shehan** is a licensed practical nurse at Glen Haven Home in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Kokou Azonyibo** is a registered nurse – charge nurse at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.

**Paula Jordan** is an internal medicine and rheumatology registered nurse at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, NE.

2016  
**Richard Gerdes** is a diesel tech at Murphy Tractor in Omaha, NE.

**Amber Kai** is a pharmacy technician for Hy-Vee.

**Emma Pruett** is a dental assistant at Western Iowa Dental in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Brea Bedell** is a dental assistant for Dr. Allan Smith, DDS in Bellevue, NE.

**Kristi Brock** is a physical therapist assistant in a long term care facility.

**Vanessa Vergamini** is a client services coordinator at Ameriserve in Council Bluffs, IA. Vanessa has two children – Mark and Aidan.



Photos from Homecoming (clockwise) The Polka Police pump up the crowd during the tailgate; One of the many floats during the homecoming parade; Trenton Johnette, age 12, takes it all in stride during the first annual 5K color run & walk; Lor'Renzo Pratt making an impressive run during the football game.

# 2016



2016 Hall of fame inductees - (Right) Miller Orthopedic Specialist award recipients with IWCC athletic director, Jeremy Capo. (Bottom left to right) Members of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 women's soccer teams; Isaiah Samoei - Men's Cross Country & Track, receives his award from IWCC track coach Emmett Statzer







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Council Bluffs, IA 51503-1057

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# Celebrating 50 years

50 year time capsule to be  
opened in 2066!



Dr. Dan Kinney (Iowa Western president), Joseph Clark (student) and Todd Chipman (faculty senate president) at the 50th time capsule celebration that was held on October, 25 2016.



Iowa Western Community College  
groundbreaking