

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



in this issue

Spring 2018

HiSET & Education 2 Employment | Reivers in the Community

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In this edition of the Iowa Western Alumni and Friends you will read about how the college is having an impact on its communities in ways that most do not consider. For years the college has placed emphasis on creating community engagement by our students.

We believe when our students develop a set of skills that prepare them for more than jobs that they can become civic-minded professionals needed by our society. Not only will our

students be well prepared for career success in the jobs needed in our economy, they are and will be prepared for active citizenship. Enjoy reading about a few of the ways our student and alumni are engaged in our communities. We are proud of how our students, staff and alumni are involved in service to community in so many ways, and the impact they are having on our quality of life for Iowans.

Dr. Dan Kinney
President

Fred Lisle
(1960-2018)

On March 27, 2018, Iowa Western experienced a tragic loss with the passing of Fred Lisle. President of Lisle Corporation and Board of Trustee since 2007, Fred was actively involved with advancing the college’s mission of providing quality educational services to residents of Southwest Iowa. Fred and his wife, Brenda, have long supported scholarship programs that help students achieve their goals of attaining a college education. In 2017, Fred’s leadership and expertise were integral to the planning and implementation of the new Center for Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing at the Iowa Western Clarinda Center. Iowa Western is deeply saddened by the loss of longtime friend and alumnus, Fred Lisle.



Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

Editor
Sarah Saar

Contributors
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Spring 2018

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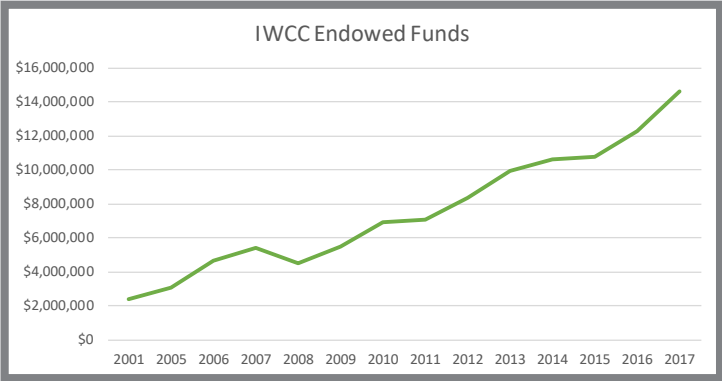
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Iowa Western Foundation Annual Report

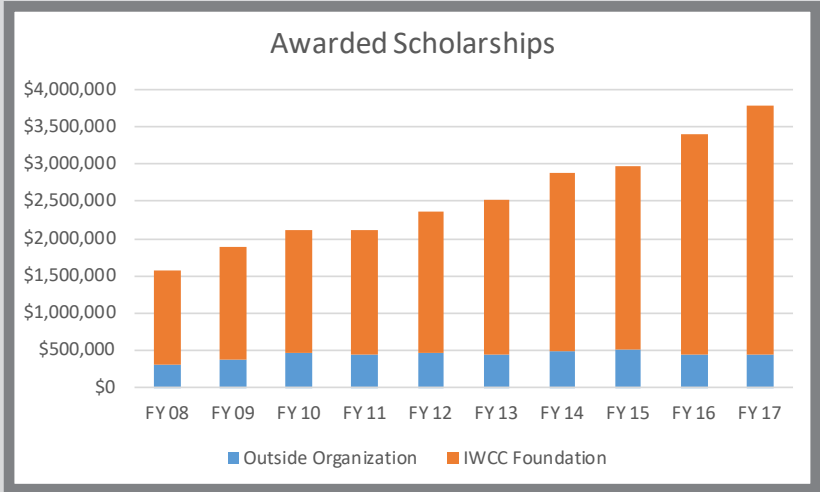
The Foundation Annual Report highlights several activities and efforts of the Iowa Western Community College Foundation over the last year, including scholarship awards and fundraising. Each year, the financial needs of students continue to rise. More than 70% of Iowa Western students are eligible for financial aid and student surveys cite financial need as one of the greatest challenges they face to stay in school.

The Iowa Western Community College Foundation is proud to provide support to both the college and students as they achieve their educational goals. Thanks to generous donors, the Foundation has facilitated scholarships for thousands of students. Please consider a contribution to the Iowa Western Community College Foundation.

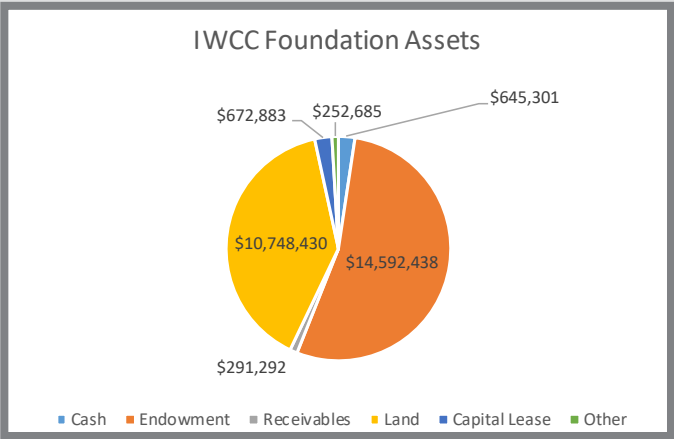
total endowed
funds - **\$14,592,438**



total awarded
scholarships - **\$3,791,666**



total foundation
assets - **\$27,203,029**



signature events

BLACK TIE HARVEST FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
September 30, 2017
\$153,525

GOLF SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENTS
June 2017 - September 2017
\$16,213

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGNS
2017
\$28,333

Alumni Spotlight: Nick Endorf

Nicholas Endorf first entered IWCC's sustainable energy program in 2015 intending to become a wind turbine technician because "they were the only college in the area offering that program." Based on a brief stint at another institution, the former U.S. Navy flight engineer expected to spend his time at college lost in the shuffle. He was almost immediately surprised.

"Before I joined the Navy, I attended a large state university where I felt like just a number, not a student. I expected the same at Iowa Western, but I was definitely wrong in that aspect," he said. "Every instructor not only went above and beyond to accommodate my academic goals, they also encouraged me to become more involved with my academic passions and step out of my comfort zones, which allowed me to accomplish more academically and personally than I ever imagined."

By the time he graduated with an associate degree in 2017, Endorf had a long list of projects and accomplishments under his belt. Working with multiple departments, he established a composting protocol to reduce food waste on campus. He helped establish an annual Earth Day social event. He set up a program to repurpose waste vegetable oil from the cafeteria and turn it into usable biodiesel. He developed a mobile solar-powered water filtration system with two of his peers. He built a solar and wind hybrid system. He ushered an aquaponics system and solar tree project through the research and development stage. And in 2017, he was named to the All-Iowa Community College Academic Team.

By the time Endorf graduated in 2017, his vision of his future career had changed, and a long-held dream had re-emerged.

"My love of teaching was rekindled, and I knew I wanted to spend my life in the world of academia," Endorf said. He's currently attending Bellevue University, working toward a bachelor's degree in sustainability management, and intends to apply soon for a master's program at the University of Denver in environmental policy management and energy and sustainability. After that he hopes to pursue a doctoral degree with the ultimate goal of becoming a college professor. In the meantime, he's already begun his teaching career as an adjunct instructor at IWCC.

“My love of teaching was rekindled, and I knew I wanted to spend my life in the world of academia.”
- Nick Endorf

“I really like it. Actually, I really love it. It’s an indescribable feeling to be able to come to work with the instructors that taught me so much and impacted me so deeply at Iowa Western, and it’s really an honor to work alongside these individuals and continue to be mentored by them,” he said. Although clearly self-motivated, Endorf said his instructors helped push him to excellence. “Hopefully I can provide students with the life-changing experience my instructors provided me with.”

Endorf’s field of study is a reflection of his personal beliefs. “I chose sustainable energy because I wanted to study something that was important for me personally,” he said, explaining that his commitment to sustainability begins at home with his wife’s and his lifestyle choices for themselves and their toddler and infant sons.

“We do as much as we can. We recycle and compost,” he said. “My wife is vegan for ethical and environmental reasons. We minimize our footprint as much as possible...We just try to live a minimalist life that is suitable for us.” Endorf also volunteers for The Big Garden, a nonprofit that advocates for community gardening.

Endorf’s program of study at IWCC also reenergized his commitment to the fundamental principles of sustainability, but on a larger scale.

“I believe that renewable energy is the way of the future in terms of energy independence. I believe minimizing greenhouse



gas emissions is a moral obligation for all of mankind and a global priority for the 21st century must be to tackle CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and replace them with sources of energy that are cleanable, sustainable and renewable. Fossil fuels are also a finite resource on our planet, and if we continue to deplete them at the current rate that we are, we won’t be leaving anything for our children,” he said. “With the expected global growth of the energy sector, there’s going to be a crucial need for qualified and skilled technicians with special knowledge of the relevant technology...There is a lot of interest in ‘green collar’ work.”

Carol Young, a sustainable energy instructor, said Endorf distinguished himself beyond his academic performance. “What’s unique about Nick is the way he approaches sustainable living with his personal development and lifestyle and then how he applies that to projects,” she said. “One of the first things we always talk about is asking questions. Nick picked up on that real quick. He was always able to ask questions to therefore drill down to identify issues and be a problem-solver. The piece that goes with that is recognizing community. He was always helpful to other students and to projects that he wasn’t even part of. He always wanted to help and participate.”

Above and left: Endorf in the sustainability lab at Iowa Western.

Reivers in the Community

By Mike Watkins

It doesn’t take a lot to positively impact the lives of others. Whether it’s a large gesture or something on the smaller side, we can all find ways to give back.

Here are three stories of how IWCC faculty, staff, students and alumni partner with members of the community to make gestures of kindness with their time, skills and caring for others.

IWCC Volleyball Helps Houston

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Houston last August, the city was left with a need for a variety of household and personal items lost or damaged by the storm. Prior to heading south for a tournament at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas (just northwest of Houston), the Iowa Western volleyball team collected boxes and bag loads of items to take with them.

Alicia Williams, head coach of the Reivers, and her team members organized the drive – and delivered the items stored in the baggage compartment of the charter bus they took down for the tournament.

“Blinn College was holding a huge fundraiser with the proceeds going to relief efforts in Houston, so the team decided to get the entire campus involved with doing something to help,” Williams said.

“We received so many items – so much support from faculty, staff and students as well as from the community – that we were able to fill the underside of our bus. It was fantastic to see everyone come

Right: A small portion of the items collected;
Below: The 2017 volleyball team.



together like that to support another community in another state.”

Among the items donated during the week-long drive were three boxes of toothbrushes from Stuntz Family Dentistry along with clothes, toiletries and a variety of other household items.

“We were truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of support,” Williams said. “I often found boxes and bags of items hanging from my and (athletic director) Jeremy’s (Capo) office door when I would arrive in the mornings, and there were individual drives from different departments. Faculty encouraged students to donate. It was a campus-wide effort.” When she and her team arrived in Brenham (they were originally scheduled to compete at the San Jacinto College tournament in Pasadena, Texas, which is a suburb of Houston, but the tourney was cancelled due to the hurricane), everyone at Blinn was shocked and overwhelmed by the amount of items they donated.

But Williams said the real impact was experienced by her team members and the tremendous feeling of satisfaction they felt from helping others. “It was a real eye-opener for our athletes; it’s sometimes hard for an 18-year-old to get it, that people lost everything because of these natural disasters and it’s important to do something to help them when you can,” Williams said. “This proved to be a great bonding moment for our team; everyone really came together, and we all left Texas feeling very proud of Iowa Western and everyone who helped.”

Osbahr Gives the Gift of Life

Diane Osbahr and her family have been dedicated Reivers since the 1980s. Both she and her late husband, Rob, are alumni, and their son, Connor, is a sophomore who will graduate this May with his Associate of Science degree from IWCC. He will move on to a four-year school in the fall to finish his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry. After earning her associate’s degree in 1990, Diane started working at her alma mater (and still does, now as the Director of Central Services overseeing purchasing for the college among other duties), and Rob worked on the campus for several years as well. In the fall of 2013, Rob underwent a stem cell transplant on the seventh anniversary of his original diagnosis of leukemia in 2006. On the 100th day after his transplant – a “good milestone” according to Diane – disease attacked his body, and in a short period of time, his health deteriorated quickly. For the next three months, he received many blood and platelet transfusions. After he passed away in April 2014, Diane knew she wanted to do something to help out others in his memory and honor. She decided giving back of herself was the best way to do it. “I have always donated blood a few times a year, so at Christmas in 2015, I decided to try donating platelets,” she said. “It was my Christmas gift to Rob.”



Above: Head Volleyball Coach Alicia Williams.



Above: Diane Osbahr donates platelets.

Platelets are tiny blood cells that help your body form clots to stop bleeding. If one of your blood vessels gets damaged, it sends out signals that are picked up by platelets. The platelets then rush to the site of the damage and form a clot to repair the damage. Diane said donating platelets is a three-hour process from start to finish, and in 2016, she decided to return to donate a few more times. Then in 2017, she decided she wanted to try and donate 12 times over the course of the year – with 24 being the most you can donate in a 12-month period. When she got to 12, she decided to keep on donating. “I thought, heck I can keep going,” she said. “It became a passion for me, to help out as much as I could. I made it to 18 times in 2017 before finding out after Christmas that I had donated my limit for my size and they cut me off until the end of April this year.”

“I didn’t realize there were limits before the 24 times a year, so I was crushed at first, but then realized I did all I could. When I donate, I’m so grateful that I am able to give back and have the potential to help save lives. If I could help save one life, it would be worth all my time.” Diane said she’s thought about trying to recruit people to donate by sharing her story, but understands that sometimes people need to be touched by something to realize the magnitude of what it means to be on the recipient side. She does, however, encourage everyone to consider donating because of the tremendous impact platelets have on saving lives every day. “If I hadn’t been on this journey with my best friend, I’m not sure I would have realized it myself,” she said. “I was always so grateful there was blood and platelets for Rob to receive. I know there are other circumstances when people need platelets and don’t have cancer, but it was cancer that got me to do it.” “Please take the time to consider donating. I promise, once you start and realize the impact you can make in someone’s life, there’s no better feeling. I plan on continuing to donate until they tell me I can’t.”

Juranek Channels Moby Dick and Downward Dog

Books and yoga don’t have much in common – unless you’re reading one about the downward dog or plank positions. But for Iowa Western Communications Professor Nicole Juranek, the combination of the two – in prison, nonetheless – makes perfect sense. For the past three years, she has collected books to donate to the library at the Pottawattamie County Jail. And as of last December, she spends a Friday afternoon every other week teaching yoga to female inmates at the jail. Since high school, it’s been a calling of hers to work with the most vulnerable people – so doing something for



Above: Director of Central Services, Diane Osbahr.



Above: Iowa Western professor Nicole Juranek. Right: Juranek and her two sons, Owen and Oliver deliver books.

TEAMWORK..... ON AND OFF THE FIELD



Members of the 2017 Iowa Western Football team take a break to read books with Bloomer Elementary students.

Top and bottom: Anthony McKinney
Middle: Tyler Hortsman

“I feel *fantastic* after every class,
and I didn't *expect* to feel so good.”

- Nicole Juranek

”

the incarcerated makes sense to her.

“I come from a religious family, so helping others who need help the most but don’t always know how or when to ask for it comes naturally for me,” she said. “I guess I’ve always been drawn to helping people behind bars.”

In the early 2000s, Juranek volunteered at the Omaha Correctional Center with a nun who ran an anti-violence project. She gave roughly 20 hours of her week for several years to the inmates in the program until she stopped to have her first son Oliver in 2009.

After she gave birth to her second son Owen a few years later, she started the book drive with a few personal books, and it’s grown from there.

She estimates that – with the help of Iowa Western colleagues, family and friends – they have contributed more than 1,500 books to the county jail and established a working library for the inmates.

And while that project will continue as long as the donations continue to pour in, she said she’s thoroughly enjoying teaching yoga, even though she was so nervous before her first class that she almost had a panic attack in the parking lot.

“My sister teaches chair yoga, but I hadn’t taught yoga before my first class,” she said. “But I love it. I love spending time with the ladies, getting to know their names and hearing a bit about their lives and stories. Plus, we have a great time doing yoga together.”

While she has experienced a sense of fulfillment through the book donations, she was pleasantly surprised by the feeling she gets from her yoga students.

“I feel fantastic after every class, and I didn’t expect to feel so good,” she said. “I didn’t expect to receive as much gratitude as I do, but I definitely get something from helping these ladies. Hearing them say that they’re glad I’m there is all the thanks I need.”



Must Love Dogs

By Mike Watkins



From left : Iowa Western alumnae Tiffany Hudgell, Jenny Jarrell and Kori Nelson

Growing up on an acreage in Council Bluffs, Jenny Jarrell welcomed her fair share of stray cats into her family home as a child.

She couldn’t turn her heart off – feeding and housing as many of them as she could – and sometimes as many as she could fit in her bedroom without her mother getting suspicious.

Now, as a veterinary technician and shelter manager at the Midlands Humane Society – and an Iowa Western Veterinary Technician program graduate – Jarrell welcomes in as many cats into the building as it can hold.

It allows her to work in her own state of happiness and fulfillment.

“I had a huge walk-in closet, and that’s where most of the cats stayed,” said Jarrell, who was a member of IWCC’s first Vet Tech class and graduated in 2007. “Now I get to play with cats, dogs and other animals as part of my job. I get paid to do what I absolutely love. It definitely doesn’t feel like work.”

Jarrell is just one of three Iowa Western graduates who call the Midlands Humane Society their work home. Kori Nelson, a 1997 IWCC graduate, is the development and marketing director, and Tiffany Hudgell, a veterinary technician at the facility, earned her degree in 2013.

Each arrived at the shelter at different times over the past few years, but they all share a love for animals and a keen desire to want the best for them during (and after) their time in their care. Not only

do they shelter dogs and cats, but they also take care of rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs and the occasional hedgehog.

They’ve even housed a snake or two overnight until the proper rescue organizations can come take it away.

“I never like it when we have snakes,” Hudgell said. “Just knowing one is in the next room or even in the building makes me uncomfortable. But it still feels good knowing we’re sheltering one of God’s creatures.”

Even though she finished her degree in history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nelson originally enrolled at Iowa Western with a childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian.

She grew up with family pets, and now that she has kids of her own, she sees having and caring for a pet as a great learning experience for them on several levels.

“There are so many benefits to having a pet – learning responsibility, enjoying companionship, taking care of something other than yourself, etc. – that I want my children to experience it for themselves like I did,” said Nelson, who arrived at Midlands last summer after 18 years as the Executive Director of the General Dodge House.

“We take in foster cats as a family whenever we can. Coming to the Humane Society was a great opportunity to work with a great team. We all share a strong determination to help the animals that come through our doors. It’s natural and instinctive for all of us because of that love.”

Hudgell, the most recent Iowa Western graduate, also grew up with pets – raising chickens with her family as well as having dogs and cats at home.

Originally from Connecticut, she went to college to study biology, earning her Bachelor of Science degree along with her associates degree in psychology, and also served time in the military. Her husband’s work brought

Continued Page 12

them to the area several years ago.

Because of her intense love for animals, however, she decided to go back to school, joining the Vet Tech program at Iowa Western in 2011.

She said she thoroughly enjoyed being part of the program, and now, in her role at Midlands, she returns to IWCC to drop off animals for the program to care for during the semester as well as picking up and returning them to the shelter for adoption.

She also invites students to come to the shelter to see the work that they do first-hand with the variety of animals in their care. Midlands' Executive Director Nicki Cruickshank also speaks before students during Vet Tech Week at IWCC.

"I loved the vet tech program at Iowa Western; it prepared me very well for my current role and gave me the opportunity to do what I love: work with animals," said Hudgell, who loves animals so much she also works part-time at PetSmart. "It's been great to see the program grow as well as witness the positive changes that the college as a whole has experienced."

"When I visit now – and it's only been a few years since I graduated – it feels so much like a complete college campus."

Nelson agrees, saying that even though she played volleyball and softball at IWCC when she was a student, the college lacked that true "college campus" feel that it now has.

"I didn't live on campus when I was a student, so I commuted back and forth for class and practice, and that was about all I was involved with," she said. "I had a great time in the sports programs, but not being on campus kept me from truly feeling a part of the school."

"Now, with the suites and all of the activities and sports available, I think students enjoy a much more complete college experience than I did."

At three times the size of the previous shelter in town, the Midlands Humane Society can care for many more animals than in the past – up to 50 dogs and 100 cats at a time.

As such, they have adopted out more than 4,000 animals in its three years of operation. They partner with 25 animal rescue networks, including wildlife rescue as they can't house wild animals for very long or, depending on the animal, at all. They also work with roughly 40 foster families who help care for animals off-site.

The shelter also welcomes tours of the facilities to local schools and groups, and individuals from select organizations like Vodec and OMNI volunteer their time at the shelter helping take care of and love the animals. MHS has many great volunteers who give of their time working with the animals and assisting with the physical needs of the building.

All three agree the best days of the week are when they know animals they have cared for and grown to love are adopted by good families – although they admit they often do have a hard time saying goodbye.

The majority of the animals that come to the shelter find homes or enter a rescue program. Their euthanasia rate is very low. Most animals remain until they are adopted.

"Knowing that they will have a home with people who love them makes it easier, but it's never easy when they leave,"

Jarrell said. "But realizing they have left to be with a new family opens up a spot for another animal to be sheltered until they can be adopted."

Nelson poignantly and succinctly sums up the true impact the Midlands Humane Society made on the lives of animals and the community at large.

"We're large enough to make a big impact but small enough to know our animals," she said. "This is definitely a labor of love for all of us here. We love coming to work every day knowing the positive impact we have on the animals that find their second chance in a new home."

Iowa Western students in the Intercultural group complete a service learning activity at the Midland's Humane Society.



Above left to right: Libby Woods, Education 2 Employment Director and Terri Amaral, Adult Education and Literacy Director

HiSET & Education 2 Employment

By Kara Schweiss

Adult education was one of the first programs offered by Iowa Western Community College after its founding in 1966, which was favorable timing following the Adult Education Act approved by Congress that same year. The legislation provided federal support for adult education programs as part of a larger national strategy to improve the economic condition of disadvantaged populations.

Adult education continues to thrive at Iowa Western. Today's Adult Literacy program offers a host of services including literacy instruction, career advising, skills training, and ESL (English as a Second Language) support.

High School Equivalency Exam "HiSET"

For more than 50 years, Iowa Western has also continued to offer assistance for adults preparing for high school equivalency exams; today it's the HiSET, a program in operation since 2014 that was co-developed by Educational Testing Service and Iowa Testing Programs. (The previous option was the General Educational Development [GED].) The HiSET credential is state-issued and nationally recognized.

By any name, the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma can open up doors to better jobs, new career opportunities and increased income. It can also make it possible for individuals who didn't complete high school to pursue higher education or enroll in certain technical or vocational training programs.

"This is a second chance for folks, and an important second chance," Adult Education and Literacy Director Terri Amaral said. "These are adult students with adult responsibilities."

The HiSET preparation program provides instruction for the five HiSET tests: Language Arts-Writing, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Language Arts-Reading. Classes take place at sites in Council Bluffs, Harlan, Atlantic, Clarinda and Shenandoah—including afternoon and evening schedules for working students—and an online option, the HiSET Academy, is also available.

Certified HiSET examiners administer the computer-based exams. However, students are required to have instructor approval to test, with readiness demonstrated through various assessments and a passing score on an official practice test. Because each student's progress depends on factors like his or her individual learning abilities,



HiSet students take a break from math class.
 Back from left: Isidra Ponce-Toledo, Camille Pacheco, Savanna Baurman, Tamara Dryer.
 Front from left: Belynda Garcia and instructor Brenda Dresen.

supplemental study time, attendance and motivation, classroom instructors provide guidance throughout the entire process.

“It’s more comprehensive than just helping them pass an exam,” Amaral said.

Both men and women of all ages sign up for the HiSET program, she said, but the median age for Iowa Western participants is in the mid-20s, which is in line with the national median age of 26.5. Students’ reasons for having left high school in the first place vary widely from having to go to work full-time to support a family to leaving a troubled home environment to experiencing academic failure at the high school level. Some HiSET program participants enter the program needing additional literacy (which includes math literacy and computer literacy) support, but others are academically inclined and some even excelled as high school scholars. And their motivations for wanting to take the high school equivalency exam run the gamut, too, Amaral said, including fulfilling an employment requirement by an existing employer or for a conditional job offer, hoping for more lucrative career opportunities, or wanting to become eligible for higher education. Advisors consider all factors and discuss post-graduation options before the HiSET is even completed.

“We have processes in place where students who are working towards their HiSET meet with an advisor...If students aren’t already aware of options they become aware of them.” Amaral said. “Once they’ve completed three tests and are halfway done, it’s time to start planning beyond (the HiSET).”

An advisor helps each student determine what steps come next with consideration to his or her individual needs, circumstances and goals.

“Some people need to get right to work,” she said. Those students can be referred to community service providers that offer resume writing, interview coaching and other job-hunting skills training. For individuals who are interested in pursuing further education but aren’t in a position to go straight to classes, “we stress that Iowa Western is always here for them. And we’ll welcome you with open arms when you come back.”

Some students are eligible for a free college and career preparatory program called Education 2 Employment (E2E), which first became available (under a different name) in 2013.

“HiSET is one of the steps, but not the only step now. HiSET and E2E are like a perfect marriage,” Amaral said. The two programs are, fittingly, housed together, which facilitates recruitment from HiSET to E2E as E2E advisors (called Pathway Navigators) can talk to HiSET students right in the classroom and promote E2E opportunities firsthand. Even the presence of the E2E program in the same facility helps generate interest among HiSET students, Amaral said.

All classes related to every E2E career path are available through Iowa Western.

Education 2 Employment "E2E"

“E2E is designed to enhance students' skills and employability while preparing them for jobs, vocational training and college degree programs,” Education 2 Employment Director Libby Woods said. “We focus on four different career paths: education, health, IT/business, and manufacturing/logistics.”

Iowa Western provides candidates with detailed information on each career pathway including non-credit to credit eligibility, career and salary expectations, and a complete outline of required coursework.

The business and information technology (IT) pathway programs include administrative assistant professional, certified bookkeeper, help desk support specialist, Network+ certification, PC repair technician/ CompTIA A+ certification, and web design certification.

The manufacturing pathway includes welding certifications, construction technology/carpentry, HVAC maintenance certification, industrial technology certification, and sustainable energy technology.

The program’s newest pathway is health occupations and includes activity coordinator, certified medication aide, certified nurse aide (CNA), critical care paramedic, pharmacy technician, phlebotomist, medical billing and coding specialist, rehabilitation/restorative nurse aide, and sterile processing technician.

Prerequisites vary from pathway to pathway, and in some cases successful completion of a particular course can earn students college credit that can be used toward an associate's degree.

E2E program applicants must reside in Iowa, be 18 years of age or older, have a high school diploma or equivalent and provide income and other financial verification. Applicants are also expected to have familiarized themselves with the program options; they are asked to explain what program they are considering and why, and also to describe their expectations and goals for the program and the near future.

E2E is not open only to HiSET graduates, either; anyone who meets the other program requirements and has a high school diploma can also apply.

The E2E target market

“Some come from the HiSET program, some from college programs they didn’t like, and some come from the workforce,” Woods said. “The program is designed for us to help those students choose their path, and we emphasize a short-term training program.”

The comprehensive program provides financial assistance that covers tuition and books, required fees, and other services. Advisement is also an important element. Pathway Navigators advise students and track their progress toward the completion of a career or degree plan, which may include industry-related certifications along with industry-specific reading, writing and math skills.



Students will also have opportunities to learn from industry professionals.

“Anything that is a barrier, we can help eliminate for the student to be successful,” Woods said. “E2E is designed to educate and enhance students’ skills for better job opportunities.”

The program is designed to not just cultivate a successful college experience, but also grow leadership and career skills. When students are nearing completion of their program, E2E’s focus shifts to employment search assistance like resume development, resume critiquing, and interviewing.

The relatively young program is already considered to be a success, Woods said, and that’s not based on just anecdotal feedback. “E2E continues to grow with additional certificate programs and participants every year,” she explained.

The community is also gaining awareness of E2E, she added. Nonprofit and other organizations that serve at-risk or low-income populations are referring more people to the program.

“Our name is out there,” Woods said.

Alumni who work in the four career fields associated with E2E may be able to support the program by considering graduates for employment opportunities. Even in the absence of job openings, they can help by making job shadowing available for current students.


“These students maybe have never been to that type of business, and seeing what they do is valuable,” Woods said. “We’re always looking for more businesses to participate.”

The Adult Education program could also use volunteers, and alumni are especially welcome, Amaral said. Volunteers may work with individuals or small groups of adult students to improve their reading, math or computer skills. Opportunities are also available for volunteers interested in assisting students who are learning to speak, read, and/or write English. She also emphasized that tutoring or teaching experience isn’t necessary.

“We have training available for interested parties,” Amaral said.

Amaral also said that, like volunteers, many of the HiSET and E2E participants come to the program through personal recommendation. “Our biggest referral source is word of mouth.”

The adult education programs at Iowa Western reflect a basic philosophy that it’s never too late to explore new opportunities and everyone can benefit from additional education. Depending on students’ goals, the HiSET and E2E programs can serve as means to an end or be just the first of many steps.

“It’s a great time to be a student in the world of adult ed,” Amaral said. 

Top: Libby Woods, Education 2 Employment Director and Terri Amaral, Adult Education and Literacy Director.
Middle: HiSET student enjoying class.
Bottom: Education 2 Employment welding program lab.



Student Spotlight: Kevin Eicke

HiSET → Education 2 Employment

By Kara Schweiss

Kevin Eicke left high school in 2003 without completing his junior and senior years, but he never had much time to mull over the merits of his decision to put family first and serve as a caregiver to a disabled niece. By the time what would have been his 10-year high school reunion came and went, Eicke was gainfully employed in a skilled labor job and hadn’t really looked back.

He started seriously looking forward, however, in the summer of 2016. Eicke had just returned to work with a metal plate in his left shoulder after acromioclavicular (AC) joint surgery. He still needed some time to fully recover from lingering effects of his injury, like numbness in the fingertips of his painting hand, but it was important to get back to work because the birth of his first child was imminent.

In mid-September, his employer downsized, and Eicke was one of the casualties.

“It was definitely a troubling time,” he said. “And it was just bad timing.”

Not only was Eicke not back to 100 percent post-surgery, his skillset wasn’t in particularly high demand at the time due to a general industry downturn. So even considering his job experience, Eicke knew his career options were limited. However, through Iowa Workforce Development, he realized that although he’d already passed 30, it wasn’t too late to look into the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

“I decided to go back to school and try to make something of myself,” he said.


Iowa Workforce Development referred him to the program at Iowa Western, where he found the support and guidance he needed to hit the books after a 13-year gap. Life experience may have given him some street smarts and common sense, but Eicke said he doesn’t consider himself a natural scholar and found some of his studies to be demanding, almost overwhelming, at times.

“Every time I had a struggle or was thinking about giving up, a teacher pushed me or kept me in the right direction...Iowa Western has been awesome. Every time I hit an obstacle, someone would help me,” he said, emphasizing that he’s glad he never threw in the towel. “I knew I’d get it eventually.”

With some tutoring he was able to complete the five parts of the HiSET exam within nine months, a satisfying accomplishment. “It gave me self-pride,” he said.

While working toward his HiSET, Eicke discovered he was eligible for the Education 2 Employment program, which helped him transition to his current course of study at IWCC in HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning). He expects to start a new career as an HVAC technician in the near future.

Eicke said he’d “absolutely” recommend the Iowa Western adult education programs to others, even—or maybe especially—those like him who are a decade or more past high school.

“I know it’s challenging, but like I tell everybody: ‘If I can do it, you can do it.’ It just takes the drive to want to get it done,” he said. “If I can do it, anybody can do it.” 

2017 BLACK TIE HARVEST FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WILD FOR IOWA WESTERN



On September 30, college friends and supporters gathered in the Kanesville Arena to go, “Wild for Iowa Western” during the 2017 Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships. Black Tie Harvest chairs Ron and Joanie Tekippe and co-chairs John and Andrea Marshall graciously hosted more than 400 attendees for an evening filled with great friends, food and fundraising. This year’s successful gala marked the Black Tie’s 18th year and raised more than \$153,000. The event has raised over \$2 million since inception with one hundred percent of all money raised directly benefiting student scholarships.

The Black Tie Harvest is Iowa Western’s single largest fundraising event. Its success would not be possible without the support of private donors and businesses and the dedication of volunteer chairs, co-chairs and committee members. It is fitting that this special event is also the occasion at which the college presents the annual Investment in Excellence award. Iowa Western was proud to present the 2017 Investment in Excellence award to Jim Tyler of Atlantic, Iowa and the Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company for his strong legacy of corporate partnerships and philanthropy with the college and throughout Southwest Iowa.

The Black Tie Harvest is an exciting evening that brings together friends of the college in support of Iowa Western students.

2018 is sure to be another successful event with chairs John and Andrea Marshall and co-chairs Larry and Terri Winum hosting an “Under the Sea” themed gala on September 29.

From the top: Joanie and Ron Tekippe, Andrea and John Marshall, Terri and Larry Winum.



Above: Toast art featured at the fundraiser created by Iowa Western Food Service.



From left: IWCC President Dr. Dan Kinney presents Jim Tyler with the 2017 Investment in Excellence award: A Pottawattamie Promise student shares her journey with the audience.



Reiver Athletics

By Jeremy Capo



Jeremy Capo

Fall 2017 was another great semester for the Reivers. We've continued to compete at the highest of levels in the classroom and on the field. I am so blessed to be able to lead such a great group of coaches and student athletes that compete every day and keep Iowa Western at the forefront of the NJCAA.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

In May, it was announced that we had a NJCAA record 62 Academic All-Americans for the 2016-2017 academic year. This fall, we picked up where we left off with an ICCAC best 126 Academic All-Region performers, which is made up of our fall and winter sports teams.

While the ICCAC doesn't recognize the spring sports for All-Region because they aren't done competing yet, there were 99 student athletes that achieved a 3.0 GPA or better from those sports to bring the total to 225 student athletes. It starts in the classroom, and I could not be any more proud of our student athletes.

Our top academic performing team was women's basketball who turned in a phenomenal 3.72 cumulative team GPA with seven of the 14 team members earning a perfect 4.0 for the semester. This is the first time in my career that I have had a team with every single member achieving above a 3.0 GPA.

Other teams that had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher include; volleyball (3.54), softball (3.44), women's golf (3.36), men's golf (3.33), baseball (3.25), women's soccer (3.23), and men's soccer (3.10).

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

On the playing fields, it was another successful fall for our teams. Women's soccer, volleyball, and football all captured Region XI championships with women's soccer and volleyball each qualifying for their respective national tournament. Women's Soccer finished sixth and volleyball seventh while football won the Graphic Edge Bowl and finished the season ranked second. The Reivers cheer team earned their sixth straight UCA Runner-up finish and finished fifth in the WUCA.

In a span of a few weeks, four coaches secured milestone victories. Head Volleyball Coach Alicia Williams recorded her 200th victory on October 27 followed by Head Women's Soccer Coach Adam Sanchez (11/1/2017) securing his 100th, Head Women's Basketball Coach Lindsey Vande Hoef (11/3/17) picking up her 100th, and Head Football Coach Scott Strohmeier (12/3/17) also collecting his 100th victory. These are great achievements for our coaches, and I am extremely honored to have been able to be a part of these milestones.



Alicia Williams



Adam Sanchez



Lindsey Vande Hoef



Scott Strohmeier

NEW SPORTS PROGRAMS COMING TO IWCC

In November, the Iowa Western Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of the 23rd and 24th sports programs for the athletic department. Men's and women's bowling and sport shooting will begin in the fall of 2018.

I am beyond excited to begin these programs and offer more opportunities for students to obtain a degree while competing at the highest level.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

At a recent Reivers basketball game, I had the pleasure of meeting one of the greats. To this day, he continues to hold several records and lives right down the road. I was honored to meet him and have him at our games. We visited most of the night about his time at Iowa Western and we talked about his great memories about his time here.

It got me thinking that we would like to have better relationships with all of our former student athletes. We invite you to come to the games and engage with our coaches and student athletes. We want to learn from you and honor not just your success in the blue and white but also your personal and professional achievements after Iowa Western.

Reach out to us so that we can connect. You are always welcome back! Contact the Iowa Western Alumni Association at alum@iwcc.edu or at athletics@iwcc.edu to let us know that you'd like to stay in touch with Iowa Western and Reivers athletics.





CLASS NOTES

1968

Dan Chambers is recording an album for Max Stout Records in Skidmore, MO and performing solo in live shows.

1984

John Parker recently retired after 30 years in the Mechanical Engineering Dept. at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

1988

Michelle Schupp got a new job in the food service industry.

2010

Caitlin Evers was recently promoted to a Senior Accountant at Lutz.

2012

Don Edwards recently became a sales associate at Walmart.

2013

Junior Jaime was hired by the Iowa Department of Human Rights as the Iowa Youth Coordinator.

ALUMNI BOARD

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

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

Brandon Green (Secretary/Treasurer), '07
Iowa Western Community College

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

Jeannie Aldredge, '88
SilverStone Group

Joyce Bartels, '86
First National Bank of Omaha

Kolay Carver, '07
Iowa Western Community College

Rhea Eitmann, '00
Doll Distributing

Brandon Juon, '00
Owner, Glory Days

Katie Pattee, '03
Pottawattamie County

Carol Robertson, '84
Mills County

Michael Watkins, '89
Watkins Marketing & Media

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](https://www.facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends).

Homecoming 2017 Highlights

Save the date!
HOMECOMING 2018
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27

From top clockwise: 2017 Outstanding Alum Rhea Eitmann participates in the parade with her children Lila and Kale; Reiver Cheer alumni celebrate at the homecoming tailgate; Madison Johnette is feeling the spirit at the 2nd annual Community Color Run; Early Childhood Education program poses to celebrate their parade victory; Kolo Carver walks in the parade with his best pirate smile; The Reiver marching band gets the crowd pumped up during the parade; Participants of the color run kick things off with a bang; Iowa Western alumnus and owner of Barley's Bar and Grill, Matt Johnson, waving during the parade; Parade judges Brandon Green, Marci Eggers, Carol Horner and Pam Beall-Hill judge the tough competition from the top of Barley's Bar and Grill.

Save the Date!

Iowa Western is proud to be participating in the 6th annual OmahaGives.

OmahaGives is a 24-hour online charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to raise funds to support local nonprofits. The online event will take place on Wednesday, May 23. Mark your calendars because Iowa Western will need your help! Join with fellow Iowa Western supporters to raise scholarship dollars for worthy students.

Donations begin at just \$10!

Keep your eyes on the leaderboard and watch the totals rise at OmahaGives.org.

AMERICAN
NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS

OMAHA
GIVES!

MAY 23, 2018

OMAHAGIVES.ORG



Omaha Community
Foundation
Good grows here.