

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



2021
**OUTSTANDING
ALUM**
Matt Wyant

in this issue

Fall 2021

2021 Outstanding Alum : Reivers in the Spotlight

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Dr. Dan Kinney, President

This past year, Dr. Dan Kinney, Sr. announced he was going to step down as the third president of Iowa Western. What he did to build Iowa Western into the institution it is today is amazing. The impact he made on students, faculty, staff and our service area can't be touched by any college president in the nation. We want to take this time to thank him for his 26 years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

It is my honor to be named the fourth president of Iowa Western Community College and to carry on the strong tradition built by Dr. Robert Looft, Dr. Carl Heinrich and Dr. Dan Kinney, Sr. More importantly, it is a great honor to be the second generation of my family to lead Iowa Western. I want to take this time

to thank the board of trustees, administration, faculty, staff and students for providing me the opportunity to lead such an amazing community college; a college with a strong tradition of putting the student first and allowing them to reach their goals.

I arrived in January among some of the most difficult times that higher education has faced in many years. Iowa Western was able to migrate through these difficult times and come out just as strong as we were before COVID-19 slowed us down in March of 2019. This is because we have a remarkable administration, faculty and staff that stepped up and ensured our students were put in the best position to succeed. In this edition, you will see the pandemic didn't stop us. Our faculty and staff continued to be leaders in their fields, our students excelled in the classroom, and our student-athletes excelled on the court and field. The only thing I can say, is that it is the Iowa Western way!

We have started our fall 2021 semester, and we are stronger than ever. The excitement of having students back on campus has been overwhelming! I wish everybody well, and I look forward to finally bring back the graduation stage this spring to congratulate our students on their accomplishments!

Go Reivers!

Dr. Dan Kinney
President



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Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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Fall 2021



Dr. Dan Kinney

Filling Big Shoes...

"I was honored to be chosen to lead such a premier educational institution," he said. "It's also an honor to be following my father, who has committed his life to serving students at the community college level in both Kansas and Iowa. I have big shoes to fill, but I look forward to working with faculty and staff to take Iowa Western to the next level."

Nationally, Kinney has served on a number of committees and boards. He is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Board of Directors and chairs the Presidential Advisory Committee for the National Junior College Athletic Association. He has served on the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Diversity and currently serves on the Commission for Student Success.

The NJCAA named Kinney its 2020 George E. Killian Award of Excellence recipient, which recognizes his accomplishments in improving athletics at the junior college level. The Iowa Association of Community College Trustees named him Iowa Outstanding Chief Administrator in 2019, which recognizes the contributions and leadership of community college presidents.

Prior to his appointment as Iowa Central president, he served as the vice president of student services for Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. From 2001 to 2007, Dr. Kinney was dean of student affairs and athletic director for Allen County Community College in Iola, Kansas, and for two years was director of admissions and marketing. He has also worked as the assistant director of admissions and scholarships at the University of Kansas, the Inter-fraternity Council advisor at the University of Kansas, and admissions counselor at Washburn University.

Kinney also served in the Kansas Army National Guard from 1989 until 2006, when he retired. He commanded an engineer company in combat operations in Iraq in 2005 and received the Bronze Star Medal for his service and leadership.

Kinney received his Associate of Arts from Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kansas; his Bachelor of Business Administration in management from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas; a Master of Science in higher education administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas; and a Doctorate of Education in leadership and higher education administration from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Kinney and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Council Bluffs and they have two daughters, Page and Rylee. Dr. Kinney is active in the community as a member of the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and other committees. [iw](#)

Dr. Dan Kinney serves doughnuts to students during the first week of the fall semester.



Aviation Maintenance Technology

at Iowa Western

By Jon Leu



Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs is one of only three Federal Aviation Administration-certified schools in the state of Iowa offering a two-year degree in the rapidly expanding field of aviation maintenance.

First certified by the FAA in 1972, it is the only aircraft maintenance technician school within a 100-mile radius of the growing Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area, home to one of the busiest airports and aviation hubs in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. Dylan Driscoll, an assistant professor and FAA liaison for the program, said other Iowa aviation maintenance programs are located at Indiana Hills Community College in Ottumwa and Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo.

Once located on the college's main campus on the eastern edge of Council Bluffs, the program has been housed for the last 19 years in a 33,000-square-foot facility adjacent to the Council Bluffs Municipal Airport. It was funded by a grant from the Iowa West Foundation and opened in 2002.

Driscoll, himself a graduate of the IWCC Aviation Maintenance program who returned to teach at the college five years ago, said the program currently serves about 40 students each academic year. At the end of two years, students who earn an Associate of Applied Science degree will have been prepared to take the FAA tests to obtain an aircraft mechanic's certificate with powerplant and airframe ratings.

The first year of the program, Driscoll said, is devoted to general education topics and airframe maintenance. The program is a mix of classroom study and hands-on lab work with both fixed-wing and rotor-winged aircraft. Students who complete the first year are eligible to take the FAA test to obtain their airframe certificate.

While Driscoll said the second year of the program is typically focused on the powerplant aspect of aviation, he said IWCC's unique Aviation Maintenance technology powerplant certification program can be adapted for those interested in inspecting, servicing and repairing both reciprocating and



Dylan Driscoll, Instructor

Continued next page

turbine engines to obtain FAA powerplant certification and join the workforce after just one year.

Although FAA certification for either airframe maintenance or powerplant maintenance can be obtained in one year, Driscoll said 50-60 percent of students who enroll in the program attend the full two years and attain both FAA certifications.

Traditionally a male dominated occupation, aviation airframe and powerplant maintenance is, like many other fields, seeing an influx of female workers.

“We usually average two females per year,” Driscoll said. “Right now, we have five. Women tend to do very well in this occupation. They tend to be very meticulous about details, which is certainly a plus in a highly regulated industry.”

Driscoll termed the demand for graduates of the Iowa Western Community College aviation maintenance program “high.”

“We can’t turn out enough grads,” he said. “About 80 percent to 90 percent of our students have jobs when they graduate and obtain their FAA powerplant or

airframe certifications.”

There are a number of employment opportunities locally for program graduates – Advanced Air located at the Council Bluffs Municipal Airport, Duncan Aviation in Lincoln and local corporate operations, including Kiewit, ConAgra and Mutual of Omaha. Though, Driscoll said graduates may have to work elsewhere for a time before positions are available locally.

With pandemic restrictions easing, Driscoll sees a bright future for both the aviation industry and the Iowa Western program that helps address the industry’s ongoing maintenance needs.

Driscoll said the college has applied for \$500,000 in federal funding through the FAA that would be used to update equipment used by staff and students for hands-on instruction, increase marketing efforts for the Aviation Maintenance program, and possibly add a third faculty member. FAA officials have said a decision regarding the grant is expected by the end of 2021.



Students removing the #2 gas turbine engine from IWCC's T-39 Sabreliner.



Driscoll (left) and Faulk (right) at the Aviation Maintenance hanger adjacent to the Council Bluffs Municipal Airport.

“It's now the most modern aircraft we have for our students...prior to Dr. Faulk’s donation, we didn’t have a turbine-powered plane that actually ran.
— Dylan Driscoll”

Special donation to the program

There’s an old saying that life begins at 40, and that was certainly the case for the 1981 Piper Cheyenne 2XL aircraft that Omaha physician Robert Faulk donated to the Iowa Western Community College Aviation Maintenance program last December.

Faulk’s donation marked the transformation of the plane to become the newest – at 40 years old – and most technologically advanced teaching tool for students in the Aviation Maintenance program.

Faulk, who began practicing diagnostic radiology in Omaha in 1991 and retired last July, began flying in 1985 and purchased the Piper Cheyenne about five years ago. Although the plane was “young” for its age, he said at the time of the donation it was becoming increasingly difficult to find parts for it when needed.

“Planes have a much different life span than automobiles because of their construction and their maintenance, both of which are far superior and more stringent than the production of automobiles,” Faulk said. “A plane’s age is based on the number of years but also on accumulated total flying time. Airlines frequently fly their airplanes 20,000, 30,000 to 40,000 hours per year. The plane I donated had 8,500 hours, which is relatively low.”

Faulk, who replaced the Piper Cheyenne after the donation and continues to fly, said he and his wife have a goal of promoting education and training that will produce self-sufficient and productive citizens in the community.

“We saw the opportunity to donate a fully functioning and airworthy plane to Iowa Western for the purposes of training aviation airframe and powerplant technicians,” he said. “(Airframe and powerplant) technicians provide a vital role for the success of aviation. We believe becoming an A and P (technician) is a worthy productive goal that will result in a lifetime of fulfilling work.

“Iowa Western is in our backyard and serves students from the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area as well as the surrounding rural areas,” Faulk said. “My wife and I provided medical care to rural areas for over 25 years and have a special interest in the rural Midwest.”

Dylan Driscoll, an associate professor in the Aviation Maintenance program and the program’s Federal Aviation Administration liaison, said “It’s now the most modern aircraft we have for our students.

Prior to Dr. Faulk’s donation, we didn’t have a turbine-powered plane that actually ran. We didn’t have a pressurized aircraft. The plane’s avionics — its instruments — provide additional training opportunities for students.”

Driscoll underscored the notion that the plane, although 40 years old, is not “old” in the traditional sense, noting that planes must pass annual FAA certification to remain in use. Now that it has become a teaching tool, it can no longer be flown without an inspection and certification by FAA officials. [u](#)

Reivers in the Spotlight

By Kara Schweiss

From leading a statewide choral music organization to winning scholarships and leadership awards, Reivers are making Iowa Western Community College proud. Here are some of their stories.

Collin Pries: DeWalt Trades Scholarship Winner

When an instructor stopped by one of his classes last year to talk about a scholarship opportunity specifically for students in the trades, Collin Pries was paying attention.

“I went home and applied for it, and then I kind of forgot about it,” said Pries, who recently completed his first year in IWCC’s diesel technology program. “I was at home eating supper late at night and going through my school email, and I saw an email from (tool manufacturer) DeWalt saying, ‘You’ve been selected...’”

Pries was one of only 20 students across the country selected out of 1,000 applicants for the DeWalt Trades Scholarship, a \$10,000 award.

“Obviously, a scholarship that big, that’s taking care of all my tuition and tool costs—it’s pretty much set me up for the finish of my school,” Pries said.

Clint Meyer said Pries’s scholarship award was a first for Iowa Western.

“As far as I know, we have not had anyone in the diesel or automotive or construction programs get this scholarship in the past, so it’s a pretty big deal,” he said, adding that Pries was highly deserving. “He has a really good work ethic. His abilities are probably above a beginner...he has an idea of where he wants to go and what he wants to do, and that’s pretty rare at his age.”

“I grew up on a farm and I figured I’d get into learning how to work on the machinery. I’ve also always had an interest in trucking,” Pries said. “In the distant future, ideally (I’d be) owning three or four trucks in a smaller company that I manage, and farming on the side.”

“I think he could do about whatever he wants to do,” Meyer said.

Pries said he’s been pleased with the instruction and support his program has offered.

“I toured other schools,” he said. “I’m really glad I chose Iowa Western.”

“It’s a good training program and we’re happy to have Collin be part of it and go out there and be a product of Iowa Western,” Meyer said.



Melanie Doyle and Chelsie Pope:

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships and Awards

In 2018, Melanie Doyle was selected as the first IWCC recipient of the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Thanks to another scholarship she won in 2020, a portion of her nursing exam fees will be covered and she’ll also have VIP access to study materials for her upcoming NCLEX, the licensing test for nursing.

“I would have taken that exam regardless, but the VIP benefit that comes with it—I think it’s going to help me



pass it the first time,” said Doyle, who’s on track to graduate in May 2022.

Eligibility to apply for the PTK Hurst Review NCLEX Scholarship has been just one benefit of Doyle’s membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

“It’s been an awesome tool,” Doyle said. “I feel like I’ve had great success in PTK, and it’s given me the confidence I need to be an amazing student.”

Malory Klocke, assistant professor of communications and fine arts, is a Five-Star advisor for IWCC’s Council Bluff campus’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter, which has been honored for three consecutive years with REACH designation for excellence in membership development. Klocke was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Advisor Award on behalf of the entire Iowa Region, honorable mention at the regional level for the same award in 2021, and was one of only 21 to be awarded the 2021 Distinguished Advisor Award at the International Level.

Students must qualify for PTK membership before an invitation to join is extended, Klocke said. In addition to the recognition of academic achievement, PTK students can access scholarship opportunities and participate in leadership development and career training.

Chelsie Pope, who graduated from IWCC in July of 2020 with an associate degree in education, was one of those students who took advantage of PTK leadership development. She served as the chapter president and a 2020-2021 regional officer, and this spring Pope was the first in chapter history to receive a Distinguished Regional Officer Award.

“She was so deserving of it,” Klocke said. “She won this at the PTK Catalyst event (virtual this year), the international event for the whole society.”

Pope, who was also a 2019 Coca Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship winner, recently started a new job with the city of Shenandoah.

“I really believe what got me the position was all the work that I’ve done through Phi Theta Kappa and the leadership skills that I’ve learned,” she said, adding that after attending Peru (Nebraska) State College for one year on scholarship, she is now continuing her studies online through Grand Canyon University while working fulltime. She expects to have her bachelor’s degree in September 2022.

“I’m working towards my English degree with a concentration in professional writing,” Pope said. “And then once I graduate, I plan to continue with my master’s and then my doctorate to eventually teach at the college level.”


“I’m very proud of both of them, Melanie and Chelsie,” Klocke said. “They are two amazing scholars who were honored with PTK and they didn’t stop there. They applied for scholarships and got involved and made friends and went on trips; they’ve done all of these other things beyond just being in the honor society... I’m really proud of how they’ve grown and what they were able to accomplish.”

Director of Vocal Music Luke Lovegood: Iowa Choral Directors Association President-Elect

Being elected as president of the Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA) is really a six-year commitment that starts with two years as vice-president and two years as president-elect before culminating in two years as president, IWCC’s Director of Vocal Music Luke Lovegood said. The responsibility includes a major role in several yearly events and connecting with a diverse state membership.

“ICDA is for anybody that does choral music, so there are elementary/children’s choirs, there are middle-school choirs, there are college choirs, there are church choirs, and it’s for community choirs as well,” he explained.

Lovegood taught choral music at the high-school level for Atlantic Public Schools before joining IWCC in 2012. He has worked with several community choirs over the years and has also been active with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). So, he brings a unique breadth of experience to ICDA leadership. His involvement benefits IWCC, too.

“Indirectly, my being in the ICDA/ACDA organization has helped my students for 15 years,” he said. “The great networking and experience I’ve learned through being a member has ultimately made me a better, more effective instructor,” he said. 



2021 OUTSTANDING ALUM

Matt Wyant: Wearing Many Hats

By Ron Petak



Photos by Mac & V Photography



Depending on the day – perhaps the hour – determines what hat Matt Wyant wears in his role as director of planning and development for Pottawattamie County.

As the department's director since 2016, Wyant is responsible for overseeing the county's zoning, building and public health efforts while supervising 17 full-time employees and managing a \$4.5 million budget.

For his contributions to Pottawattamie County's growth and welfare — and over the course of the last year his efforts dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic — Wyant is named the 2021 Iowa Western Community College Alum of the Year.

At the direction of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, Wyant was tasked in 2016 to create a county health department. By 2017, a public health clinic opened in Council Bluffs and by 2018 the Regional Health Council that included Douglas County in Nebraska was created.

Then the coronavirus landed in the Heartland and Wyant with his team of Risk Manager Garfield Coleman, Safety Coordinator Jacob Head, Public Health Administrator Maria Sieck and Veterans Affairs Director Nick Jedlicka went to work.

"It took all five of us three months to write, rewrite and review a manual to have it approved by the board of health," Wyant said. "I really have not ever been as proud to be a part of a team as I am of this one. Maria, Garfield, Nick and Jake have earned a special place in my heart. They are the true heart of public service and putting community first."

Over the course of the next year, Wyant worked with state and local officials in providing guidance, getting testing sites up and running and making determinations on closings — including the temporary shutdown of the Pottawattamie County Courthouse and Iowa Western.

When 2020 turned 2021, attention shifted from testing to vaccinations. Wyant not only prioritized getting shots in arms of educators, law enforcement, veterans and as many country residents

as possible, but had to devise a plan to make it all happen.

"We didn't know when the vaccine would come, who would get the vaccine first, how much would we get. We had to design a plan with almost no information," Wyant said. "What we came up with and trained staff on had to be modified as the vaccine came and we kept change making a big part of the training so that everyone was comfortable in the process."

Throughout the varying stages of the pandemic, Wyant

worked with Kimberly Henry, Iowa Western's vice president of student services.

"Matt was always very detail-oriented, caring and patient with my many phone calls and emails asking for his help regarding certain scenarios," Henry said.

"We could not have asked for a better relationship with Matt and the county health

department during the pandemic. From the early stages of the pandemic, Matt and his team met with members of [the President's] Cabinet, provided resources and direction, as well as assisting us in establishing our campus pandemic protocols."

Months after establishing a test site on campus, Wyant and college officials turned their attention to vaccinations when vials became available nationwide in mid-December.

"When it came time for vaccinations, Matt coordinated a student vaccination clinic on campus as well as reserving time slots for our employees and students at the MAC," said

"I cannot say enough *great* things about Matt. Without the help of Matt and his team during the pandemic, I am not sure we would have been nearly as *successful* as we were in keeping our numbers down and *communicating* correctly with the campus community."

— Kim Henry, VP of Student Services

Continued on the next page

Henry. “I was in regular communication with Matt during this time and appreciated his flexibility and willingness to help any way they could.”

A global pandemic brought the county health department and IWCC together, but Henry said it’s a relationship she hopes continues to flourish over the coming years.

“I cannot say enough great things about Matt. Without the help of Matt and his team during the pandemic, I am not sure we would have been nearly as successful as we were in keeping our numbers down and communicating correctly with the campus community,” Henry said.

While the COVID-19 pandemic stole headlines for the better part of 2020, Wyant still had to keep an eye on other critical components of his position as the county’s director of planning and development.

Having grown up in a community of 5,000 in Glenwood, he said, gives him a better handle on rural issues and his approach working with officials in towns across Pottawattamie County.

“I think it helps me connect with the rural communities,” he said. “That had been a been a big focus of mine once I got appointed to director was how do we help with the small communities because a lot of them reached certain points of a project and some of them just didn’t push it over the edge to make it happen.”

Collaboration and building trust between his office and the diverse communities in the county, he said, has always been the goal.



Matt at the site of Stanley's Snack Shack located north of Cresent, Iowa.



“As the small communities grow, so does Pottawattamie County, so it benefits us to be partners not competitors,” Wyant said, noting those efforts range from planning a road project or bringing a new business to town.

Wyant proudly points to the Main Street project, a statewide initiative to bring business and growth to downtown areas.

One of those efforts is taking place in Carson, located along Highway 92 in the eastern portion of the county. An effort not lacking appreciation from city officials.

“Matt is an excellent communicator who took the time to meet with our community leaders to learn what barriers our rural community was facing on housing needs and community growth,” said Brianne Duede, city administrator clerk. “Matt understood the challenge we faced and facilitated a mutual aid agreement between Pottawattamie County and the City of Carson to fully fund the Downtown Resource Coordinator position. This investment has provided a springboard effect in expanding additional collaboration and opportunities surrounding our downtown.

“We are grateful for his service and dedication to Pottawattamie County.”

Similar stories of success and cooperation from a development standpoint can be told from border to border in the county, including Stanley’s Snack Shack north of Crescent, the Valley View Veterinary Clinic in Council Bluffs and the industrial development south of Council Bluffs.

Wyant’s road to the director’s position can be traced



“ I *knew* that I wanted to [to major in] business administration because I had a *strong* interest in wanting to own and operate my own *business*. ”

— Matt Wyant

to his days at Iowa Western. Immediately following his 1996 graduation from Glenwood High School, he enlisted in the Army. After serving all three years of his enlistment in Germany, Wyant returned home and enrolled at Iowa Western in the fall of 1999.

“A few of my friends were attending classes there so I started attending classes,” Wyant said of his arrival at IWCC. “I knew that I wanted to [to major in] business administration because I had a strong interest in wanting to own and operate my own business.”

Wyant, who later took online classes at Bellevue University, again majoring in business administration, remembers the influence of former Iowa Western instructor Melanie Butterbaugh.


“It was her teaching style and her engagement she got from students,” Wyant said. “She actually ended up working for me later here at the county.”

His entrepreneurial spirit led him to start a mowing

service and a contract with the city of Council Bluffs, but that wouldn’t be his last relationship with a local government entity.

In 2006, Wyant began his association with Pottawattamie County as an environmental health assistant and zoning inspector – a position he held until spring 2014. In those early days, Wyant was responsible for everything from septic inspections to water testing to junk violations.

More importantly, he established a foothold in the critical area of rural planning, which led to his position as Zoning and Land Use Coordinator in 2014, then the director’s position two years later.

Wyant and his wife, Misty, are parents to three boys – Robert, Dakota and Brandon. When he finds spare time, he enjoys what Pottawattamie County has to offer in its parks and trail system. 

2021 Retirees

Nearly 500 Years of Service

By Kara Schweiss



As Iowa Western Community College transitions into new leadership, an early retirement group is also transitioning. The group of 27 individuals, who represent 486 years of service ranging from 10 to 34 years, with average service of 18 years, includes Bus Driver/Maintenance Worker Dale Osbahr, Professor of Business/Accounting Chuck Smith, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development Mark Stanley, and Professor of English Coreen Wees, who reflected on their diverse experiences.

Mark Stanley was 30 years old when he was hired as the executive director of economic development in 1995. He knew IWCC was a good fit even while he was still being interviewed.

“It felt like I was in the right place, even before I was officially there,” he explained.

Over 27 years he’s seen a shift in student demographics to more traditional students enrolling right out of high school, larger numbers of first-generation students, and more student-athletes. Another development he noted is the cultivation of strategic partnerships over time between IWCC and the communities it serves, especially in response to the needs of the local workforce.

“I like the much-more holistic approach,” he said. “I think in the higher education space that (community colleges) are the most agile and entrepreneurial in terms of being able to move fairly rapidly based on the needs of our constituents.”

Chuck Smith was originally hired as an Outreach Counselor for the Educational Talent Search program in 1988.

“From the time I started in 1988, I had taught as an adjunct in various capacities for most of my time at the college,” he said. His IWCC experience includes serving as Director of the Educational Talent Search Program, the Coordinator of Secondary Programs in Area Career Education and Director of Career Services in the placement department before taking a full-time position as an accounting instructor.

“It was always a privilege to come to work and embark on the instructional process with students, but the best memories I will take with me from my years at Iowa Western are those of the friends I’ve made with co-workers over the years, and even students who eventually became co-workers and professionals in their field,” he said. “I’ve spent so much time with so many of these folks that I consider them family more than friends. It was truly a pleasure coming to work to be around such a fantastic group of people that all shared this commitment to what we do at the college.”

In 2015, Smith and his wife, Julie, were selected to the Reiver Athletic Hall of Fame, cited for the couple’s and their family’s years of volunteerism for the athletic department in various capacities.

Coreen Wees started as an adjunct instructor in 1994. Her accomplishments were many, and include starting a student newspaper, The Rover, and serving as its advisor for several years; receiving a NISOD teaching award; editing an award-winning faculty newsletter; and starting a chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta, an English honor society. Wees said she had a lot of fun, too, organizing events like poetry readings and serving as advisor in support of students who started a science fiction club. In 2013, she was appointed to be the last Department Chair for the English department before reorganization.

“The best part was definitely that I had a really, really great relationship with the people in my department and in Stuart Hall, just a fantastic environment on a day-to-day basis,” she said. “It was a great experience...I was glad to be there.”

Dale Osbahr has been known to students and staff as “Bus Driver Dale” since he joined IWCC in 1996. He still chuckles at an early trip to North Platte, where

Sheila Applegate
Executive Assistant to the VP of Academics
.....13 years of service

Gene Cammarota
Instructor, Culinary Arts
.....10 years of service

Robert Hassler
Assistant Professor, Arts & Sciences
.....19 years of service

Jolene Hay
Copy Center Services
.....23 years of service

Theresa Hill
Childcare Associate
.....11 years of service

Donald Howard
Radio/TV Engineer
.....10 years of service

Melissa Johnson
Secretary IV, Cass County Center
.....13 years of service

Dr. Dan Kinney
President
.....26 years of service

Lisa Kucera
Assistant Professor, Dental Hygiene
.....16 years of service

Lori Lastine
Clarinda Correctional Facility Education Coordinator
.....24 years of service

Mary Lefebvre
Iowa Workforce Development Specialist
.....33 years of service

Shelly McDonald
Administrative Assistant to the VP of Finance
.....34 years of service

Pamela Mullins
Food Service
.....13 years of service

Denise Norman
Continuing Education Coordinator
.....20 years of service

Dale Osbahr
Bus Driver
.....19 years of service

Ann Pross
Director, Cass County Center
.....14 years of service

Charles Rodrigues
Chemistry Instructor
.....11 years of service

Charles Smith
Professor, Business
.....33 years of service

Mark Stanley
VP of Workforce and Economic Development
.....27 years of service

Jean Stiehl
Director, Early Childhood Education Center
.....13 years of service

Rebecca Stubblefield
College Receptionist
.....21 years of service

Bradley Syndergaard
Maintenance Supervisor
.....17 years of service

Jane Tremel
Instructor, CE Health
.....12 years of service

Joel Vanicek
Instructor, Math/Science
.....11 years of service

Coreen Wees
Professor, Communications
.....23 years of service

Donna Weyers
Mail Services
.....20 years of service

after four-plus hours of driving he was surprised with the news that he would be there overnight. “That was kind of a big joke forever.”

Osbahr’s Class B CDL (commercial driver’s license) with passenger endorsements qualifies him to drive IWCC vehicles from vans to 29-passenger minibuses to full-size 56-passenger buses. He’s traveled all over the country in every kind of weather for most, if not all, of the Reivers teams: bowling in New York, volleyball in Wyoming, baseball and softball in Texas, and beyond. “You name it,” he said. “We’ve gotten to go to so many different places.”

He’s enjoyed the novelty, Osbahr said. “Nothing is ever the same... And I met so many nice people and kids and staff here.”

The retirees reminisced about a smaller campus of years past and evolution of programming as well as bygone classroom fixtures like chalkboards and TV carts with VHS players. But everyone agreed that their Iowa Western Community College experience was a positive one.

“I think the strength of Iowa Western has always been the people throughout the organization, at every level. We have a lot of salt-of-the-earth-type people who do the right thing because that’s what they believe in doing,” Stanley said. “It was nice to be able to work with people like that.” “It’s a family here,” Osbahr said. “I loved coming to this place to work.”

“I was very thankful for the opportunity to be at Iowa Western,” Wees said.

“There is an old saying that if you find something you love to do, you’ll never work a day in your life. For me, I feel blessed that I was able to find that at Iowa Western. I truly loved coming to work, visiting with students about topics I loved, and being around the best group of people I could have wished to be acquainted with,” Smith said. “For all of those people who made all those decisions years ago to make Iowa Western the special place it is, I can only offer a humble thank-you and a sincere appreciation as I say goodbye.”



Dale Osbahr, 19 years



Chuck Smith, 33 years



Mark Stanley, 27 years



Coreen Wees, 23 years

SNAPSHOT: REIVER ATHLETICS

GoReivers.com

A return to sports. As the COVID-19 pandemic cut all of the spring athletics seasons short in March of 2020, the NJCAA made the decision to start almost all collegiate athletics back up in January of 2021. The only sports to compete during the start of the new 2020-21 academic year were men's and women's cross country.

The late start didn't seem to affect the Reivers. Two team national championships, 13 individual national titles and 64 NJCAA All-Americans proved the student-athletes and coaches could adjust and compete despite the adversity.

CROSS COUNTRY

Faith Linga Chepengat set the bar high, repeating as national champion, winning the women's cross country championship by almost 36 seconds! On the men's side, Yonas Mogos paced the Reivers as the national runner-up, leading the men's team to a program best third place finish.

TRACK & FIELD

The distance runners brought their success with them for the indoor track & field season. The Reivers grabbed the program's first national championship as a team, with the women's squad racing to a win in the final event of the meet to clinch the 2021 NJCAA National Title. Iowa Western finished with a team total of 117 points, topping perennial power South Plains for the title by nine points.

Nickisha Pryce won the individual title in the 400m, Alliyah McNeil won the title in the High Jump, and each of them grabbed another medal as they won the 4x400m relay with Dyandra Gray and Tirecia Walcott. The Reivers added three more national titles when Faith Linga Chepengat took home the top spot in the 3000m, 5000m, and the Mile. Faith would add to her impressive career by adding outdoor titles in the 5000m and 10,000m to give her a school record nine career national championships.

VOLLEYBALL

Finally, Head Coach Alicia Williams gets the national title she's come so close to claiming in the past five years. The Reivers entered the programs 15th straight national tournament appearance seeded

fifth and swept No. 12 Wallace State, No. 4 Utah State Eastern and top seeded Miami Dade, which had bested the Reivers in three of the last four national tournaments, including the title match in 2016.

Iowa Western dominated the Sharks en route to a matchup verses No. 3 Snow College. A 3-1 set victory over the Badgers gave the Reivers their first national title since 2006, when Coach Williams was a player under Terry Gamble. Setter Yadhira Anchante was named the National Player of the Year and was joined by Maike Bertens and Iremnur Elmas as NJCAA All-Americans.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Another solid season from the women, as the team finished 22-3 and won the second district championship under Head Coach Lindsey Vande Hoef. The program's ninth national tournament appearance ended with a loss to Western Nebraska CC in the first round. Gabriella Smith and Hayley Berfield were both named NJCAA All-Americans.

First-year Head Coach Chad Van Riessen took over the men's basketball program after serving four years as an assistant coach. This



was the first year competing at the Division II level since the 1993-94 season. DeWayne Vass and Roland McCoy were named ICCAC All-Conference. Six athletes were named to the NJCAA All-Academic team for 2020-21

WRESTLING

Iowa Western again hosted the NJCAA National Tournament at the Mid-America Center in Council

Bluffs and again it was Isaiah Crosby taking home the national title, this time at 157 lbs. Crosby dominated the field, ending with a victory by major decision in the title match. Creighton Baughman, Josh McFarland and Fabian Padilla joined Crosby on the podium as NJCAA All-Americans. Iowa Western is excited to be adding a women's wrestling team that will begin fall of 2021.

BOWLING

In just it's third season of existence, Iowa Western Bowling finished with a third-place showing in both the men's and women's national tournaments. Shalee Bradley, Marissa Kearin and John Hemmingsen earned All-American honors.



SHOTGUN SPORTS

After four days and 1,500 targets, the Reivers shot their way to the Division IV ACUI National Trap Championship. Iowa Western edged the second-place team by just three, breaking 495 of 500 targets. Mitch Germany and Weston Zolck shot a perfect 100 and found themselves in a miss-and-shoot, shoot-off. Germany broke an extra 12 targets to place fifth and Zolck broke an extra 42 targets to finish as the national runner-up in American Trap. The Reivers also placed second in American Skeet and Sporting Clays, and finished as the runner-up in the High Over All team event.

FOOTBALL

A one-point loss to Snow College in the final seconds of the first game of the season was all it took to keep the Reivers out of the national title picture during their unique spring season. Iowa Western would outscore their opponents 310-40 in their final seven games to finish with a 7-1 record and fourth in the final polls.

Quarterback Nate Glantz joined Jake Waters (2012) and Kai Locksley (2017) as the third Reiver to be named the NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year under Head Coach Scott Strohmeier. 11 players earned All-American status, and former Reiver Daviyon Nixon was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the fifth round of the 2021 NFL Draft.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Both the men's and women's squad won their respective region and district titles and both made it out of group play at the national tournament. The women's semifinal match verses Snow College would go to penalty kicks after a scoreless regulation and overtime. The Badgers would come out on top 8-7 after the Reivers' final kick was saved.

The men's team rolled to the national tournament final and squared off against Salt Lake Community College. The Reivers took an early lead but Salt Lake found an equalizer midway through the second half. The game went into extra time. The Reivers had multiple opportunities to end the game but gave up a late corner kick with the Bruins capitalizing with a header off of the set piece. A 2-1 defeat sent the Reivers home as the national runners-up.

Patrick Millard, Giorgio Probo, Judit Goliveras and Laura Linares each were honored as NJCAA All-Americans.

BASEBALL

Year after year, Head Coach Marc Rardin puts together winning baseball teams. Before Coach Rardin came to Iowa Western there had just been one 50-win season in program history. Coach Rardin has topped that mark nine times since his first season in 2003, including three out of the last four years, with 2020 being a shortened season due to the pandemic.

Still, the bar is set so high that a 50-10 year is considered a "down" year to some after the team fell to

a talented Indian Hills squad in the Region XI Tournament finale.

Kyle Huckstorf and Evan O'Toole were named NJCAA All-Americans and infielder Ben Palmer earned the program's fifth ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove. Three former Reivers were drafted in the 2021 MLB Draft: Cooper Bowman in the fourth round by the New York Yankees, Tanner Kohlhepp in the fifth round by the Detroit Tigers and Jack Neely was selected by the Yankees in the 11th round.



SOFTBALL

Iowa Western Softball once again got it done in the classroom. The Reivers had an incredible 25 student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic team, including 10 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The team's 3.83 cumulative GPA marks the highest in program history.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

Both squads earned another trip to nationals. Iowa Western women's golf finished with their best result at nationals in program history with a fourth place showing, which capped off a season that saw the team earn the school's 12th Region XI Title in a row. Luisa Gibson, Seira Kubo and Grant Jabenis on the men's side earned NJCAA All-American status.

Athletic Director Shane Larson

Iowa Western Community College has welcomed Shane Larson as its next Director of Athletics. Larson, who makes the transition from Cowley (Kansas) College, will lead a nationally renowned Reiver athletic program that features 21 sports and more than 700 student-athletes.

"This is an exciting time for Iowa Western as we usher in a new era of Reiver Athletics under the direction of a highly motivated director," said Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney. "Shane comes to Iowa Western highly recommended by his peers and we are happy to welcome him to the Reiver family."

"Iowa Western is one of the top junior college athletic programs in the country and I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of it," Larson said. "I want to thank Dr. Kinney for this amazing opportunity. It is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility and a privilege to get to work with an amazing athletic department. My family and I are excited to become a part of the Council Bluff community. I am looking forward to getting to know the coaches and athletic department staff and learning more about Reiver Athletics. It is an incredible responsibility to maintain the level of excellence that has been established here at Iowa Western Community College."

Larson and his wife, Jennie, have one son, Cash. Larson is a native of Waterville, Kansas.



Iowa Western Reivers NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



Volleyball



Women's Indoor Track & Field



National Champions



Isaiah Crosby
Wrestling
157 lbs.



Alliyah McNeil
Indoor Track & Field
High Jump
4x400



Nickisha Pryce
Indoor Track & Field
400 Meter
4x400



Tirecia Walcott
Indoor Track & Field
4x400



Dyandra Gray
Indoor Track & Field
4x400



Faith Linga Chepengat
Cross Country
Indoor Track & Field
3000 Meter
5000 Meter
One-mile
Outdoor Track & Field
5000 Meter
10,000 Meter



Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association

CLASS NOTES

1974

Dean Fajen retired from HGM Associates after 33 years (manager of architectural department) in January 2020. Dean started his own consulting firm, Fajen Consulting, providing architectural and structural engineering services.

1980

David Fahrenkrug is now an owner/partner of Focal Point Solutions Group, a cloud hosting and managed services company. It has data centers in Dallas, Atlanta, New York, London and Paris and have more than 130 clients worldwide. Dave valued his time at IWCC and appreciates that it got him to look for other opportunities to advance his life and career.

2001

Meaghan Shea-Evans Started a new position with the State of Iowa. She previously worked with individuals with disabilities running a day program and support employment department. She is also busy with her three kids in sports and coaching softball and volleyball.

2007

Mary Trecek is working on her doctorate at Vanderbilt and will be getting married this fall.

2009

Don Edwards After 44 years in his career, he is retiring and ready to see what the clear blue skies of Montana have in store for him.

ALUMNI BOARD

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

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

Brandon Green (Secretary/Treasurer), '07
Collins Consulting

Stacy Shockey (Alumni Director), '98
Iowa Western Community College

Jeannie Aldredge, '88
SilverStone Group

Joyce Bartels, '86
First National Bank of Omaha

Rhea Eitmann, '00
Doll Distributing

Brandon Juon, '00
Owner, Glory Days

Bailey McQueen-Jones, '10
Career EdVantage SWI

Carol Robertson, '84
Mills County Auditor's Office

Michael Watkins, '89
Watkins Marketing & Media

SAVE THE DATE IWCC HOMECOMING | OCT. 2

Pregame Tailgate
Lewis Central Parking Lot
11:30 AM

Football Game
Titan Stadium
1:00 PM

Women's Soccer
Reiver Soccer Field
1:00 PM

Men's Soccer
Reiver Soccer Field
3:00 PM

ALUMNI INFORMATION

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

To be included in future alumni mailings, send your updated information to alum@iwcc.edu or visit us at iwcc.edu under FRIENDS & ALUMNI tab!

Send us your news!

► iwcc.edu/foundation/alumin-relations
► alum@iwcc.edu

New Job | Promotion | Honor | Achievement
New Degree | Family Addition | New Address

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



Instagram: [iwcc_alum](https://www.instagram.com/iwcc_alum)
Twitter: [@IWCCalum](https://twitter.com/IWCCalum)

National Coach of the Year



Alicia Williams
2020-21 NJCAA
Division I Volleyball
Coach of the Year



Doug Marshall
2020-21 NJCAA
Indoor Track & Field
Coach of the Year
Women



Shellene Williams-Davis
2020-21 NJCAA
Indoor Track & Field
Asst. Coach of the Year
Women

National Player of the Year



Nate Glantz
2020-21 NJCAA
Offensive Football
Player of the Year



Yadhira Anchante
2020-21 NJCAA
Division I Volleyball
Player of the Year



Faith Linga Chepengat
2020-21 NJCAA
Indoor Track & Field
Athlete of the Year

Return Service Requested

>>>>>>>> 2021-2022 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE SEASON



Gary Lewis & The Playboys > 9/10/21

Larry, Steve and Rudy: The Gatlin Brothers > 10/2/21

An Evening with Dailey & Vincent > 10/22/21

Tonic Sol-Fa: Shake Up Christmas > 12/10/21

Brian Owens & The Deacons of Soul > 2/26/22

Evil Woman: America's Tribute to The Electronic Light Orchestra > 3/10/22

Church Basement Ladies: 20th Anniversary Tour > 4/2/22

The Petersens > 4/23/22

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